



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Dr. Tom Parker Building, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7 (902) 477-5621 Toll Free 1-800-565-6788 Fax: (902) 477-3517 nstu@nstu.ca www.nstu.ca

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleague:

Welcome back! Hopefully you had a good break and enjoyed our nice summer weather. The start of a new school year is rejuvenating. We are energized and ready to face new challenges, new students and, for some, new courses. Please remember to look after your health and well-being throughout the year.

This summer I attended CONTACT, the PD conference offered by the four Atlantic provinces' teacher organizations, and learned a new term. Instead of *time management* to help us as we struggle with workload issues and deadlines, a more descriptive term is *energy management*. There are only so many hours in a day but **you** are in control of your energy level. Pressures and demands placed upon us require us to step back periodically and assess what we can physically do within the day. Our health and well-being must come first. Also remember that members, new to the profession or to your school/campus or substitutes/auxiliary members may need a friendly face and helping hand. Please reach out and offer support to one another as much as possible.

Our first priority this school year will be to open negotiations on September 21 to seek a new public school teachers' collective agreement, which expired July 31. We will also be seeking input this spring from Community College members to draft asking packages for the two contracts which expire August 2011. Workload continues to be a concern that we will keep in the forefront of the Department of Education and school boards. We hope the Minister will adopt all or most of the 13 recommendations within the *Promoting Student Engagement* report, dealing with student absenteeism. Also, the Pension Trustees and the Pension Board will continue to monitor our pension plan and timely updates will be distributed to all members.

The NSTU will continue to offer professional development sessions over the coming months. In particular look for a combined Equity/Professional Development/Sheonoroil conference to be held April 7-9, 2011 in Halifax. It will focus on issues of peace, social justice and equity. Review the conference booklet distributed to schools and campuses for our Provincial Professional Development Day on October 22 and register early online. Check out the wide range of materials outlining programs and services for all our members. Call the office at 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788 or visit www.nstu.ca.

Au NSTU nous sommes contents d'être capable d'offrir des services aux francophones. Nous reconnaissons le besoin de faire valoir la langue maternelle de tous nos membres.

If you have an NSTU-related question, please contact your NSTU representative at your school/campus, your Local president, or central office at 477-5621, 1-800-565-6788. I also encourage you to attend at least one Local general meeting and get involved in YOUR Union.

As your NSTU President I am extremely proud to be part of this organization and look forward to continuing to serve you. Again, welcome back and have a great year!

Sincerely,

ALEXIS ALLEN

