

Dear Colleague:

Welcome back! I hope your summer break provided relaxation and rejuvenation. September is a time of renewal for all of us, a time to remember lessons learned, while we embrace new challenges.

This is the first online-only edition of *The Teacher*. Moving into the new digital format, it will still involve, inform and inspire NSTU members and remain a crucial communication tool for the NSTU by showcasing the amazing efforts of members throughout the province.

One priority this school year will be to negotiate fair and equitable agreements for both public school and Community College members. We will continue to work to ensure that government restores funding to the public education system. We are responsible for educating our students, and the government's responsibility is to ensure that the system in which they learn is adequately funded.

We will continue to monitor the impact education funding cuts are having on the system. We are asking for your input to help illustrate the reality of today's classrooms in the wake of two years of cuts.

School board elections are on the horizon. School board members play a key role in public education. Make sure you cast your vote on October 20 and encourage others to do so as well. Better yet, have conversations with the leaders in your community who are running for office to make sure they have a sincere interest in public education, and want to make a difference in the lives of children and young people. Nova Scotia's 123,485 students deserve more champions to advocate for their education.

The NSTU continues to offer many professional development opportunities every school year. Sessions to meet specific needs can be arranged. We are looking forward to October Conference Day on October 26. Please visit our website at www.nstu.ca to view the complete Professional Association conference program offerings or call Central Office at 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788 for more information on any of our professional development opportunities.

We are here for you. If you have any questions related to the NSTU, please contact your NSTU representative at your school or campus, talk to your Local President/RRC Chair, or call/email Central Office. This is YOUR union. Attend a Local general meeting or get involved in your Local.

As the new NSTU President I am honoured to have been chosen to represent such dedicated, caring professionals. I look forward to serving you over the coming year.

Here's to a healthy, safe and successful school year.

Sincerely,



SHELLEY L. MORSE
NSTU President

