



10 December 2007

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS' DISPUTE

NIPSA CALLS ON ICTU TO CONDUCT INQUIRY INTO BALLOTS

NIPSA has called on the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) to conduct an inquiry into the ballots and consultations undertaken by all trade unions in the Classroom Assistants' dispute.

NIPSA is strongly refuting claims made publicly that a majority of Classroom Assistants voted to accept the employers' offer.

NIPSA said Classroom Assistants were outraged that the Education Board Management representatives and other trade unions were forcing through the Joint Negotiating Council unfair and unacceptable change to terms and conditions when it was clear that a majority of Classroom Assistants had not voted for the employers' offer and when other trade unions' ballots are being disputed.

Mr John Corey NIPSA General Secretary said that the union's General Council was giving its full backing to the demand for an ICTU Inquiry. Mr Corey said

***“Classroom Assistants have already taken 17 days of strike action to defend their contractual rights and to fight for justice and fairness. The trade union movement cannot stand by and allow the employers to get away with forcing through totally unacceptable changes to Classroom Assistants' terms and conditions when a majority of Classroom Assistants have not voted to accept the employers' offer.*”**

A trade union inquiry is essential to ensure that the trade union ballots and consultations in this dispute are independently scrutinized to establish the facts openly and publicly.”

ENDS

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NIPSA represents over 43,000 members in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Education & Library Boards, Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, & District Councils.

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