

Peter McInnis
President
St Francis Xavier Association of University Teachers
St Francis Xavier University
PO Box 5000
Antigonish
Nova Scotia B2G 2W5
Room 219, 42 West Street

12 December, 2012

Dear Peter,

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT), representing university academic staff across Nova Scotia, to extend our solidarity to the St Francis Xavier Association of University Teachers (StFXAUT) as you fight for a fair and equitable collective agreement.

Academic staff are the lifeblood of the academic community on any campus. It is because of the dedication of academic instructors to teaching, research, learning, and inquiry that St Francis Xavier is able to fulfill its academic mission to students and to the wider community.

In turn, the administration at St Francis Xavier must equally commit to ensuring that academic staff are provided the quality working conditions that translate into quality learning conditions for students.

Unfortunately, negotiations between the Faculty Association at St Francis Xavier and the employer are now stalled.

Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers

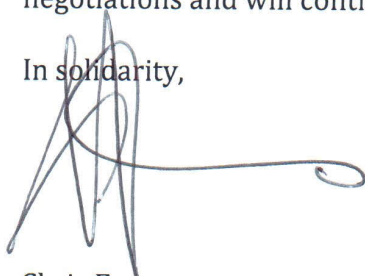
Yet the key issues for StFXAUT are clearly reasonable and modest. They include:

- a professional development fund (a standard benefit for academic staff across Canada)
- an improved benefits plan accessible to all members; and,
- wage increases that reflect rising cost of living in the province.
- job security for academic staff on contract.

To-date, the Employer's proposals have simply been inadequate and, if imposed on the faculty association, would be harmful to the long-term assurance of high quality education delivery. The Employer has offered wage increases below the cost of living. Meanwhile, they have rejected basic professional development and other benefits necessary for ensuring academic staff are able to fully contribute to the academic mission at St Francis Xavier University.

ANSUT commits to continuing to offer support and solidarity to you during your negotiations and will continue to do so until a fair and equitable settlement is reached.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Ferns', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Ferns
President

Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers
Email: chris.ferns@msvu.ca; phone: 902-457-6223