

September 2020



Congratulations on choosing to become part of the profession that makes all other professions possible!

As your career unfolds you will learn so much, possibly more than what you will teach. For many of your students you will become one of the most significant adults in their lives. To see real examples of the impact that teachers have had on their students I would invite you to visit www.teacherschangelives.ca. There you will find numerous examples of the type of impact that teachers have on their students. The same type of impact that you will have on your students. You will have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. Something to look forward to – something to be proud of!

As we commence another school year things look very different. Our schools, our classrooms, and our routines are altered as we move to accommodate changes due to COVID-19. There will be challenges. Your Association has been advocating for necessary safety measures and while there has been some progress, we can all recognize that additional measures are needed. It is important that our collective efforts continue. I would ask that as you face challenges this school year to reflect on what is important to you both professionally and personally. Make choices about what you can do within your own personal situation. Reflect on tasks that you volunteer to take on and evaluate them through the lens of the benefit and the cost of doing them. You do have a choice. You can take control of activities you take on. I heard the following quote early in my career and it has stayed with me, “You can’t be good to your job unless you are good to your family, and you can’t be good to your family unless you are good to yourself”.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association exists to serve you. We are your Association, and we are here to protect and enhance your welfare. Our staff in Programs and Services are readily available to provide you with a variety of services including personal counselling, contractual advice, and professional development. NLTA staff are dedicated to helping you achieve professional excellence by providing the necessary knowledge and advice to support you in achieving your goals and objectives as a teacher.

As a member of the NLTA, I strongly encourage you to become involved in your Association. Your involvement is necessary if we are to positively influence our personal and professional lives and the learning conditions of our students. It will be a tremendous professional development exercise for you throughout your teaching life and will allow you to have a deeper understanding of the value of being a part of your Association. From this day forward, I invite you to explore and discover the myriad of wonderful and rewarding experiences that await you.

Best wishes for a great year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Ingram". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dean Ingram
President