



Bargaining Brief

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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 information and video message provided on June 15, 2020 ([June 15 memo](#))

The President notified government of the Association's request to open negotiations for both the Provincial and Labrador West collective agreements on June 15. A response was received on June 24, advising that Erin Delaney, Staff Relations Specialist with the Human Resource Secretariat, Collective Bargaining Division, would be the chief negotiator for government and inviting the Association to contact Ms. Delaney to set a date for the exchange of opening proposals.

In accordance with section 12 of the *Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act* (the Act), once the NLTA has requested that bargaining commence and the President of Treasury Board (at that time, Minister Osborne), has directed the school board negotiating committee to act, negotiations are to begin within thirty (30) days. The NLTA chief negotiator, Assistant Executive Director, Stefanie Tuff, contacted Ms. Delaney on June 26, proposing a number of possible dates in late July for the exchange of opening proposals. The response was that, despite the requirement under section 10 of the Act that the school board committee be in place, the committee members had not yet been appointed. The recommended individuals had been identified and submitted to cabinet for approval, but the process was "ongoing". However, Ms. Delaney indicated that she expected this to be finalized soon and suggested that dates in the second or third week of August might be possible.

Despite repeated requests for updates on the status of the school board committee appointments, the response to date from government officials, including the Deputy Minister for HRS and former Minister of Advanced Skills and Labour (the government department then responsible for the administration of the Act), Christopher Mitchelmore, have been that the process is ongoing. The President has written to former Minister Mitchelmore and has now requested a meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Immigration, Skills and Labour, Hon. Gerry Byrne, whose new department assumes responsibility for the administration of the Act ([this recent correspondence can be viewed here](#)). The Association will continue to push for compliance with the Act and the appointment of the school board committee, and as early a commencement of negotiations as possible.

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.