

# The St. Lucia Teachers' Union

## Union Vibes

**September 14th , 2023**



### **Message from the desk of the General Secretary**

On behalf of the Executive and General Council of the St. Lucia Teachers' Union (SLTU), I welcome you back to school for the academic year 2023 – 2024. I hope that your summer vacation was rejuvenating. During the vacation, we were saddened by the passing of some of our colleagues. At this point, we make specific mention of Bro. Sherman Sylvester who served as Trustee of the SLTU. We honour his contribution to the Union and education system. May his soul rest in peace.

During this academic year, the SLTU hopes to continue engaging members on matters relating to the Union as well as matters of concern to the collective. The Union has been preparing for negotiations for the triennium 2022 – 2025 and has been formally informed of the formation of the Government Negotiating Team. As part of the preparations, we have also met with our Trade Union colleagues under the umbrella of the St. Lucia Trade Union Federation (TUF).

Members we urge you to participate in all activities planned by the National Executive, our various committees, as well as those activities planned at the level of the various branches. In the next few weeks, we will have several branch meetings which will provide your Branch Representatives with an opportunity to report on matters discussed at General Council meeting. It will also serve as an opportunity for professional development and to learn more about the organization.

Comrades, rest assured that your interests are being represented at all levels. The SLTU requires your continued participation and support. Let us continue to work together to advance this noble movement.

The SLTU wishes all members a successful academic year 2023 – 2024.

Yours in the Struggle,  
Chantal Peter  
General Secretary

# Update on matters with the Ministry of Education



Update

The SLTU met with the Ministry of Education before the commencement of the academic year 2023 – 2024. The meeting provided another opportunity to discuss some major concerns and to review the plans of the Ministry of Education. The key issues discussed included:

**School Security** – The SLTU was informed that a security audit has been completed at some schools. An engagement with the Security Consultant is being arranged with the SLTU. The SLTU wants security measures to be in effect during and after school hours.

**Structural Works at Schools** – The SLTU expressed concern with the late start of structural repairs at schools. The MOE acknowledged the lateness of the work and gave the undertaking to have schools ready for the academic year. The SLTU will be monitoring the progress of repairs to schools.

**Teacher's Material Allowance (TMA)** – The SLTU wrote to the Ministry of Education to obtain clarity on the allowance being given to teachers. The SLTU wanted to know that none of the conditions under which TMA is paid within the Collective Agreement would be changed and that all who are covered by the agreement would receive the same amount. The Ministry acknowledged that there was a breakdown in communication between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance. The MOE wrote formally to the SLTU apologizing for how the TMA was administered and assured the SLTU that all teachers who are yet to receive TMA would receive the TMA at the end of September 2023. The SLTU will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that no member is disadvantaged.

The Ministry outlined its Pre-K program in selected schools and plans to establish TVET Schools. The SLTU will continue to engage the MOE on your behalf.

# Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF)/St. Lucia Teachers' Union Summer Institute

The SLTU partnered with CTF to host the annual Summer Institute for St. Lucia's teachers. The Summer Institute was held at the St. Joseph's Convent from July 12th to July 21st, 2023. A total of eighty teachers participated in the professional development workshop which focused on Technology, Leadership, Mental Health and Discipline in Dignity. Personal Branding, Negotiations and Dealing with Trauma were topics which were also presented to teachers. The two week workshop was well received by those who participated.



## SLTU Bursaries and Scholarship

The St. Lucia Teachers' Union annual scholarship/bursary ceremony, in collaboration with the St. Lucia Teachers' Credit Cooperative Limited, was held on Thursday 3rd August 2023 at the Castries Comprehensive Secondary School from 10 am. The SLTU in its annual bursary ceremony, awarded forty-three students of members who were successful at the 2023 CPEA exam. The student who gained the highest score was also awarded a scholarship. The scholarship holder for this year is Jaydah Etienne, of the Laborie Girls Primary School with an average of 94%. The SLTU wishes the students well for this academic term and their secondary school journey.



## SLTU/ Sagicor Branch Meetings

Branch	Dates	Location
Vieux Fort	Tuesday 12th September, 2023	Beanfield Secondary
Laborie	Wednesday 13th September, 2023	Laborie Boys' Primary
Castries	Thursday 14th September, 2023	Anglican Infant
Choisuel	Wednesday 20th September, 2023	TBA
Micoud	Thursday 21st September, 2023	Micoud Secondary School
Soufriere/Canaries	Wednesday 27th September, 2023	Soufriere Secondary
Anse La Raye	Tuesday 3rd October, 2023	Jon Odlum Secondary
Gros Islet	Thursday 5th October, 2023	Corinth Secondary
SALCC	Wednesday 11th October, 2023	TBA
Babonneau	Thursday 12th October, 2023	Dame Pearlette Louisy School
Dennery	Thursday 19th October, 2023	Clendon Mason Memorial School



**"The *teachers* we need for  
the *education* we want: The global impera-  
tive to reverse the teacher shortage"**

**Sunday October 1st 10:00 a.m.**

**Ecumenical Service- Stanley John Odlum  
Secondary School**

**Monday 2nd October 10:a.m.**

**Cooler Lime- Rudy John Beach- Laborie**

**Tuesday 3rd October**

**Branch Education Activity**

**Wednesday 4th October 9:30 a.m.**

**Education Conference- Pastoral Center**

**Thursday 5th October**

**Branch Social Activity**

**Friday 6th October 4:00 p.m.**

**Teachers' Appreciation Day**

**Football/ Netball Finals- Micoud**

**Playing Field**

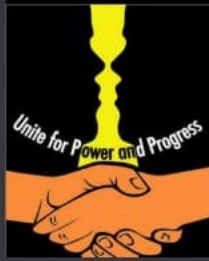
**Sunday 8th October 10:00 a.m.**

**Teachers' Rally- Morne Coubaril- Soufriere**

**Saturday 14th October**

**Retirees Function**





## SLTU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE



South vs East	<input type="radio"/>	Friday Sept 15th	Philip Marcellin Group	4pm
East vs North	<input type="radio"/>	Friday Sept 15th	Micoud Playing Field	4pm
North vs South	<input type="radio"/>	Friday Sept 22nd	Sab Playing Field	4pm
West vs East	<input type="radio"/>	Friday Sept 22nd	Soufriere Mini Stadium	4pm
East vs South	<input type="radio"/>	Friday Sept 29th	Desruisseaux Field	4pm
West vs North	<input type="radio"/>	Friday Sept 29th	Anse La Raye Field	4pm
Third place play off		Friday Oct 6th	Micoud playing Field	4pm
Finals		Friday Oct 6th	Micoud playing Field	



## SLTU Office Procedures

**The SLTU Castries office remains closed due to health and safety issues.**

**SLTU continues to provide all services to members despite the office closure.**

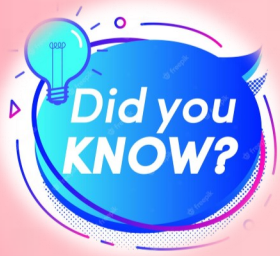
**All grievances can be forwarded to [stluciateachersunion@gmail.com](mailto:stluciateachersunion@gmail.com).**

**All insurance queries should be emailed to [sltuinsurance@gmail.com](mailto:sltuinsurance@gmail.com).**

**All other correspondence should be forwarded to [sltu@candw.lc](mailto:sltu@candw.lc)**

**The Vieux Fort desk remains functional and can be reached at 454-5800.**

**We apologize for any inconvenienced caused.**



# Collective Agreement between the Government of St. Lucia and the SLTU

## Article 8 – EMPLOYEES’ RIGHTS

1. The Employer agrees that the employee will enjoy equitable safeguards at each stage of any disciplinary procedure, and in particular:

- (a) The right to be informed in writing of allegations and the grounds for them and copied to the Union provided the employee is a member of the Union.
- (b) The right to full access to the evidence in the case.
- (c) The right to defend himself/herself and to be defended by a representative of his/her choice.
- (d) Adequate time being given to the employee for the preparation of his/her defence.
- (e) The right to be informed in writing of decisions reached and the reasons for them.
- (f) The right to appeal to clearly designated, competent authorities or bodies.

## In loving memory of Trustee Brother Sylvester



Visit the SLTU website

<https://saintluciateachersunion.com/>