

Save September *524 certified teachers needed: Urgent action required*

June 20, 2024, FREDERICTON - New Brunswick Teachers' Association is putting this government and future governments on notice that, without urgent and strategic intervention, classrooms will be critically understaffed this coming September. The anglophone sector alone needs 524 certified teachers by September to sustain the status quo given population growth trends and other factors. Additionally, 64% of current New Brunswick teachers in this sector have said they have considered leaving the classroom.

A classroom without certified, professional teachers denies students critical education.

"This situation is unacceptable and urgent for the future of New Brunswick students," said NBTA President Peter Lagacy. "The government needs to understand that New Brunswick teachers have a unique skill set and are in high demand in other jurisdictions as well as outside the education system. The New Brunswick education system is competing with other Canadian provinces, international schools, and the private sector."

The government has yet to put forward a plan for retention and recruitment for the 2024-2025 school year or beyond. Looking ahead, 1,255 of about 6,000 teachers are likely to retire within five years.

"Being complacent about students' futures and our province's public education system by not providing classrooms with enough certified teachers is unacceptable," Lagacy said. "A strong public education system is a core value in New Brunswick – we believe all children deserve the best education we can provide. Teachers will question political priorities if they do not see clear evidence in the coming months that this shortage will be addressed and that teachers and our profession are respected in our province."

The New Brunswick Teachers' Association is the respected collective of its 6,500 members and works in collaboration with public education stakeholders to advocate for the teaching profession, influence public policy, and offer opportunities for professional growth.

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