

Government is committed to working on the issues that impact teachers and students in the classroom. Teachers have asked to go back to the table and we have agreed.

The legislation introduced today, Dec. 14, is consistent with the wage increases in the tentative agreement negotiated with the NSTU in November. It does not stop us from returning to the table. Negotiators are currently exploring dates in January to resume collective bargaining. We will address non-monetary items the union brings to the table on behalf of its membership. Protecting our fiscal plan will help prepare Nova Scotia for long-term progress in the classroom and beyond.

The wage framework introduced today by my colleague Finance and Treasury Board Minister Randy Delorey allows for annual increments or step increases to continue for eligible teachers. These annual increments or step increases of four to five per cent per year apply to almost 40 per cent of our teachers.

Teachers have told me they want to continue to be part of discussions focused on improving the teaching and learning environment in our classrooms, and I look forward to those discussions.

Karen Casey  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development