Date: February 7, 2009 For Release: Immediately Contact: Paul McCormick

Province, Teachers Reach Tentative Contract Agreement

The province and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union have reached a tentative contract agreement.

Negotiators with the province and the NSTU, representing 10,000 public school teachers, reached the agreement late Friday, Feb. 6, after three days of conciliation.

The union's bargaining team will now recommend to its provincial executive the contract be accepted. The provincial executive will meet next week to discuss the tentative agreement before making a recommendation to members.

"We are pleased we have reached a tentative agreement," said Education Minister Judy Streatch. "I congratulate both parties for working hard to reach an agreement without any disruption to student learning."

"We believe this tentative agreement recognizes the importance of retaining qualified teachers and will enable all parties to work together to meet the challenges of providing a quality education to our students in these challenging times," said NSTU president Alexis Allen.

The teachers' contract expired on July 31, 2008. There were 20 bargaining sessions since April 2008, plus three meetings this week with conciliator Charles Weir.

Details of the tentative agreement will not be released until the agreement is considered by union members.

-030-

Media Contacts: Peter McLaughlin Department of Education 902-424-8286 Cell: 225-4483 E-mail: mclaugpx@gov.ns.ca

> Paul McCormick Nova Scotia Teachers Union Cell: 902-430-2347

E-mail: pmccormick@nstu.ca