

# 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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## **40 Halifax teacher layoffs confirmed, class sizes will increase**

Forty probationary Halifax Regional School Board teachers that appeared in a hearing before their Board last night and early into the morning to plead their case for reinstatement, had their terminations confirmed.

"It was a very long night for these teachers as they stood before their employer and waited for the Board to deliberate," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. "The loss of these teaching positions and other unknown positions that will be cut at the Board will have a direct impact on students, as we see class sizes at the lower elementary level increase."

Allen says that while the province requires boards maintain the cap on class size from Primary to Grade 3 at 25, "We already know that the Halifax Regional School Board has increased class sizes for next fall, and parents will see this. We know that the Board has automatically increased class sizes to 27 regardless of whether it's the best option to protect the quality of education in the classroom."

Using the Minister of Education's statements about cuts to education funding, Allen says this does not "put children and learning first" and will have more than a "minimal impact" on the system.

"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. "Teachers, parents and students are looking to the Minister and this government to restore the balance of funding of education in favour of students and learning."

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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