

# news



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N O V A S C O T I A T E A C H E R S U N I O N

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## **NSTU concerned about impact of grant cuts on school communities**

(Halifax-Kjipuktuk, NS) The Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) says while it's encouraged that public education funding has kept pace with enrolment in the current provincial budget, it is concerned about the impact that grant cuts will have on school communities along with the lack of additional funding to prevent school violence and promote teacher retention.

The budget includes an additional \$8.6 million to address rising enrolment, a \$19 million increase for school food programs, and \$110 million allocated to build and renovate schools—investments the NSTU has long advocated for.

However, the NSTU expressed concern that the budget does not include new funding to improve teacher retention, reduce class sizes, expand student supports, or develop a comprehensive strategy to address school violence.

“This budget avoids the deep austerity measures faced by other sectors, but it does not meaningfully address the pressures teachers, specialists and students experience every day,” says NSTU President Peter Day. “Teachers’ working conditions are also students’ learning conditions. If we are going to create the safe and healthy learning environments our children deserve, we must invest in reducing class sizes, expanding mental health supports, reducing workloads for teachers and developing a province-wide strategy to alleviate school violence.”

The NSTU is also concerned about the elimination of \$6 million dollars in grants administered by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD).

“Many of these grants help promote the arts in our school, support school sports and provide and promote additional learning opportunities to equity deserving students, so they can reach their full potential,” says Day. “Minister Maguire committed to working with communities to ensure their learning needs were met, and we hope that’s the case. We are monitoring things closely and will not hesitate to speak up for students in need, when required.”

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