



FNBFA members meet with many members of the Legislative Assembly as well as representatives from the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour

(Fredericton, February 18, 2022) The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (FNBFA) held its annual “Meet the MLAs” event, this year virtually. Representatives from member faculty associations of New Brunswick’s four public universities, i.e., teachers, researchers, and librarians, employed full-time or part-time, had the opportunity to meet with members of the Legislative Assembly by setting up virtual meetings with each political caucus between January 26 and February 2, 2022.

“We wished to enter into a dialogue with political decision-makers to inform them of the realities, both positive and negative, which we experience on the post-secondary frontlines in the universities of New Brunswick,” said FNBFA President, Hector Guy Adégbidi. He further added that this goal was easily met with the pleasant discussion we had with the political caucuses who graciously accepted the invitation to the annual event. The Federation’s representatives also took the opportunity to inform the elected officials of their willingness to help the GNB make public universities achieve their full potential. The FNBFA deplors the fact, however, that the Progressive-Conservative caucus cabinet declined our invitation, preferring to forward it to the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour, with whom the federation already has opportunities to interact in other contexts.

So, a meeting was nonetheless held with the Department’s Minister and Deputy Minister on February 17, 2022. This meeting, considered successful, resulted in the promise of future discussions and collaborations for the advancement of the public post-secondary education sector in New Brunswick.

Mr. Adégbidi said that he and his colleagues appreciated the opportunity to convey their serious concerns. Chief among them are the chronic underfunding of New Brunswick public universities and the fact that New Brunswick ranks last nationally in the proportion of its population holding a university degree.

“University education is not a cost to society; but rather an investment in the future of our province and in our youth which is even more crucial during and after the global pandemic. It is unacceptable to have let things deteriorate to such an extent that universities systematically

experience difficulties to meet the objectives of their fundamental teaching, research and community service missions”, concludes Mr. Adégbidi.

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About the FNBFA:

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations represents the interests of approximately 1,500 professors, contract academic staff, professional librarians, and researchers at New Brunswick’s four public universities. It advocates the advancement of the standards of their profession and seeks to improve the quality of higher education in the province.