

# 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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## **New NSTU President On The Job**

Halifax educator Alexis Allen officially took office with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union on August 1, 2008 becoming the 42<sup>nd</sup> president representing the 10,900-members in Nova Scotia's public school and Community College systems.

"I am excited to be working for the betterment of teachers and students in Nova Scotia," says Allen. "We are in the midst of negotiating new contracts for our public school and Community College members and I am ready to meet the challenges we face as a profession."

A career teacher in Halifax County for 30 years, she succeeds Mary-Lou Donnelly who completed her second two-year term as NSTU's president on July 31, 2008. Allen has taught Social Studies at Eastern Shore High School and Lockview High School, and English and Social Studies at Gaetz Brook Junior High School.

She is the first teacher elected via an online balloting system that allowed NSTU members from around the province to vote from home or the workplace, or any place with access to an Internet-connected computer. She is the fourth teacher elected to the position through universal suffrage and the sixth woman to hold the top post of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union since its inception in 1895.

The Halifax native most recently served as the president of the Halifax County Local of the NSTU. She also chaired the Metro Regional Council of the Union in 2006-07. Allen served as first vice-president of the NSTU from 2004 until 2006, and has been a member of the Union's economic welfare committee and negotiating teams. She has also been an activist in the areas of public affairs, public relations, equity issues and member services. She served on the NSTU provincial executive for a total of six years.

At the national level, Alexis Allen has represented the NSTU on the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) board of directors and has served as a member of the CTF human rights diversity committee. She has also represented the Union as a member of the Council of Atlantic Provinces Teacher Organizations.

She holds BA, BEd and MEd degrees from St. Mary's University.