

 A newspaper for School Councils in Newfoundland and

 Labrador

 April 2015

**Message from the President**

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Dear Members:

Where does the time go?

It is officially Spring and The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils Election of Officers and General Meeting takes place in a few weeks in St. John’s. This year we have three positions up for election on the provincial

executive – President, Vice-President and

Secretary.

Last Summer, I resigned as NLFSC Secretary and stepped up to fill the vacancy created when Nathan Whalen, who had been elected to a

second two -year term in March 2013, accepted a position with the Toronto-Dominion Bank in

Toronto.

As a working father of three busy school aged

boys, the role has kept me hopping. I have found

that the time dedicated to the provincial

executive can be onerous, but it is well worth the investment. I have decided that I would like to have a mandate of my own and will be seeking election to the role as President.

Over the past year, the executive has worked hard to better communicate with the federation’s primary audiences - members, government, our two school boards and the NLTA. We have been successful in broadening our reach, in

communicating our key messages and taking a coordinated approach to significant challenges facing education in our province.  Some of these include:

* New website finalized (please visit us @ [www.schoolcouncilsnl.ca](http://www.schoolcouncilsnl.ca/))
* Bi-monthly newsletters (The Cuffer)Numerous news releases

regarding education and media requests for interviews.

* Multiple appearances in print, on the

radio and on TV

* Multiple meetings with Ministers,
* Members of the House of Assembly, the NLTA, English School District, and

senior government officials.

* Participation in a number of round

 table discussions on policy

development.

One of the key issues that has bothered me since

becoming President is the pittance that the

Province Provides to a legislated body like school councils. We are expected, by legislation, to play an instrumental leadership role in

education, but we receive no support at the local school level and have had our operational budget reduced from $40,000 to $30,00 in 2001 - then to $25,000 in 2013. Our funding has been cut to the bone!

In the upcoming 2015 provincial budget, we need government to not only hold the line on our funding, but to increase it.

Since 1999, there have been seven resolutions passed at the Annual General Meetings of the NLFSC regarding financial support, from the

Department of Education, for School Councils.

Acting on these resolutions the Executive of NLFSC has had several discussions with the Minister of Education and Department officials over the past ten years. Despite repeated requests we have not received an increase in the grant to account for the rising costs of goods and services (inflation) or the additional needs of School Councils and communities.

During the recent Pre-budget Consultations, NLFSC requested an increase of $20,000 in our sustaining grant from government - bringing the yearly grant to $50,000. This would put our funding more in line with those received by other non-profit groups, help us to cover some of the increasing costs, and to try to maintain our

current level of activity in supporting the

enhancement of education of our children. We are hoping our request will not fall on deaf ears.

If you are reading our newsletter, chances are that you are an educator or a member of a school council with a vested interest in education. The provincial government is advising residents that the deficit is growing as a result of the drop in

the price of oil.

With a significant decline in oil royalties, the province will be presenting a

budget next month spring that will result in

service and program cuts, job losses and a deficit plan for the next three years.

We must remain both diligent and vigilant to

ensure that primary, elementary and secondary education programs are not cut. Education is a right, but more importantly it is an investment.

I encourage you to attend the NLFSC General Meeting on May 2 at the Holiday Inn, St. John’s. Please bring as many of your fellow school councilors as possible and participate in our Q & A session with the three political parties, bring forward resolutions to provide direction to the executive and bring the concerns of school

councils from all across our province to the

forefront.

It has been an honor to serve as your President. I look to meeting and speaking to you in May.

Regards

Peter Whittle

peterlwhittle@gmail.com

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**Media Interviews**

Over the past 2 months President Whittle has been interviewed by the media (newspaper, radio and TV) nearly every week on the topic of Youth Mental Health and Addictions.

The response to NLFSC’s position that more human resources are needed, in and out of schools, to assist students suffering from Mental illnesses and addictions, has been overwhelming.

NFSC has received support (via phone calls and e-mails) from teachers, parents, social workers, provincial organizations representing Guidance Counselors and Psychologists as well as several representatives from several post-secondary

Institutions.

NLFSC’s recommendation that more resources such as the establishment of Youth Mental Health and Addiction Counselors (at a ratio of 1:500 students), and an increase in the Guidance Counselor and Educational Psychologists

Allocation, is also being supported by number of Doctors across the province.

Dr. Janine Hubbard co-president of the

Association of Psychology Newfoundland and Labrador is among these doctors. Dr. Hubbard was quoted in several of President Whittle’s

Media interviews and reiterated the need for more services to treat mental illness and

addictions.

***“Wait lists to psychologists continue to hover around 18 months to two years in different parts of the province…. government is not meeting patients’ needs.***

***Access to services is a year-round concern to doctors and the people hoping to see them. We don’t have enough. We have 220 divided***

***between health care, education, university and private practice for the whole province. It’s been a longstanding and significant issue for us,”***

------Dr. Janine Hubbard

***“We’ve (NL psychologists) have been***

***advocating for years, but what’s interesting is we now have grassroots support and people are much more open to talking about mental health.***

***Grassroots support is huge. Meetings being***

***initiated in the community by the community. They’re more effective with the government than we ever could be.”***

-------Dr. Janine Hubbard

**Some mental-health facts:**

•Depression and anxiety are most likely to be experienced by Canadians.

•According to the World Health Organization, by

2020, depression will be the second leading cause of disability adjusted life years for all ages and both sexes.

•According to the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health, two out of three

people with a diagnosed mental disorder do not seek or receive care.

•It is estimated that Canada loses $30 billion

annually in direct and lost productivity

associated with mental-health problems and

addictions.

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**General Meeting Information**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils (NLFSC) General Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in St. John’s on

Saturday, May 2, 2015.

The Business Meeting will run from 9:00AM to 12:00 PM and includes several proposed

amendments to the current NLFSC Constitution and By-laws; and an election for the positions of President (2 year term), Vice-President (2 year term) and Secretary (1 year term).

The Business Meeting also provides the

opportunity for delegates to speak on behalf of their councils, debate a wide range of issues, and adopt resolutions.

The afternoon session will run from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. An invitation has been extended to

representatives from the Progressive

Conservative Party, Liberal Party and New Democratic Party to attend the afternoon session and speak to the delegates about their party’s policies and plans for the education system in NL.

(It is important to note that this event is not a public forum debate. It is an opportunity for

these representatives to present ideas and policy on behalf of their political party pertaining to

education). Further information on the Saturday afternoon session will be provided in the coming weeks.

With political parties gearing up for a Provincial Election, it is critical we ensure education sits at the very top of the campaign agenda. Our

General Meeting will allow us to begin

drafting our concerns on education into election

priorities to put forth to each political party for their commitment.

**NLFSC encourages all School Council**

**Members (parents, teachers, community**

**representatives, administrators and students) to attend our General Meeting.**

We must continue to be vigilant in our attempts to keep issues that are crucial to education at the

forefront of the provincial agenda.

We must continue, in union, to advocate for what we believe our students need to achieve the

education that they are entitled to and

deserve. To do otherwise would be a discredit to our students.

Council Members needing overnight

accommodations can contact the Holiday Inn @ 722-0506

For more information please call the NLFSC

office at: 1-709-229-209; or e-mail us:

nlfsci@gmail.com

**Registration**

Registration cost is $25.00 per person and covers the cost of the nutrition breaks and lunch on

Saturday (Registration Form enclosed in this mail-out).

**Voting**

Each member in good standing of the Federation is entitled to have one delegate vote at the AGM. If you are the voting delegate, you will be issued a voting card to hold up and cast your vote at the AGM. All members are entitled to attend the

meeting and to speak to any motion or address the Chair, but only those with voting privileges may present or second motions and vote. When you fill out your registration form, be sure to

indicate whether you are a voting delegate for your council or not.

**Resolutions**

The deadline for resolutions to be included in the conference registration package of the General Meeting is April 24th. However, resolutions may be presented at the General Meeting -requiring a 2/3 majority to approve them for consideration.

If you plan to present a resolution, we would happy to make copies for delegates, either to put in the registration packages or to distribute at the meeting, so please send us a copy as soon as possible.

All council members are encouraged to attend the business meeting and to speak to any motion or address the Chair, but only voting delegates (one per school) may present or second motions and vote.

**Proxy Votes:**

Our Constitution allows a Member Association to appoint another voting delegate to act as its proxy. If your school is unable to send a delegate and would like to appoint a proxy, you must

inform the Executive Director in writing by April 30 before the proxy vote can be exercised (one person may cast a total of no more than five votes at any one counting of votes).

**NLFSC 2015 Pre-budget Submission**

On March 6, 2015 Executive Director Pike made a presentation to Finance Minister Ross

Wiseman.

The pre-budget consultations are designed to

provide key stakeholders, individuals and

interest groups an opportunity to identify budget

priorities for consideration during the

upcoming provincial budget.

It is the position of the NLFSC that education is an investment in the future of this province and must remain a priority area. Newfoundland and Labrador can take pride in its public education system. However, we cannot be complacent about what we have been able to achieve.

We believe a sound fiscal plan is necessary, but there are, of course, important programs and

services that require investment – especially in education.

The following Priorities were identified by our membership during our AGM last April.

**Priority 1: Mental Health and Addiction**

**Supports**

**(A) NLFSC recommends government create a new allocation for Youth Mental Health and Addiction Counsellors at a ratio of**

**1:500 students.**

**(B) NLFSC recommends government**

**implement an effective and affordable**

**prescription monitoring system for**

**patients, pharmacies and Doctors.**

(This monitoring system would provide the

necessary security to prevent the continuation of the illegal peddling of prescription drugs).

(**C) NLFSC also recommends government**

**implement a Secured Treatment Plan for young people between the ages of 16-18 whose use of alcohol or other drugs is likely to cause**

**significant psychological or physical harm to themselves or physical harm to others.**

(This Plan will allow parents or guardians of children, under the age of 18, who have

addictions to apply for a protection order for treatment for their child. If the Court agrees with the parents or guardians that drug use is causing harm to their child, the Court will send the child to a protective safe house for up to ten days. This safe house will provide them with treatment and help them manage withdrawal)**.**

**Rationale:**

The issues of students suffering from

untreated Mental Health illnesses and addictions are becoming more and more prevalent in our schools.

Mental Health issues and Alcohol and Drug use, among our youth, go hand in hand and are

increasing at an alarming rate. Research

indicates that youth are not only more likely than adults to engage in risky substance use, but also to experience greater harm from that use. This can negatively impact their health, safety, safety of others, and academic achievement.

Drug abuse education and prevention has never been more important that it is now. Our

communities are struggling to keep pace with drugs that have high euphoric effect (and greater risk for addiction), greater affordability, and more accessibility. Drugs that were once

considered "hard-core" only a generation ago are no longer taboo.

Parents and School Councils who contact our office say they do not know where to go to get help for depression and addictions – or that help is simply not available. The concerns around Mental Health and addictions and the lack of supports for our youth has been topping the agenda at our AGM for the past 3 years. Mental Health and Addiction concerns are on the rise and the current level of services cannot

adequately respond to the needs of

children who are suffering from it.

**Priority 2: Educational Psychologist**

**Allocation**

**NLFSC recommends government increase the supportive resources such as educational**

**psychologists, counsellors, and other support staff necessary to augment the intervention and assistance necessary to address the**

**emotional and mental health needs of students from Kindergarten to Level III.**

**Rationale:**

NL schools are confronted with diverse and

intense demands by students of a personal

nature, which include comprehensive student

assessments; drug and alcohol awareness;

personal counselling; anti-bullying programs; and mediation*.*

The current Guidance Counsellor allocation of one per 500 students does not meet the needs of students and is particularly challenging in rural schools. Other supportive resources (educational psychologists, counsellors and other support staff) are needed to address the many complex mental health and addiction issues in schools.

**Priority 3: Guidance Counsellor Allocation**

**NLFSC recommends government increase the current Guidance Counsellor allocation from 1:500 to 1:300.**

**Rationale:**

Our schools are facing an increase of students that are undergoing difficulties such as drug use, addictions and mental health illnesses and quite often it is the school’s Guidance Counsellor who they reach out to for help. Unfortunately, the

current Guidance Counsellor allocation of 1

full-time personnel for 500 students,

compounded by other responsibilities and

workload, does not provide enough time for them to help students who require counselling services.

**Priority 4: Administrative Allocation**

**NLFSC recommends government reinstate the Administrative allocation to the level it was before the 2013 provincial budget.**

**Rationale:**

The reduction in the allocation for School

Administrator time in the 2013 provincial budget resulted in less time for School Administrators to carry out their duties and responsibilities.

Important initiatives such as Anti-bullying and Healthy Living programs are further

compounding the stress placed upon our

Administrators.

**Priority 5: Teacher Allocations**

**NLFSC recommends government**

**implement a Needs Based Formula for**

**allocating teaching units in the province.**

**Rationale:**

In the 2013 Provincial Budget, 160 teacher

positions were cut from NL schools. Since then, NLFSC has heard from and spoken with many of our members on how the reduction to the

Teacher Allocation, Administrative Allocation,

Specialist Allocation and Learning Resource Teacher Allocations is impacting their schools. The message is a very strong one. These cuts will have severe, long-term impacts that will put the students of this province at an extreme

disadvantage for years to come. NLFSC still

believes that a Needs Based Formula for

allocating teaching units as recommended and accepted by government in previous years, but has not been fully implemented, is critical to our schools and students**.**

A Needs Based formulawill address many

deficiencies in the education system in the areas of Special Needs/ inclusion, improve classroom size at both the elementary and high school

levels and provide full educational programming in our rural schools. This model would take the

geography of our province into account and

eliminate the need for a set pupil-teacher ratio. A needs based formula ensure that students across the province are treated fairly by ensuring they are all offered at least a defined level of

education.

Providing this level of programs to every

student in Newfoundland and Labrador would likely require an increase in funding to education - but it would be money well spent.

**Priority 6: Student Support Services and**

**Inclusion Delivery**

**To fully support our Special Needs Children and to help them achieve to the best of their ability, NLFSC recommends that government provide 150 additional teaching units to**

**address the needs identified with the**

**implementation of the Inclusion Model.**

**Rationale:**

The Department of Education has adopted an

inclusionary model of Special Services delivery. As a result, significant changes are occurring in Special Education, which has a direct impact on students, teachers and our classrooms. Special Needs Students who had been pulled out of the regular classroom, to work with a Special Needs Teacher in a small group setting, now have to stay in the classroom. In most cases, the

individual support they once received from a Special Needs Teacher no longer exists, putting an increased demand on the classroom teacher. NLFSC receives many calls and e-mails from parents expressing concerns about the lack of teachers and student assistants to meet the needs of their child.

Budget 2014: Shared Prosperity, Fair Society, Balanced Outlook, provided over $112 million to

support inclusive education in schools.

This includes funding for itinerant teachers,

student assistants, professional development for teachers, classroom-based teaching resources, and direct supports to students such as alternate format materials and assistive technology.

NLFSC is fully supportive of the philosophy of inclusion, but the necessary supports and

resources must be provided for successful

inclusion in the regular classroom. If the

philosophy of inclusive education is to work as it was intended, additional teacher resources are required to support special needs children.

**Priority 7:**

**Numeracy and Literacy Specialists.**

**NLFSC recommends government allocate greater fiscal resources for Numeracy and Literacy**

**Specialists at the school level.**

**Rationale:**

Unfortunately, many students continue to

struggle in the areas of math and reading and are in need extra support.

Government needs to provide more in the way of training and placement of numeracy and literacy

specialist teachers at the classroom level. These school-based specialists would assist the

classroom teachers in diagnosing the needs of students who are struggling and provide

adequate programs (individual or small group support) to meet their needs. Research has

proven that small class size and individual and small group support has yielded tremendous

academic successes in the areas of math and reading for students who struggle.

The objective of these school based Numeracy and Literacy Specialists would be to improve the quality of literacy and numeracy teaching within our schools, but more importantly, help our

students see themselves as true learners.

**Priority 8:**

**Federation of School Councils Operational**

**Funding**

**NLFSC requests an increase of $20,000 in the sustaining grant from government to make the yearly grant $50,000. This would put our**

**funding more in line with those received by other non-profit groups, help us to cover some of the increasing costs, and to try to maintain our current level of activity in supporting the**

**enhancement of education of our children.**

**Upcoming Representation**

Forum on Mental Health in Grand-Falls Windsor (April 24th)

Reading of the Speech from the Throne

Provincial Budget 2015, Government of NL

Meeting with representatives from Eastern

College Community Connections regarding the need for more Mental Health and Addiction Counsellors in schools

Panel Discussion: Mental Health and the

Adolescent (Thursday, May 7 @ The Holiday Inn, St. John’s, 7:00P.M. - 9:00P.M

Teacher Induction Ceremony, May 29

Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Health and Community Services (April 23)



**Invitation to Mental Heath Discussion**

**The Schizophrenia Society of NL**

 **and the**

**NL Federation of School Councils**

**In Celebration of Mental Health Week 2015**

**Invite you to a Panel Discussion**

*“Mental Health and the Adolescent”*

Featuring:

Dr. Andrew Latus, Assistant Professor of

Psychiatry MUN

Dr. Janine Hubbard, Clinical Child/Adolescent Psychologist

Mark Gruchy, President CMHA Newfoundland Chapter

Boyd Perry, Senior High Guidance Counselor

Peter Whittle, President NL Federation of Schools Council

Darlene Didham, Social Worker Tuckamore Centre

**Date and Time: Thursday, May 7, 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.**

**Location: Holiday Inn, Portugal Cove Road.**

Registration: To register please contact SSNL

Phone: (709) 777-3335
Email: info@ssnl.org

 OR

NL Federation of Schools Council
Phone: 229-2094
Email: nlfsci@gmail.co

**School Board Trustee Election Blues**

*Written by Peter Whittle, April 13, 2015*

Last Thursday I received a call from a reporter to discuss the issue of the lack of elected

representatives on the Newfoundland and

Labrador English School Board.

The reporter had heard Liberal Education Critic Dale Kirby question the government in the House of Assembly and was curious about the position of the Newfoundland and Labrador

Federation of School Councils.

The Federation has been concerned about the lack of democracy guiding the new school board since the original announcement in the Spring of 2013. However the province charged ahead with the plans to fold all four English Language school boards into a single school board

beginning in the Fall of that year.

The Official Opposition, the NLTA and retired school board officials expressed misgivings when the amalgamation was announced in the 2013 Provincial Budget Speech.

The government named 15 members to act as trustees, a School Board Transition team -

supposedly selected based on regional levels of student enrollment, and on ensuring broad

geographic representation.

The plan was that these interim appointees would sit until an election occurred sometime in 2014.  The NLFSC has dealt with three ministers of Education since those appointments. We have been told that the new board was working on a constitution, which had to be approved by the Department. Delays and more delays.

Trustees are responsible for setting the school board’s overall policy direction and the board’s budget, and are supposed to represent the

interests of the community, parents and students in the area from which they are elected to

serve - which begs the question, who does a

non-elected board serve?

Without elected boards, the public has very

little input in the important decisions from

accountable regionally elected trustees. There is no process for accountability for the decisions

currently being made.

There does not appear to be any priority in

allowing the public a role in the operation of the province's only English School Board. How can this be considered in the best interest of public education?

Then there is the issue of the paltry amount of money provided to the NLFSC to operate, while money continues to flow to the school boards association. The amount of money that has gone to that organization over the past decade is

staggering in comparison.

Would you believe $1,764,404 since 2009!  That is taking into account the fact that government eliminated funding for the NSLSBA in the 2013 budget! Funding for participation in the

Canadian School Boards Association is still

provided - $50,000 was provided for that

purpose this year.

Local school councils are mandated by

legislation, are composed of parent and

community volunteers yet receive no funding allocations to carry out their significant role in our education system.

That - and what the real savings of the

Amalgamation- are will make for another post!

Suffice to say, two years later - no time frame or details about the configuration of the new board have been released. Considering the

congested electoral schedule for the Fall of 2015 - a provincial and federal election - it seems

unfathomable that another province wide contest will be thrown into the mix.

It baffles the mind that the Provincial

Government could skip the cue and move-up the

redistribution of the province's electoral

boundary review process but they can not get the process, composition and mechanics of school board elections completed!

**2015 Provincial Assessments**

**Administration Schedule**

**Primary/Elementary Reading and Writing**

Thursday, May 21 – Non-fiction Reading

Friday, May 22 – Persuasive Writing

Monday, May 25 – Fiction Reading

Tuesday, May 26 – Creative Writing

**Intermediate Reading and Writing**

Wednesday, June 17 - Creative Writing and

Non-fiction Reading

**NOTE: All schools should begin each**

**assessment no later than 9:00 a.m. on the scheduled date.**

**Public Exam Schedule, June 2015**

Tuesday June 16 - English 3201

(morning session)

Wednesday, June 17 – Math 3201, Math 3200,

Mathemathiques 3231 (morning session)

Thursday, June 18- Earth Systems 3209

(morning session)

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|  Chemistry 3202 Chimie 3232  (afternoon session) |

Friday, June 19 – Biology 3201, Biologie 3231

(morning session)

Monday, June 22 – World Geography 3202

(morning session)

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|  World History 3201, Histoire Mondiale 3231 (afternoon session) |

Tuesday, June 23 – Physics 3204

(morning session)

Wednesday, June 24 – Francis 3202

(morning session)

**Morning Session**

Schools may run the morning sessions from

either 8:30 am – 11:30 am, or 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. This will accommodate schools, which normally have an earlier start time as well as

allow for more time between the morning and afternoon exams. To facilitate this, the

Department of Education is asking that schools strictly adhere to the following time lines:

**Regardless of the start time,**

**No student writing a public examination will be permitted to leave the exam room until 10:00 am.**

**No student writing a public examination will be permitted to enter the exam room later than 10:00 am.**

**Afternoon Session**

Schools may run the afternoon sessions from

either 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm or 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. To facilitate this, the Department of

Education is asking that schools strictly adhere to the following time lines:

**Regardless of the start time,**

**No student writing a public examination will be permitted to leave the exam room until 2:00 pm.**

**No student writing a public examination will be permitted to enter the exam room later than 2:00 pm.**

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**First High School Graduate from Residential Youth Treatment Center**



The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, through the Janeway Hospital School, is responsible for the provision of academic

programming for the Residential Youth

Treatment Centres in Paradise and Grand Falls-Windsor. While the purpose of these facilities is primarily to provide treatment for youth with addictions and/or complex mental health needs, providing an opportunity for these young people to learn and succeed academically in a supportive environment is also extremely important.

The Hospital School is pleased to share the story of their first program graduate!

This young man spent years struggling with a serious drug addiction - an addiction that saw him skipping school, getting himself in trouble, and destroying his relationships with family and friends.

In the summer of 2014, he decided that it was time to make a change and entered the Grand Falls-Windsor long-term treatment program to get help with his addiction. While the program is a lot of hard work, the young man knew this was his chance to change his future. When he learned that he could complete the necessary credits to earn his high school diploma while receiving treatment, he said that there was no way he was going to mess up the opportunity to finish his education. Working with the Hospital School teachers, he completed 4 credits during his stay (and did extremely well), and has now opened doors for himself that, he acknowledges, were

not available to him just a year ago.

students who struggle with addictions, he was quick to say "It's about choices. A year ago I thought I was going to end up with a criminal record and that I was never going to get my grade 12. I'm not glad I ended up here, but at the end of this, I have finished my treatment and my high school. Now, I have a great start to a new future. So my advice is Carpe Diem - it's really important to seize the opportunities that we are given."

**Secured Treatment**

NLFSC has been lobbying government to change the age of consent for addictions treatment from 16 to 18 years of age. This change would give parents the right to ensure their child receives necessary care.

NLFSC would like to see a similar model like the Alberta’s Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act (PCHAD) implemented in NL. Under this model, parents or guardians of children

under the age of 18 (with addictions) can apply for a protection order for treatment for their child. If the court agrees with the parents or

guardians that drug use is causing harm to their child, the court can send the child to a protective safe house for up to ten days.

This safe house will provide them with treatment and help them manage withdrawal

It was anticipated that changing the age of

consent from 16 to 18 years of age would be

voted on during the fall sitting of the House of

Assembly.

Despite numerous inquiries by NLFSC,

no changes have taken place.

**Strongest Families Partnership Strengthens Mental Health Services for Children and Youth**

Children, youth and families currently waitlisted for mental health services across Newfoundland and Labrador will soon be able to access mental health programming online and through

telehealth.

The new service begins in May and will be

offered through a partnership with the Strongest Families Institute as a complement to existing programming offered by the regional health

authorities.

The Strongest Families program provides care to families by teaching skills through a distance coaching approach over the phone and online in the comfort and privacy of their homes,

providing family-centred care to meet each

family's unique needs.

The only service of its kind in Canada, the Strongest Families Institute’s programming is being delivered in Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia and by the Atlantic Military Family Resource Centre. The program represents an investment of $300,000 from the Provincial Government’s

E-Mental Health and Addictions Awareness Program.

The Strongest Families Institute is a not-for-profit corporation providing telehealth and

e-health services to children and families seeking help for mental health and other behavioral

issues.

The Strongest Families Institute has been

nationally recognized for social innovation by the Mental Health Commission of Canada (2012) and the Ernest C. Manning Foundation Encana Principal Award (2013).

 **Join the Fight!** 

April is Daffodil Month – The Canadian Cancer Society’s national fundraising campaign to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

During April, Society volunteers raise vital funds for the fight against cancer.

Money raised during Daffodil Month helps local patients living with cancer and their families. Donations fund life-saving research, support

services and other important work that means fewer Canadians will be touched by the disease.

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***The Cuffer*** is a benefit of membership in the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils.

Annual membership dues are based on school enrolment. Individual subscriptions are available at $15 per year.

The views expressed or implied in this

publication are not necessarily official positions of the Federation.

The mention of any program, organization,

resource, product, person, place, or school does not constitute an endorsement by NLFSC.

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