



# Bargaining

# Brief

June 16, 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 January 19, 2021 Bargaining Brief.

In June 2020, the President notified government of the Association's request to open negotiations for both the Provincial and Labrador West Collective Agreements. In preparation for negotiations, the Collective Bargaining Committee for Labrador West developed opening proposals in the fall of 2020. The members of the Labrador West negotiating team were also appointed at that time.

In January 2021, government offered a two-year contract extension for both the Provincial and Labrador West Collective Agreements. The Provincial negotiating team recommended that the tentative agreement for a two-year contract extension be put to a ratification vote. The contract extension was ratified by members of the Provincial Collective Agreement in February.

After considered deliberations, 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 negotiations for a new Labrador West Collective Agreement will proceed and the Association has continued to prepare for bargaining.

As soon as the new government was appointed in April 2021, the Association advised that it was seeking to begin negotiations for members of the Labrador West bargaining unit. The date to commence negotiations for a new Labrador West Collective Agreement with an exchange of opening proposals has now been confirmed for Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The NLTA negotiating team for Labrador West met on April 28 and May 28 in preparation for bargaining and will meet again in advance of the exchange of opening packages. Dates have not yet been confirmed for further bargaining sessions.

As per Association policy, once opening proposals have been exchanged, the NLTA must present both the Association's and government's opening packages to members. Due to continued COVID-19 restrictions, and in the interests of protecting all members by avoiding in-person gatherings when possible, this information will be shared virtually. Further details on this will follow after June 30.

The NLTA negotiating team members for Labrador West bargaining are as follows:

- **Amanda Downey** (Chair) – President, Labrador West Branch Instructional Resource Teacher, J.R. Smallwood Middle School
- **John Veitch** – NLTA Administrative Officer, Chief Negotiator
- **Trudy Noel** – French, Menihek High School
- **Matt White** – Junior High Social Studies, Grade 8 Science, Menihek High School
- **Sandy Crowley** – Speech Language Pathologist, District Office
- **Mike Barry** – Physical Education, J.R. Smallwood Middle School
- **Vanessa Wall** – Physical Education, A. P. Low Primary School

There have been several changes to the members of the government negotiating team. Brian Miller has been appointed as Chief Negotiator for government, replacing Erin Delaney. Guy Elliott has been named as an NLESD Trustee, representing Labrador West. Former Assistant Deputy Minister for Education, Brian Evans, is no longer serving on the government negotiating team. His replacement from the Department of Education has not yet been determined.

For your reference, the current members of the government negotiating team are:

- **Brian Miller** (Chief Negotiator) – Senior Advisor, Labour Relations
- **Guy Elliott** – NLESD Trustee
- **John George** – NLESD Trustee
- **Ed Walsh** – NLESD Associate Director
- **Kim Christianson** – CSFP Directrice Générale
- **Tracy Stamp** – Comptroller, Department of Education

One additional representative from the Department of Education, to be announced.

The Labrador West Collective Agreement expired on August 31, 2020. Pursuant to Article 3 of the Labrador West Collective Agreement, the Agreement in place remains in full force and effect until such time as a new contract is negotiated.

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