



NSTU Coronavirus Updates

March 31, 2020

The following message from NSTU president Paul Wozney will be sent to all NSTU members with NSTU email

Dear NSTU member,

Thank you for your patience and professionalism during these difficult times.

Today the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development released its learning plan for the coming weeks. This plan was developed in consultation with the NSTU and PSAANS. It was a daunting task on very short notice so I want to extend my appreciation to government, NSTU and PSAANS staff who have dedicated themselves to this project for the past two weeks.

I also want to thank Local Presidents, RRC Chairs, Provincial Executive members and especially school reps for being available to address concerns from colleagues. It's great to see such a high level of collaboration as we charter a course through these stormy waters.

I know the learning plan is a lot to process, but I urge everyone to exercise a great deal of patience and understanding moving forward. Obviously, there will be challenges. While this interim solution can in no way replace having your students present in the classroom, please make every effort to work (via email, online or by phone) with your colleagues and principals to fix problems you encounter while this new reality unfolds.

If after a period of time there are still challenges you just can't overcome on your own, contact an NSTU staff officer directly, or voice your concerns with your NSTU Local president or RRC Chair. We are here to support you in any way we can. However, please keep your concerns internal. There is enough negative energy in the world right now. As teachers we need to do our best to minimize this, especially on social media.

If you are juggling work with child care, I know this is far from ideal. Don't let perfection be the enemy of good. Do your best. Do what you think is right. Use your best judgement. Don't feel guilty about holding firm on your office hours. You need to maintain balance in your life.

Don't forget, you are not alone in this. Thousands of other parents in other professions are in the same boat. We all need to support each other and cut ourselves some slack. Eventually this will pass.

I want to stress that a lot of people are putting themselves in harm's way to keep us safe and fed right now. Ensuring their kids are receiving a certain level of education during this shutdown will bring these brave individuals some comfort. We owe it to them and to our students, many who are struggling with anxiety, to do our best under these temporary conditions.

Finally, I just want to say that although these are trying times, I am relieved schools remain closed in order to protect students, teachers and their families from coronavirus. Please stay home. Stay safe. Stay connected.

Take care,

Paul Wozney
NSTU President