



Letter from NLTA President

April 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

At this time, I would like to extend my sincerest best wishes to all members and their families as we collectively face the current public health emergency. As you are aware, the NLTA publicly questioned the decision to keep schools open for students and teachers as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic became widespread.

On March 16, the provincial government and school boards announced that all in-school classes would be suspended indefinitely. The Association's position from the outset has been that the health and safety of our members and students must be paramount. Likewise, understanding that this current situation is not normal, we have advocated for the greatest degree of flexibility and respect for the professional judgement of teachers as we work to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged. The decision to suspend in-school instruction has had an economic impact on our most vulnerable members, substitute teachers.

When the announcement to suspend in-school instruction was made, your Association immediately began to advocate for economic relief measures for these members. We are committed to continue this work and to communicate new information as soon as it is available. I know that our NLTA Administrative Officers are busy providing assistance to members immediately impacted. As you know, I have written our provincial Members of Parliament and have arranged and participated in, along with NLTA staff, direct conversations with the Employment Insurance Commissioner for Workers.

Today, I wish to share with you a letter I have sent to all federal Cabinet Ministers who have responsibilities that relate to the relief measures recently announced by the federal government. This letter highlights the gaps that exist in the supports currently and calls for these gaps to be addressed. I can also confirm that a meeting with our federal Cabinet representative, the Honourable Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Natural Resources, has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 of next week. The issues outlined in my letter (attached) will be raised and expanded upon at that time. Rest assured that the Association is exploring and pursuing all available avenues to advocate for the assistance our members need and deserve. As always, thank you for your patience and understanding during what is a very challenging time for all of us.

Sincerely,

Dean Ingram
President

Letter to Federal Government Regarding Employment Insurance Regulations/Guidelines