

August 15, 2019

Dear Applicant:

**Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (Our File #: EECD/054/2019)**

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On July 31, 2019, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

***"June 2019 Information Note titled Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve et Labrador ??? Funding."***

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (the department) to provide access to some of the requested information, and the appropriate copy has been enclosed.

Access to the remaining records, and/or information contained within the records, has been refused in accordance with the following exceptions to disclosure, as specified in the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 2015 (the Act):

**Section 29: Policy, Advice and Recommendation**

29. (1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal

(a) advice, proposals, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister.

As required by 8(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is unable to be disclosed and have provided you with as much information as possible. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, the appropriate copies have been enclosed.

You may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner  
2 Canada Drive  
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A  
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309  
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309  
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.

Please be advised that this letter will be published following a 72 hour period after it is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the letter posted to the Completed Access to Information Requests website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires us to provide an advisory response within 10 days of receiving the request. As this request has been completed by day 10, this letter also serves as our Advisory Response.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned by telephone at 709-729-7180 or by email at [garynoftall@gov.nl.ca](mailto:garynoftall@gov.nl.ca).

Sincerely,



Gary Noftall  
ATIPP Coordinator

Attachment

**Information Note**  
**Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**

**Title:** Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve et Labrador - Funding

**Issue:** To provide additional information to Executive related to funding for the Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve et Labrador.

**Background and Current Status:**

- The *Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Agreement on Minority-Language Education and Second Official-Language Instruction 2013-2014 to 2017-2018* (OLE Agreement) was signed in March 2014. Under this bilateral agreement, federal funding is provided on a 50/50 basis, with the federal government providing a set amount contingent upon the province spending at least the same amount under each of French minority language and French second language (FSL) initiatives, as identified in the action plan contained in the OLE Agreement.
- Under the OLE Agreement, the federal government sets a total annual funding amount for French minority language education. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) receives \$2,639,295 in funding for FSL programs per year, and \$1,301,551 for French first language (FFL) programs, for a total of \$3,940,846 annually. This means FFL receives 33 per cent of the funding and FSL receives 67 per cent. This funding is broken down in a 5-year action plan, which budgets for various initiatives. While these amounts have not changed for several years, the recent federal budget has suggested that an increase may be available in the future, if provinces and territories match funds.
- Of the \$1,301,551 OLE funds allocated for FFL programs, \$226,250 is directly allocated to EECD in support of FFL related work originating within the Department.
- Additional information is being sought by the Deputy Minister, EECD, to inform ongoing communication with the Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve et Labrador (CSFP), regarding questions they have raised on the allocation of federal funds for minority language education.

**Analysis:**

- The Program Development Specialist, Federal-Provincial Programs, has advised that there is no clearly defined formula to determine the split of federal funding between FFL and FSL for Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). While the CSFP argues that FFL should receive a greater share of the federal funding, there is evidence to justify the greater allocation of funds to FSL in NL.
- The actual per centage of federal funding used for FFL has not changed in many years. Originally, the allocation was loosely based on student population within FFL.
- For 2017-18, the per centage of the overall student population of NL that was enrolled in either a core French or French immersion program was 65.38 per cent. The per centage of the overall student population enrolled in FFL was 0.54 per cent. **Annex A** provides a sample of enrolment numbers for French language programs, compared to the total student population, over the years.
- For 2017-18, the per centage of students enrolled in FSL programs, based on overall enrolment in French language programs, was 99.19 per cent. **Annex B** provides information for a sample of school years.

s. 29(1)(a)

- NL has the lowest population of FFL students of any Province in Canada.

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- In addition to the per centage of FFL versus FSL students, NL does not have a francophone post-secondary institution. For some other jurisdictions, the existence of francophone post-secondary institutions means that a greater amount of the federal funding can be allocated under FFL programs.
- The breakdown of the portion of federal funding for FFL that covers costs of \$226,250 directly incurred by EECD is:
 

○ Curriculum development	\$ 32,936
○ Program Development Specialist salary	\$ 120,866
○ Translation	\$ 72,448
- In addition to the amounts of federal funding allocated directly to EECD for FFL, actual expenditures in these areas is higher, and covered under the Department budget. Costs covered by the Province include:
 

○ Program Development Specialist salary	\$ 42,866 (portion)
○ Translation	\$ 34,043
○ Program support and policy development	\$ 123,135 (includes portions of salaries for manager, financial officer, translation and policy staff, and clerical staff; travel for staff; office supplies; resource materials; purchased services; <i>Association Canadienne d'Éducation de Langue Française</i> payment; etc.)
- Additional costs are incurred by the Province, for school district operating grants and school transportation.

**Action Being Taken:**

- None required at this time.

**Prepared/Approved by:** J. Manning/J. Hogan/B. Clarke/E. Churchill/R. Gardiner

May 27, 2019

**BN/19/57**

## Annex A

Enrolment in French Language Programs  
As a Percentage of Total Student Enrolment (Elementary - Secondary)  
In Newfoundland and Labrador

Year	Total Provincial Student Enrolment	French Second-Language (FSL)					French First-Language	
		Core French		French Immersion		Total FSL	Number	% of Student Population
		Number	% of Student Population	Number	% of Student Population	% of Student Population		
1991-92	125,133	88,220	70.50%	4,636	3.70%	74.21%	267	0.21%
1998-99	97,401	50,322	51.66%	4,717	4.84%	56.51%	268	0.28%
2005-06	76,763	40,451	52.70%	6,823	8.89%	61.58%	203	0.26%
2012-13	67,604	30,287	44.80%	9,118	13.49%	58.29%	348	0.51%
2017-18	65,401	32,322	49.42%	10,436	15.96%	65.38%	350	0.54%

### Annex B

Enrolment in French Language Programs  
 (French Second-Language and French First-Language)  
 As a Percentage of Total French-Language Student Enrolment  
 In Newfoundland and Labrador

Year	Student Enrolment in French-Language Programs	French Second-Language				French First-Language	
		Core French Enrolment	French Immersion Enrolment	Total French Second-Language	% of French-Language Student Population	Enrolment	% of French-Language Student Population
1991-92	93,123	88,220	4,636	92,856	99.71%	267	0.29%
1998-99	55,307	50,322	4,717	55,039	99.52%	268	0.48%
2005-06	47,477	40,451	6,823	47,274	99.57%	203	0.43%
2012-13	39,753	30,287	9,118	39,405	99.12%	348	0.88%
2017-18	43,108	32,322	10,436	42,758	99.19%	350	0.81%