

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 says Cape Breton teacher layoffs will be felt in the classroom

NSTU president Alexis Allen says students will be the ones most affected with the cut of 63.2 full-time teaching positions within the Cape Breton-Victoria School Board. This will directly result in 14 permanent teachers being laid off.

"Of course this will affect the quality of education," says Allen. "Nova Scotia is already at the low end of per pupil spending compared to other provinces. Now that the numbers are crunched and we are losing teachers, students are the real losers here."

The NSTU had hoped Education Minister Ramona Jennex would make good on her promise earlier this year to "put children and learning first" when asking boards to cut funding for the next school year. The minister has said that the budget cuts were to have "minimal impact."

"A loss of 63 positions is not minimal," says Allen. "We're talking about larger class sizes, more combined classrooms, and fewer supports for students. This puts more pressure on a system already overtaxed in meeting the diverse needs of all students. These are not minimal impacts."

The cuts to this year's education budget total more than \$35 million.

"The "back to balance" strategy the government asked of school boards is decimating the system and the future of our students is severely jeopardized," Allen says. "Why not use some of the province's \$400-million surplus to maintain excellence in the classroom?"

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union represents 10,900 public school teachers in Nova Scotia and Community College faculty and professional support staff. Organized in 1895, its programs are directed towards improving the quality of public education in Nova Scotia.

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