*Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils*

*Representing School Councils, Parent Advisory Committees, Home and School & Parent-Teacher Associations*

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 Press Release

**Funding For Education A Top Priority For Provincial School Councils**

For Immediate Release

**September 9, 2015 (St. John’s)** -The Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils (NLFSC) welcomes students, teachers, school support staff and parents to the 2015-16 school year.

“The beginning of a new school year is always a time filled with promise and possibility, and with fresh opportunities to learn, and grow, and inspire,” says Peter Whittle, President of NLFSC.

“Members of the NLFSC Executive are very proud of our students and their past educational accomplishments and look forward to celebrating their new successes in 2015-16.

We are also extremely fortunate to have professional and caring teachers, administrators and school staff in our education system that go above and beyond their roles to nurture and help our youth reach their full potential as students, individuals and citizens.”

With a provincial election set for November 30, President Whittle

is calling on people across the province to stand up for schools by raising awareness on educational issues with the leaders and candidates of each political party.

“We are at an important crossroads for public education and the teaching profession in Newfoundland and Labrador,” he said.

“We are currently facing serious challenges in meeting the needs of students in schools all over this province. The cuts to teacher units and education, stemming from the past 3 Provincial Budgets were aggressive and are having a negative impact on students and their learning.

I urge the public to examine each political party’s position related to education and to vote for candidates who give priority to education and public programs that support the wellbeing of our children and youth.”

The NLFSC, the provincial umbrella group for School Councils, provides school councils and parent groups with a voice on education issues and encourages positive parental involvement at all levels of education. The NLFSC also offers information, support and guidance to parents and school councils to help them better understand the policies and procedures of their local schools, school districts and the Department of Education.

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