November 30, 2016

Dear Applicant:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Our File #: EDU/064/2016)

On November 1, 2016, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

"All correspondence to/from the Minister of Education and the President of NLTA, Mr. James Dinn from April 1st - Oct. 31st. Pls include all correspondence to/from the minister related to or making mention of Mr. Dinn."

A decision has been made by the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provide access to some of the requested information and the appropriate copies have 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 (the Act):

Section 29: Policy advice or recommendations
(1) The head of a public body may refuse to disclose to an applicant information that would reveal
(a) advice, proposal, recommendations, analyses or policy options developed by or for a public body or minister.

Section 40: Disclosure harmful to personal privacy
(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant where the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy.

You may appeal this decision and ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the decision to provide partial access to the requested information, as set out in section 42 of 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. Your appeal should identify your concerns with the request and why you are submitting the appeal.
The appeal may be addressed to the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Str. 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 responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response 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 responsive records 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.

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

Sincerely,

Brian Evans, CIIP/C
Director of Information Management & Special Projects
ATIPP Coordinator

Enclosure
June 29, 2016

Honourable Dale Kirby
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
P O Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Kirby:

I am pleased to provide you with the completed "Better Together: The Report on the Status of Education in Newfoundland and Labrador", along with the summary report and recommendations.

As you are aware, the Panel visited 12 communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, heard 60 public submissions, received many more online, and listened to the discussion of the approximately 300 people who attended the presentations. The report represents the views not only of the teachers who participated, but also the concerns of thousands of citizens represented by the parents, school councils, community and special interest groups who presented to the Panel. We feel this was important work and provided a unique opportunity for public discussion on what people see as both the strengths and challenges of our education system.

Dr. Bruce Sheppard was contracted to analyze the submissions and to write the report along with Dr. Kirk Anderson. I would like to have the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the report and its recommendations. We see this as an opportunity to continue the discussion on an issue that is at the heart of both the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – the education of our students.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

James Dinn
President

ENCLOSURES
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
July 22, 2016

Mr. James Dinn
President
Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association
3 Kenmount Road
St. John’s, NL A1B 1W1

Dear Mr. Dinn:

This is to confirm that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has received a copy of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association’s report Better Together: The Report on the Status of Education in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Please be advised that the report has been shared with department officials. Ms. Janet Vivian-Walsh, Deputy Minister and Mr. Ed Walsh, Assistant Deputy Minister-K-12 Education and Early Childhood Development, will be available to meet with you to discuss the report. Please contact Ms. Vivian-Walsh’s office at 729-5086 to arrange a time to meet.

Sincerely,

DALE KIRBY
District of Mount Scio
Minister

cc: Ms. Janet Vivian-Walsh
Mr. Ed Walsh
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<tr>
<th>From:</th>
<th>Kirby, Dale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sent:</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 03, 2016 8:32 PM</td>
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<td>To:</td>
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<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Re: Cross Talk</td>
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That's fine with me.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Re: Cross Talk</td>
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Perfect.

If you still want me to call, then I will touch base with Darrin in the morning to let him know and give him a heads up. I know Jim also, so I can reach out to him as well.

I can email Romona my contact information. Not a problem at all.

Have a good one.

---

On Tue, May 3, 2016 at 8:05 PM, Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
Couple things, Jim Dinn is going to be the guest tomorrow, so there's that. If you still decide to go on you may wish to first touch base with Ramona Deering at ramona.deering@cbc.ca

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

"This email and any attached files are intended for the sole use of the primary and copied addressee(s) and may contain privileged and/or confidential information. Any distribution, use or copying by any means of this information is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please delete it immediately and notify the sender."
Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2016 7:04 AM
To: Kirby, Dale; Wiseman, Lauren
Cc: Curran, Erin; Connors, Kara
Subject: Re: Shareables

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

From: Kirby, Dale
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2016 6:30 AM
To: Wiseman, Lauren
Cc: Curran, Erin; Vivian-Walsh, Janet; Connors, Kara
Subject: Re: Shareables

DK

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Wiseman, Lauren
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2016 4:40 PM
To: Kirby, Dale
Subject: FW: Shareables

Shareables in separate files. We'll do the first post tomorrow.
September 8, 2016

The Honourable Dale Kirby  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
P.O. Box 8700  
St. John’s, NL  
A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

It is a pleasure for me to invite you to attend the Fall Ceremonies of Induction into the Teaching Profession in recognition of the completion of professional studies by students in the Faculty of Education at both the Grenfell and St. John’s campuses. Together with the Faculty of Education, we will be hosting these events.

The Induction ceremony and social for those students graduating from the Corner Brook campus will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at the Arts and Science Extension Atrium, Grenfell Campus.

The Induction ceremony and social for students graduating from the St. John’s campus will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at Glendenning Golf in St. John’s.

We would be pleased if you could attend these events to convey greetings and a short message to the graduating students. If for some reason you cannot attend, we would appreciate the Department sending an elected representative. The contact in our office for this event is Susan Cardoulis, and you can reach her at 726-3223, ext. 246 or email at scardoulis@nltta.nl.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

James Dinn  
President

JD/sbc
The entire slide deck should be provided to interested in media in advance of any media availability.

Morning!

Jim Dinn was on the St. John's Morning Show today and was talking about teachers having to "scrounge around dollar stores for school supplies". He was mainly referring to FDK. According to Mr. Dinn, this was a directive given to teachers at PD sessions that government provided in preparation for FDK.

CBC has reached out to Ken at NLESD and I just received a call from them as well. They want an interview with Minister Kirby before 4pm today on "why teachers are being made to get their own supplies in this fashion".

I let the reporter know that Minister Kirby was in meetings all day and that we would get back to them via email to let them know if there is a response.

I have attached the photo that Jim Dinn tweeted last night – which is a slide taken from a presentation given to teachers with our logo on it.....

Please advise.

Erin

Erin Curran
Media Relations Manager
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
709-729-1906 | ErinCurran@gov.nl.ca
Discovery - Education and Early Childhood Development

From: Kirby, Dale
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:54 AM
To: Wiseman, Lauren; Curran, Erin; Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Cc: Walsh, Ed
Subject: Re: CBC looking for interview - teachers "scrounging" for supplies

Sure. But if they want an interview I will do it. It would be best to do that aside from the CAMET media availability.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Wiseman, Lauren
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:46 AM
To: Curran, Erin; Kirby, Dale; Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Cc: Walsh, Ed
Subject: RE: CBC looking for interview - teachers "scrounging" for supplies

We can go back to CBC with the deck and the following message. Please let me know if this is ok. Also, please let us know if you want us to order the transcript.

Please see the attached power point deck, from which James Dinn took a slide to illustrate his concern regarding teachers getting supplies for the classroom. This deck will provide you with a greater context of how the messaging was conveyed to teachers, as they are encouraged to use "loose parts" to stimulate innovation and creativity in the classroom where traditional materials might not be available in school supplies stores. This is not mandatory, and we would expect any costs associated to come from the school classroom supplies budget, but the non-traditional materials can certainly add to the learning experience for kindergarten curriculum.

Lauren Wiseman
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
(O) 729-0048
(C) 691-7668
laurenwiseman@gov.nl.ca

Newfoundland
Labrador

From: Curran, Erin
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Kirby, Dale; Wiseman, Lauren; Vivian-Walsh, Janet
Cc: Walsh, Ed
Subject: RE: CBC looking for interview - teachers "scrounging" for supplies

I have a request in to the tenth floor – but unfortunately we don’t tape the CBC morning show and in the article there is no reference to what Jim said. I’m looking for a podcast online linked to that article, but there is none.

We could order the transcript, but that will cost money and I would need authorization.
Go back to the CBC media clip from last week and review. I would like to know what word he used in reference to children who do not have special needs.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Ed and Brad are pulling together some messaging for this.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Bell network.

Morning!

Jim Dinn was on the St. John’s Morning Show today and was talking about teachers having to “scrounge around dollar stores for school supplies”. He was mainly referring to FDK. According to Mr. Dinn, this was a directive given to teachers at PD sessions that government provided in preparation for FDK.

CBC has reached out to Ken at NLESD and I just received a call from them as well. They want an interview with Minister Kirby before 4pm today on “why teachers are being made to get their own supplies in this fashion”.

I let the reporter know that Minister Kirby was in meetings all day and that we would get back to them via email to let them know if there is a response.

I have attached the photo that Jim Dinn tweeted last night – which is a slide taken from a presentation given to teachers with our logo on it.....

Please advise.

Erin

Erin Curran
Media Relations Manager
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
709-729-1906 | ErinCurran@gov.nl.ca
Because I am [redacted] years of age, I don't respond to challenges made through the media, so there should be no response to this at all. If the NLTA would like a meeting, they should request it like professionals. Otherwise, Mr Dinn can carry on as normal. I hope this is clear.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Please see the request below. Minister, please let me know your thoughts.

Best,

Lauren

Lauren Wiseman
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
(O) 729-0048
(C) 691-7668
laurenwiseman@gov.nl.ca

Newfoundland Labrador

Hi Lauren.

Jim Dinn is on our show tomorrow, talking about classroom supplies and he's publicly issuing an invitation to Mr.Kirby to come with him to meet some teachers. Does the department have any response to the invitation, so we can add it to our story?

Thanks,

Leigh Anne
Leigh Anne Power
CBC Radio Host
Central Morning
Gander, NL
(709)256-4311
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
**Discovery - Education and Early Childhood Development**

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<tr>
<th>From:</th>
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<td>Friday, September 23, 2016 11:21 AM</td>
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<td>To:</td>
<td>Wiseman, Lauren; Vivian-Walsh, Janet; Walsh, Ed; Coffey, Tina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>RE: Jim Dinn on Open Line</td>
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</table>

It’s too bad he is taking it personally.

---

Dale Kirby, MHA
District of Mount Scio
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Phone: (709) 729-5040
Email: dalekirby@gov.nl.ca

3rd Floor, West Block
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

---

From: Wiseman, Lauren
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2016 11:20 AM
To: Kirby, Dale <DaleKirby@gov.nl.ca>; Vivian-Walsh, Janet <JanetVivianWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Walsh, Ed <EdWalsh@gov.nl.ca>; Coffey, Tina <tcoffey@gov.nl.ca>
Subject: RE: Jim Dinn on Open Line

Started out as teacher sending me slide from PD – loose parts
Teachers there were very upset over suggestion of scrounging at stores – hardware, dollar stores
Posted and response was immediate because it touched a nerve with a lot of teachers
Response by Minister was personal attack on me – that created a response from teachers
Teachers already buy materials and seeing slide show from dept, whether or not overtly said, the implication was there
Far too many teachers, especially primary teachers, purchase materials
Young teachers have spent up to $300, one teacher says she’s spent up to $1,000
When you see it as professional materials coming from dept, teachers feel taken for granted
Bureaucratic process involved in getting supplies – must get three quotes – where do you put your time and resources?
Do you put it into paperwork, or do you just go out and buy it yourself? Time is short when in schools

Lauren Wiseman
Director of Communications
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
(O) 729-0048
(C) 691-7658
laurenwiseman@gov.nl.ca
From: Wiseman, Lauren
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Kirby, Dale; Vivian-Walsh, Janet; Walsh, Ed; Coffey, Tina
Subject: Jim Dinn on Open Line

Lauren Wiseman  
Director of Communications  
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development  
(O) 729-0048  
(C) 691-7668  
laurenwiseman@gov.nl.ca  

Newfoundland  
Labrador
September 27, 2016

Honourable Dale Kirby
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
3rd Floor West Block Confederation Building
PO Box 8700
St. John’s NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Kirby:

I write at this time to express my grave concern and disappointment with your public comments made on September 21, 2016, and the disparaging tenor of same, which reflect on both the NLTA and myself personally. Not only were your remarks offensive, they were in fact inaccurate. During a CBC radio broadcast regarding the resourcing of teachers’ classrooms, you asserted:

I am not surprised that this is coming from Mr. Dunn; he has been on the record from the very beginning of not wanting a full day kindergarten in this province, so this is part of his perspective, I guess. I am surprised that he doesn’t want to have better education for children or better working environment for our teachers. [Emphasis added.]

As you are well aware, neither I nor the NLTA oppose full day kindergarten. Rather, we have consistently stated that full day kindergarten must be fully resourced and cannot be financed on the back of the rest of the public school system.

The NLTA’s support for full day kindergarten is, and has been, long standing policy. The Association has devoted considerable time and effort to considering the merits of full day kindergarten, including the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee to study, among other things, full day kindergarten. NLTA policy stipulates the criteria that are required for the Association to endorse the implementation of full day kindergarten.

The NLTA’s support for full day kindergarten is not merely historical. On April 24, 2015 in a media release titled “Increases in Class Sizes a Step Backward”, I made the following statement:

The NLTA is encouraged by Government’s continued commitment to the scheduled implementation of full day kindergarten. This is welcome news for children, parents, and the education system in general.

Similarly, on March 9, 2016, correspondence to you in your capacity as Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development stated:

It was reassuring to hear in the Throne Speech that your government’s commitment to full day Kindergarten is still strong. …We also wish to reaffirm the NLTA’s support for the Department’s commitment to full day Kindergarten.

For you to state that I, or the Association, do not desire a better education system, enhanced education for children or a better working environment for our teachers is both irresponsible and unworthy of a public
official, and is contrary to the information you should have been aware of in your capacity as Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. I find your recent accusations surprising and disturbing in light of your past acknowledgment of the importance of adequately resourcing the education system; when the Progressive Conservative Government cut 77.5 teachers from the school system in 2014, you stated:

*Teachers will return to school in September with fewer resources, larger classrooms, and a heavier workload...It’s a clear recipe for failure.*

Your accusations that the Association is “peddling in ignorance” are also offensive and inaccurate. In consultation with stakeholders, and in furtherance of its legislative mandate to promote the cause of education in the province, the NLTA, in partnership with Memorial University’s Faculty of Education and the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils (NLFSC), participated in a Panel on the Status of Public Education in Newfoundland and Labrador (the Panel) which held hearings, sought submissions and drafted a final report. Over a six week period, the Panel (comprised of a representative from each of the NLTA, NLFSC and the Faculty of Education) visited 12 communities, held sessions attended by almost 300 people, heard 60 presentations, and received hundreds of online submissions. Significantly, that Panel’s summary report, authored by Dr. Kirk Anderson, Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Dr. Bruce Sheppard, stated:

*While we question whether the inclusion of early learning in schools will lead to significant improvements in student achievement, and the timing of the start of full-day kindergarten, in principle we support these efforts as part of a cascade of improvements that can result in the changes needed in our schools and society.*

To date, you and your staff have not meet with the NLTA to discuss the findings and recommendations of that report.

On September 21st, rather than focusing on the legitimate issues to be discussed, you attacked my reputation, and the honesty and integrity of the NLTA. The next day, the Association requested that you publically correct these blatant falsehoods, which misrepresent the NLTA’s consistent position on full day kindergarten and call into question my integrity and advocacy for teachers, students and the public education system. You have attributed motives to me, and the Association, which are utterly devoid of truth, and made inexcusable statements that serve to lower my reputation in the eyes of reasonable members of the community. You have yet to acknowledge your significant error or issue an apology or retraction.

I am attaching documentation in support of the foregoing. I look forward to your timely response, which, I suggest, is imperative if we are to maintain a collaborative and productive working relationship with you, your department, and your Government.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James Dinn
President

c. Honourable Dwight Ball, Premier, Newfoundland and Labrador

Attachments
Potential copyright material

If you wish to obtain a copy please contact the ATIPP Office at (709) 729-7072 or atippoffice@gov.nl.ca.
March 9, 2016

Honourable Dale Kirby  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development  
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
P O Box 8700  
St. John’s, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister Kirby:

Despite the province’s challenging fiscal reality it was reassuring to hear in the Throne Speech that your government’s commitment to full day Kindergarten is still strong. I am writing to request a meeting with you in early to mid-April for the purpose of reviewing the progress of implementation plans for full day Kindergarten. By that date plans will be well underway and concerns or issues can be identified in sufficient time to have them addressed by September 2016.

At the January meeting of the NLTA Provincial Executive, our Executive members and administrative staff had the opportunity to tour the demonstration full day Kindergarten classroom at the District School on St. Clare Avenue. We wish to express our appreciation for the opportunity to do so and to have the Director of the Program Development Division, Mr. Bradley Clarke, available and present to answer our questions.

We also wish to reaffirm the NLTA’s support for the Department’s commitment to full day Kindergarten. We are encouraged by the fact that the full day Kindergarten curriculum is not new and will respect the professional judgement of teachers.

One of our Programs and Services staff will be contacting the Director of the Early Childhood Learning Division, Paula Hennessey, in the near future to request information regarding questions and concerns raised from teachers and administrators regarding full day Kindergarten. The more information we can share with our teachers regarding the Department’s plans for supports, professional learning opportunities, logistics, and other matters, the greater the likelihood of a successful introduction of full day Kindergarten in the Newfoundland and Labrador public school system. This is desire we both share.

I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you on this matter. If this is acceptable, I can arrange to have my executive assistant, Geralyn Costello (geostello@nlta.nl.ca), contact your assistant to arrange a convenient day and time to meet in April.

Sincerely,

James Dinn
PRESIDENT
ARE TEACHERS READY?: Supplies are being purchased and upgrades are underway in over 100 of the province's schools for full day kindergarten but how prepared are the teachers? ["James Dinn", NLTA President]

Program: NTV - Evening Newshour Early Edition
Aired: 2016/01/28 05:30:50pm
Duration: 00:04:00
Reporter: Toni Marie Wiseman
Ref id: t3J-7V8-28

TONI-MARIE WISEMAN: Supplies are being purchased and upgrades are underway in more than 100 of this province's schools in preparation for full day kindergarten, but how prepared are the teachers? Joining me tonight is the President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teacher's Association. Mr. Dinn, thank you for being here tonight.

JIM DINN: You're welcome. Good evening.

TONI-MARIE WISEMAN: So, how prepared are teachers for full day kindergarten?

JIM DINN: I'll start, Toni-Marie, if you don't mind, by saying the association itself does support full day kindergarten. The research is clear: we have already in place in these schools, in this province, in our private schools, and the Francophone School, and we know that there are some schools that are already looking forward to this...they've got the space. We also have a commitment from our Minister for 140 additional units. But, there's no doubt about it. We have heard concerns from teachers about the readiness and about the resourcing, and part of that is that they've seen other initiatives come in, such as inclusive education, that end up being woefully under-resourced. But we have heard those concerns, and we have been bringing those concerns to the department.

TONI-MARIE WISEMAN: You know, I've spoken with a number of school teachers over the last number of weeks. Some of them say that they haven't really been in...they don't feel as though they've been engaged in the process; that they feel, I guess, in some way left out; that government hasn't been meeting with them, and hasn't been telling them directly how all of this is going to play out. What are you hearing from the membership?

JIM DINN: I would say that's probably...a lot of the issue is in how the information is getting into teachers' hands, so a lot of the fear and anxiety is around how this is going to unfold. But certainly, what we've been hearing is...depending on where you are in the province, if its regards to how its going to be implemented, there is a concern about how professional development is going to take place. They haven't got the information on that. We hear from teachers from small rural schools, wondering how a play-based curriculum in kindergarten is going to work in a multi-grade, multi-age classroom. In large urban areas, its pretty much to do with space, and how are you going to team-teach in a confined...in a small space, with approximately 28 young people and two adults.
TONI-MARIE WISEMAN: Well, you know, I guess that will be kind of tricky for teachers, won't it? I mean, you may have two teachers...there will be, you know...obviously using the same curriculum, but they have two very different teaching styles, and now they're going to be able to hear each other, the other students will be able to hear the other teacher. Won't that be confusing for the teachers and the students?

JIM DINN: No doubt about it. Part of that will be in the professional development and how it unrolls, and its...I've used team-teaching before, but it certainly...its about personality; its about learning the work, and about learning new skills. That's the professional development piece, but no doubt, its going to present challenges, as I said, especially when you look at young people. This is their first experience in the school system, and depending what their needs are...diverse styles and diverse needs...its going to present some significant challenges. But again, these are things that we've been bringing to the department and the district that they need to address as this process unrolls.

TONI-MARIE WISEMAN: But, you're confident that all these matters can be addressed before September?

JIM DINN: I'm confident that we're bringing those issues to them, to the district and the department, and they've certainly assured us that they're going to have it in place, and things will be ready. Our job is going to hold them accountable to that, and ensure that the teachers...they have the necessary resources, and by that I mean the professional development, the technology, the material in the classroom, but especially the professional development to help them deal with this for sure.

TONI-MARIE WISEMAN: Mr. Dinn, thanks so much for coming in tonight.

---

NL News Now
Email: production@nlnewsnow.ca
Tel: 709-726-6397
Web: www.nlnewsnow.ca
j. Length of the Kindergarten Day

The NLTA accepts the following criteria as its position on an extended kindergarten day program:

1. Resources

In order to implement the Kindergarten curriculum in a developmentally appropriate manner, adequate resources must be in place for the extended Kindergarten program to be successful; for example, adequate physical space, reading area, washrooms, suitable furniture, and help from assistants when and where required.

2. Class Size

Class size for the extended kindergarten program shall be a maximum of fifteen students to one classroom teacher and in no circumstances shall class size exceed fifteen students to one teacher. Where multigrading exists, eg (K-1, K-2) etc., class size for the combined class shall be no larger than fifteen students for one teacher.

3. Entrance Age

The entrance age for all children to extended kindergarten programs should be five years of age on or before August 31st of the year in which they attend Kindergarten. This should be phased in over a four-year period with the entrance age adjusted yearly:

Year 1 - November 30
Year 2 - October 31
Year 3 - September 30
Year 4 - August 31

4. Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum

Critical to the success of an extended kindergarten day is the provision of developmentally appropriate programs. Such programs are characterized by the following:

a) There is an emphasis placed on the importance of play as a medium through which young children learn best, with a focus on exploration and discovery.

b) Curriculum outcomes and assessment focus on the physical, social, emotional, intellectual, moral and ethical development of the child.

c) Learning experiences are designed to engage each child in large groups, small groups and individual instruction.

d) Each child is valued as a unique individual.

e) Curriculum outcomes encompass the development of:

1) Literacy
2) Numeracy
3) Scientific Processes
4) Self and Society
5) Fine Arts

July 7, 2015
vi) Personal and Social Relationships
vii) Independent Learning
viii) Healthy and Active Living

f) A developmentally appropriate curriculum for Kindergarten children does not mean the addition of new learning outcomes or a downward extension of Grade One. Rather, the intent of a full-day Kindergarten is to provide children with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the current curriculum at a pace more appropriate for young children.

g) In those instances where one or more Kindergarten children are part of a multi-age setting for a full school day appropriate staffing resources should be provided to ensure that the needs of all children in the multi-age class are adequately met. [Apr/2-3&5/06] [JC/Apr/08] [2009 BGM]

5. Teachers

In keeping with currently modern standards, teachers for the full-day Kindergarten shall be qualified teachers knowledgeable of early childhood growth and developmental processes and trained in primary and early childhood methods.

6. Length of Full-Day Kindergarten

The length of full-day Kindergarten should be consistent with current practices in the school. [Oct/14-15/94] [1995 AGM]

Complete Policy Revised - [June/2/06] [JC/Nov/06] [2007 BGM]
INCREASES IN CLASS SIZE A STEP BACKWARD

St. John's, NL....The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has announced that the provincial budget will contain changes to the teacher allocation formula, increasing class sizes in grades 4 to 9. This will result in a loss of 77.5 teaching units to the education system.

"We understand the current fiscal challenges that Government is facing. However, in the context of today's classroom and students with diverse and complex needs, we view the change to class size caps and the reduction to the number of teaching units as a step backward," states James Dinn, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. "An increase in class size will have a negative impact on the teaching and learning conditions in classrooms; however, we are encouraged that class size caps in K-3 and the allocation of special services will be maintained. Regarding the increase in class size caps, we fully expect Government to reverse the changes when the economy improves."

The NLTA is encouraged by Government's continued commitment to the scheduled implementation of full-day Kindergarten. "This is welcome news for children, parents, and the education system in general," states Dinn.

The NLTA believes increased resources are required to properly meet the special needs of students in today's inclusive classroom and is working with Government and the school districts to bring recommendations on resourcing of the inclusionary model by February of next year.

"Governments must understand that education should be treated as an investment, not an expense to be cut."

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Investing in Priority Early Learning Programs

Full-Day Kindergarten Planning Moving Forward
Planning for full-day Kindergarten, announced in Budget 2014: Shared Prosperity, Fair Society, Balanced Outlook, is well underway and the program is on track for implementation province-wide in September 2016. The Honourable Darin King, Minister of Education, provided a full-day kindergarten update today (Wednesday, August 27) to participants at Play the Kindergarten Way, a two-day workshop focusing on early literacy development and play-based learning.

“We have completed Phase I of full-day Kindergarten planning, which included preparations leading up to the Budget 2014 announcement. Phase II is now well underway. It includes conducting individual site visits at schools throughout the province — particularly where we know classroom capacity issues exist — to determine both immediate and longer-term needs in terms of space and teaching resources. Our focus is on ensuring schools are able to offer full-day Kindergarten programming in 2016, even as new schools, extensions and renovations are in progress to increase capacity in areas where it is required.” - The Honourable Darin King, Minister of Education

For the latest information on infrastructure requirements at individual schools (recognizing that planning is ongoing), see the backgrounder below.

Minister King said there will be about 140 new teaching positions added to the system to facilitate implementation. While there are capacity challenges in some schools, particularly on the Northeast Avalon, there are also innovative teaching methods — already practised in many schools throughout the province where short-term capacity issues exist — to deliver required programming.

“We have met with the NLTA about a team teaching model, which assigns two fully-qualified teachers to a classroom, where necessary, to ensure pupil-teacher ratios are in accordance with class size caps. Where this practice is currently used, it is a short-term solution and the ratio of students to teachers is much lower than in a standard classroom setting. We know the team teaching model will be required in some schools, in the short-term, to implement full-day Kindergarten in 2016. In such cases the maximum student to teacher ratio would be in the 14:1 range — or two teachers for a maximum 28 students.” - Minister King

Minister King noted that short-term solutions to capacity issues also include the utilization of modular classrooms, where possible. Longer-term solutions, such as the construction of new schools, renovations and extensions will continue, where necessary, and the need for modular classrooms and the team teaching model will decrease accordingly.

“The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association supports the Implementation of full-day Kindergarten which is adequately resourced and delivered by qualified teachers. We commend Minister King and his government for moving forward with this initiative. While we understand that the capacity limitations in certain areas will require innovative teaching arrangements to meet short-term needs, the NLTA will continue to work with government during the implementation monitoring process to raise and help address issues and concerns as they arise” - Jim Dinn, President, Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Budget 2014: Shared Prosperity, Fair Society, Balanced Outlook, allocates $35.4 million over three years to implement a universal, full-day Kindergarten program, beginning in September 2016, and to further enhance early learning opportunities. The funding represents the beginning of Phase II of the province's early learning strategy, Learning from the Start. More information on early childhood learning initiatives is available on the Department of Education website at:

QUICK FACTS

- The Provincial Government is moving forward to the next stage of implementation of full-day Kindergarten, announced in Budget 2014 and scheduled to be available province-wide in September 2016.
- Phase I of full-day Kindergarten planning included preparations leading up to the Budget 2014 announcement.
- Phase II includes conducting site visits at schools throughout the province to determine specific space requirements, finalizing plans, developing and delivering professional learning focused on play-based learning in the Kindergarten setting, and ensuring teaching resources are assigned to ensure all Kindergarten students will have access to the benefits of full-day programming in 2016.
- Budget 2014 allocates $35.4 million over three years to support early childhood learning initiatives, including the implementation of full-day Kindergarten.

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The Honourable Darin King, Minister of Education, joins Darrin Pike, Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, and Jim Dinn, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, to provide an update on full-day Kindergarten planning during a play-based learning workshop in St. John's on Wednesday, August 27.

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BACKGROUNDER
Infrastructure Plan for Full-Day Kindergarten (As of August 27, 2014)*

Plans In Place to Offer Full-Day Kindergarten In 2016

This includes school communities where new schools/extensions are currently in progress or where some internal renovations may be required.

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<th>Community</th>
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<td>Burgeo Academy</td>
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