



NEWS RELEASE

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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NLTA PRESIDENT ADDRESSES DELEGATES AT BGM

St. John's, NL ... On Wednesday, April 8, 2015, NLTA President James Dinn addressed delegates at the opening session of the 2015 Biennial General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. The following are excerpts from his address.

... It is hard to believe that I have been President for a little over a year and a half. My first term ends in four months and my second term begins in August. Much has been accomplished, but much is left to do. As I have said a number of times, when I took office in August 2013, I wondered how I would fill my calendar and justify my new role. As a teacher, I never had to worry about this. After all, there are certain well established rhythms, events, and demands that provide structure to the school year. It's safe to say that I will not be wondering the same thing this August. ...

... If there is one message that I have hammered home since taking office, it's been the message that we are a union. That the NLTA is OUR NLTA, that the Association is OUR Association, that our ability to make change comes from our collective strength...

... Because there are forces shaping education both nationally and internationally that will have an effect on our classrooms in our province. We need to be aware of them and we need to be united if we hope to shape these forces...

... If any education reform is to be effective, then teachers and teacher unions must have a clear voice in shaping education policy and direct input into the design and delivery of the public education system. No policy will work if those who are most knowledgeable of the classroom environment are excluded...

... you are some of the most involved political leaders of our Association. It is incumbent upon you to help build the capacity of our Association through your relationships with other teachers. In our roles as branch president, delegate, executive member, school rep and NLTA president, one of our top priorities must be in finding and nurturing our replacements. It must be to demonstrate the relevance of the NLTA in the lives of our members and to encourage them to take an active role in shaping their Association...

... I believe the NLTA is one of the most democratic organisations of which we can be a member. I believe in the power of our association to make progress for us and for the students we teach. Our education, experience, our concern for the futures of the children we teach makes us the most knowledgeable education professionals. I know we are a strong organisation, but I know we can be stronger. My commitment is to continue to strengthen our association, to speak to the issues important to teachers, to encourage teachers to actively engage in our NLTA...

James Dinn will begin his second term of office as President of the NLTA at the end of July.

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