

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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Teachers debate issues in public education at NSTU's 95th Annual Council

Some 258 voting delegates to the 95th Annual Council of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union debated resolutions dealing with issues ranging from appropriate staffing and adequate resources for students with special needs, especially at the high school level, ensuring that class caps are implemented effectively, safe schools, and providing equitable division of student programming needs for diverse classrooms, to adequate time, resources and training to implement new initiatives. Most of the business of the meeting focused on resolutions to lobby government for change.

"Teachers have seen an inordinate amount of new initiatives and programming through the implementation of the Minister's Action Plan," says NSTU president Shelley Morse. "We're looking for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to give a minimum of six-month notification of relevant materials and training before new policies and initiatives are implemented in the public education system."

The annual meeting wrapped up Sunday in Halifax. From April 29 to May 1, 60 resolutions were debated. This will be Shelley Morse's final Annual Council as NSTU president. Her term ends on July 31, 2016. "It's been my sincere honour and privilege to have worked on behalf of NSTU members for the past four years. I thank all of you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to teachers and your profession in all areas of the province," says Morse.

Teacher leaders throughout the province also passed a motion to ensure that the current practice of inclusive programming meets its originally intended goals. "The inclusive classroom model poses many challenges for teachers at all levels, and in particular at the high school," says Morse. "It's critical that the model works effectively for all students at all levels."

Mark Ramsankar, a vice president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and president of the Alberta Teachers' Association addressed delegates on Saturday, April 30. Six candidates running for NSTU president had an opportunity to address delegates on Saturday as well.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union represents 10,300 public school teachers, Community College faculty and professional support staff in Nova Scotia, and teachers who work for the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Since 1895, it has worked to improve the quality of public education for children and youth in Nova Scotia, while promoting and advancing the teaching profession.