

news



3106 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4L7
www.nstu.ca • pr@nstu.ca
Tel 902.477.5621
Fax 902.477.3517

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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Union seeks conciliator for community college negotiations

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union, representing some 900 faculty and professional support staff in the province's community college system, has requested the Minister of Labour appoint a conciliation officer to assist with negotiations.

The community college and Union have held 12 negotiating sessions since contract talks opened on June 5, 2008.

"Our negotiating committee believes that no further progress towards a collective agreement can be made without the services of a conciliation officer," says NSTU President Alexis Allen, citing equity issues as the major stumbling block between the Union and College which receives its funding from the Department of Education.

"We find it beyond comprehension that government would choose to single out one group of employees to penalize after reaching agreements with virtually every other bargaining unit in the public service," says Allen.

In early April, teachers and the Province signed an agreement that saw raises of 2.9 per cent in each of the two years of the contract. The College has advised the NSTU that there is no commitment from the Province to support economic increases of 2.9 per cent beyond August 31, 2009.

"At heart, the over-riding issue in the current impasse is one of fairness," says the NSTU president. "It seems that government has decided to make an example of our community college members. I can assure this government that teachers are fully prepared to support their colleagues in the community college system."

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union represents 10,900 public school teachers 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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Media Contact:
Angela Murray
Nova Scotia Teachers Union
Cell: 902-497-0194
Email: amurray@nstu.ca