 **The Cuffer**

 A Newspaper for School Councils in Newfoundland and Labrador

  ***Spring 2019***

**Message from the NLFSC President**

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Spring break is here. It's a time for new ideas, and a new found enthusiasm.

This is the time in the school year when many are thinking of graduations, exam preparations, and final exams.

It is also the time when many of us are waiting to hear the details of the Provincial Budget and hoping to see many investments and improvements in education.

As in previous years, NLFSC submitted a Pre-budget Submission to government with recommendations to be considered in this year’s budget.

Once again we reiterated the concerns our membership/ school councils and parents have brought forth to us on the issues of: inclusive education, violence in schools, mental health and addictions, truancy, literacy and mathematics, school council training, curriculum support in the classroom, and guidance/administration allocations.

It is our hope that many of the resolutions put forth by our membership - and many of the issues and concerns we have repeatedly presented in previous pre-budget submissions - will be addressed through the recommendations in the Provincial Action Plan-established by government this past year.

It is important to note the plan outlines specified timelines and responsibilities for implementation of the recommendations.

We promise to do everything in our power to ensure these timelines are met and promises are kept.

We believe NLFSC and school councils can have a vital role to play in supporting, encouraging and promoting the Education Action Plan.

NLFSC has a trusted and autonomous voice and can be a powerful tool in providing information and promoting changes in education to school councils and parents.

Additionally, school councils are one of the main lines of communication between the school, parents, and the community at large, and can also be of great assistance in disseminating information to their school community.

This past December NLFSC met with Minister Al Hawkins, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, to discuss many issues including NLFSC Funding. We would like an increase to our annual operating grant of $21,200 but we would also like to see every school council receive funding to assist their individual school agendas and needs.

At present, school councils in NL have a specific mandate and assist in improving the learning environment of their schools without any operational funding whatsoever. As a school council member, I realize the importance of fund-raising to assist in covering the costs of school trips, play areas, sports and band equipment, and many more essentials necessary to a school functioning in the students’ best interest.

As President, I would like to commend all who help with this endeavour. We all lead busy lives and it certainly takes time and dedication to ensure the success of our children.

In conclusion, with a provincial election to be held before the end of the school year, it is imperative that school councils and parents insure that education is a priority for all parties.

I encourage all of you to speak with the candidates from each political party regarding resources for education.

This is a critical time to unite and raise our voices to ensure proper government funding for education as an investment in our future and provide long-term, sustained resources to our schools. It is our job to hold our government accountable for those promises and ensure that every effort is made to provide our children

with a quality education in a safe and caring environment.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued commitment and dedication to the students across NL and to NLFSC.

Enjoy your Easter Holiday

Sincerely,

Don

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On February 8, the NLFSC Executive met with NLTA President Dean Ingram to discuss shared concerns in schools (Student Assistant Allocation and Funding, Provincial Budget, Maintaining Partnership and the Provincial Education Action Plan).

NLFSC values its relationship with the NLTA and greatly appreciates the dedication of teachers.

Schools are the foundation of our communities.

Every day teachers open their classrooms to

share knowledge that will help to shape the next generation of decision makers for this province.

The challenges in our schools are increasing and the social, emotional and academic demands are more complex. Many students

come with emotional, intellectual and physical challenges that require intense preparation and sensitivity on the part of teachers. A child's emotional, mental and physical state affects their self-esteem and ability to learn – and schools are often one of the few places where they feel loved and valued.

Educators, government, school boards, parents, school councils and our students must continue to work together as partners in education.

There must be dialogue, discussion and

compromise. We all want the same thing – the best high-quality educational experience possible to prepare our children for the future.

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On March 9th, members of the NLFSC met in St. John's to discuss ongoing education concerns and future goals. Some of the agenda topics included:

**Review of School’s Act**

**Request to host Atlantic Caucus Meeting**

**Review NLFSC Goals**

**Code of Conduct**

**School Council Person of the Year Award**



NLFSC Executive Director Denise Pike (left) presents Jennifer Howse, Chairperson of Smallwood Academy in Gambo with the 2017 School Council Person of the Year Award. The presentation took place at Smallwood Academy, December 2018.

The award recognizes the outstanding dedication of a school council member.

The School Council Person of the Year Award (SCPYA) is a provincial award. The Winner is chosen from nominees who are members of school councils from all areas of the province.

Criteria for the award

* Performance of volunteer duties at a high level at all times
* A significant school and/or system-related achievement
* A specific innovation or achievement of significant value or importance to the school community, or
* A unique circumstance considered worthy of recognition by the NLFSC Board
* A member of a school council in good standing with the NLFSC.

To receive this award is indeed an honor, but more than that it is recognition of the outstanding contribution to the school community. Most of the progress and success of any organization is determined by the interest, activity and unselfish devotion of its members.

Jennifer Howse is a dedicated and selfless school council chairperson. Her dedication, dependability and longevity on the Smallwood Academy school council is exceptional and outstanding and speaks to her commitment of the school community.

Jennifer is well informed on school culture and climate and greatly values education. While her job as a Nurse is very demanding, she always finds the time to volunteer, organize events and volunteers, and attend council meetings.

Her leadership qualities also include promoting all the great things happening at Smallwood Academy and supporting a student first philosophy.

According to Bill Whalen, Principal of Smallwood Academy, Jennifer made him feel welcome and helped with his transition at the school during the 2017-18 school year.

“Smallwood Academy had 2 new administers during the 2017-18 year and one of the biggest challenges for any new Administrator is reaching out and nurturing new relationships,” says Mr. Whalen.

 “Jennifer was an important stakeholder welcoming us to the school community. She is organized and a very active participant who has a clear vision in moving our school community forward. She embraces the academic and emotional well-being of our students seeking clarification and next steps with regular discussions about our school development plan. Jennifer and members of the school council also recognizes the contributions of our teaching staff regularly.

Jennifer also recognizes the importance of developing strong parent-teacher relationships

and the positive impact it has on the learning environment of a school. She is respectful and encouraging when it comes to interacting with the school staff and parents and has personally been the driving force behind many initiatives

that benefit not only the school and students, but also the community at large.”

Jennifer's overall reliability and leadership as School Council Chair has also earned her the respect of her fellow council members.

"Jennifer demonstrates strong leadership in her role as chairperson. She has worked with three different Principal’s and many different council members of different backgrounds. In doing so, she has successfully given our Council the professionalism that it deserves. She keeps us on track and on task. Her focus is the school population; including our teachers and school staff. She goes over and above to meet those needs, and ensures every task is completed. If it weren't for Jennifer, our Council would not function as smoothly and as thoroughly as it does."

Jennifer always goes the extra mile for others in all her volunteer efforts and has worked exceptionally hard to achieve several goals to benefit Smallwood Academy school

community. She has demonstrated a keen interest and understanding in the academic issues (challenges and successes) relevant to the school. She has also been a strong advocate in the promotion of academic success to the

community, which in turn has contributed to a more positive school climate.

 “Jennifer is an outstanding chairperson and would be a welcomed addition to any school council and we are blessed to have her on our team!” says Principal Whalen.

Jennifer has consistently gone above and beyond in the call of duty in volunteering her time and effort for her school. She is very positive, goal oriented and has earned the respect of the Smallwood Academy School Council, her school community, members of the SCPYA selection committee, and the NL Federation of School Councils.

 **Administrative Time**

NLFSC continues to lobby for an increase to the Administrative Allocation in this year’s provincial budget.

The reduction in the administrative allocation, in the 2013 and 2015 provincial budgets, has resulted in less time for School Administrators

to carry out their duties and responsibilities and is having a direct and detrimental impact on our students and schools.

As important as teachers are to their students’ success, research says high-performing principals can often have a greater impact on student learning and achievement. The principal is responsible for nearly every ongoing process in any given school - as well as the quality of teaching and learning. Therefore, there MUST be a provision for adequate time to help Administrators preform well in their role, and fulfil their responsibilities.

 NLFSC will continue to lobby government to reinstate the Administrative allocation to the level it was in 2012





April 17 is the seventh annual Talk With Our Kids About Money Day.

TWOKAM was launched as a pilot program in Toronto and Montreal area schools in 2013. In April 2018, some 7,700 schools and about 900,000 students participated in the sixth annual TWOKAM Day.

In 2018, the Territories participated for the first time making TWOKAM Day truly coast to coast to coast across Canada. Talk With Our Kids About Money Day is the third Wednesday in April every year.

The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) has introduced “Talk With Our Kids About Money Day” across North America. TWOKAM is intended to “get the conversations started” and help young people learn more about money and personal finances. It’s a fun and interactive program for kids, parents, and teachers to take the stress out of “Having the Talk.”

The purpose of “Talk With Our Kids About Money Day” is to increase the extent to which parents, guardians, other caregivers, employers,

the media, and schools engage children in discussions about money matters relevant to their lives and, over time, contribute to improved financial literacy in Canada.

The program is multi-faceted but has, at its core, “Talk With Our Kids About Money Day” scheduled for April 17, 2019. On that day families and teachers of all grades will be encouraged to have “The Talk” with kids about money.

The “School Program” encourages teachers in all subject areas to teach a lesson relevant to their respective subject areas but with a focus on a money issue or topic. The website provides sample lesson plans for all subject areas to help support teachers with instruction – and the lessons are linked to provincial learning outcomes in the curriculum. At the same time, teachers are also encouraged to “do their own thing” and share their lessons via the website for other educators to consider. The program is designed to support provincial ministry priorities of integrating financial education into the curriculum. Also, there are opportunities for teachers to link the School Program with the

Home Program through pre and post activities preparing for, and following up on, “Talk Day.”

Any school in Canada can participate and is encouraged to do so.

The “Home Program” encourages parents and guardians of children of all ages, and across Canada, to begin, or continue, discussions with their kids about money. The website provides parents and guardians with a variety of tools, ideas, and activities.

There is absolutely no cost for any school, teacher, parent or student to use any and all the resources offered.

The program has some key features. It does not take much time to prepare and implement. The lessons and activities are fun, engaging, and life-relevant for kids. The website provides all the resource support a parent or teacher would need. And it helps to show parents and teachers that they can help their kids prepare for financial decisions and responsibilities – in a way that is fun and engaging.

TWOKAM has separate websites and support materials for Canada and is available in both English and French languages - www.talkwithourkidsaboutmoney.com and www.parlonsargentavecnosenfants.com

The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education is a non-profit, non-partisan

organization, founded in 1974, that works to improve economic, financial, and enterprising

capability. CFEE works collaboratively with funding partners, departments of education,

school boards, schools, educators, and teacher associations to develop and provide free, non-commercial programs and resources for teachers, parents and students – developed and reviewed by educators. CFEE also has a range of programs to assist newcomers to Canada as they look to settle and integrate into their new country.

CFEE also works internationally with organizations such as the OECD in Paris, Child and Youth Finance International in Amsterdam, and the Association of Asia Pacific Countries (APEC). Overall, CFEE’s work primarily focuses on youth but also aspires to help people of all ages be better prepared to undertake their economic roles, responsibilities, and decisions with confidence and competence.

Since 1981, CFEE has been led by Gary Rabbior who, in 2015, was appointed by the federal government to Canada’s National Steering Committee on Financial Literacy.

For more information please contact:

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**Public Exam Schedule, June 2019**

**Tuesday June 18**

**Morning** – English 3201

**Wednesday June 19**

**Morning** - Math 3201, Math 3200,

 Mathemathiques 3231

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|  **Thursday June 20** **Morning** - Earth Systems 3209  **Afternoon -** Chemistry 3202, Chemistry 3212,  Chimie 3232  |
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**Friday June 21**

**Morning** – Biology 3201, Biologie 3231

**Monday June 24**

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| **Morning** - World Geography 3202,  Social Studies 3211 |

**Afternoon** -World History 3201,

 Historie mondiale 3231

**Tuesday, June 25**

 **Morning** - Physics 3204, Physics 3214

Wednesday June 26

**Morning** – Francis 3202

**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.*

**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 or enter the exam room until 2:00 pm.*

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Many thanks to school council members who give countless hours to enhance the learning environment of schools.

We sincerely appreciate every volunteer who serves on a School Council and the impact you have on the education system both locally and provincially.

In ways large and small, you make a positive contribution to your respective school councils and the lives of the students in your school.

NLFSC greatly appreciates the many teachers and administrators who spend early mornings and late nights at your school. We commend you for your willingness to work for unpaid hours and supervise many extra curricular events.

We realize teachers extend themselves far beyond their job description to help and mentor students outside of the classroom.

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

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 the NLFSC.

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