



# Bargaining

# Brief

January 19, 2021

In accordance with Association policy, regular communication will be provided to NLTA members by way of periodic updates on the status of the collective bargaining process. This communiqué is a follow up to the [November 30, 2020 Bargaining Brief](#).

The President notified government of the Association's request to open negotiations for both the Provincial and Labrador West Collective Agreements on June 15, 2020. Although no dates have been set for the start of negotiations for the Labrador West Collective Agreement, preparations for bargaining have commenced. The Collective Bargaining Committee for Labrador West was established and developed opening proposals for negotiations in October 2020. These were presented to Provincial Executive and approved during their meeting on November 5, at which time the members of the Labrador West negotiating team were also appointed.

With rumors of an imminent election circulating widely at the beginning of January 2021, President Ingram contacted the Premier's office on January 6 regarding the status of NLTA negotiations. On January 11, the Minister for Treasury Board Secretariat called the President to discuss a two-year contract extension. Communication continued at the highest levels and final language for a proposed two-year collective agreement extension was confirmed by government late on January 12. Government offered the same contract extension for both the Provincial and Labrador West Collective Agreements.

Under Association policy, the process for moving from bargaining to a tentative agreement and ratification vote requires a recommendation from the negotiating team to Provincial Executive that a tentative agreement be put to a ratification vote.

The Provincial and Labrador West negotiating teams met separately on January 14 to review the proposed extension agreement. The Provincial negotiating team made a recommendation that the tentative agreement for a two year contract extension be put to a ratification vote and on January 15, the NLTA informed members in the provincial bargaining unit that it had reached a tentative agreement with Government to extend the current Provincial Collective Agreement for a period of two years. Details of the tentative agreement will be provided to members as soon as possible following a meeting of Joint Council scheduled for Friday, January 22.

The Labrador West negotiating team engaged in thorough deliberations during the afternoon/evening of January 14 and resumed their discussions for several hours on the morning of January 15. Ultimately, the Labrador West negotiating team decided not to recommend that the proposed contract extension be put to members in the Labrador West bargaining unit for a vote. This means that no tentative agreement was reached for an extension of the Labrador West Collective Agreement. Negotiations for a new Labrador West Collective Agreement will proceed. The Association looks forward to continuing the bargaining process in Labrador West and will be seeking negotiations dates for as soon as possible following the provincial election.

We will keep you advised of any significant developments or progress in negotiations through subsequent Bargaining Briefs and other communications as necessary.

*Published by the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association to update its members regarding collective bargaining.*