September 12, 2014

Dear [Redacted]: s.30(1)

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Our File #: EDU/011/2014)

On August 20, 2014, the Department of Education received your request for access to the following records/information:

"I am requesting, under the Access to Information Act, information that supports government’s commitment to mandatory, full-day attendance for all students including those with special education needs; as well as documentation or correspondence (internal or external) that highlights this commitment is not being met."

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted.

As per Section 4 of the Schools Act, 1997, school attendance is compulsory in our province and the Department of Education is committed to all children attending school full-time. Also outlined in the Schools Act, 1997, are the following requirements:

- Part II - Parents: s.15 - Compulsory enrolment
- Part II - Parents: s.16 - Attendance
- Part II - Parents: s. 19 - Regular attendance
- Part III - Schools: s. 34 - School attendance record

In addition, as part of the Annual General Return, schools are required to report detailed attendance information to the Department of Education. "Education Statistics - Elementary – Secondary" is published on an annual basis. Included in this publication is a section on “Attendance Information” which outlines attendance rates along with absentee rates. This publication is available on the Department of Education’s website at: http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/publications/k12/index.html

In extreme circumstances, partial day programming is used to assist a student in meeting his/her educational goals. The Department of Education has developed partial day guidelines which are being implemented by schools and districts. The Guidelines for Partial Day Programming is available on the Department of Education’s website at:


Please be advised that there are no records responsive to your request for “documentation or correspondence (internal or external) that highlights this commitment is not being met.”

P.O. Box 8700, St. John’s, NL, Canada A1B 4J6 t 709.729-5086 f 709.729-0414
Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72-hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Brian Evans, ATIPP Coordinator, by telephone at 709-729-1841 or by e-mail at brianevans@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Janet Vivian-Walsh
Deputy Minister