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/021/2017)

On March 27, 2017, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development received your request for access to the following records/information:

"Correspondence between the two school boards and the department in 2016 and 2017 regarding the integration or absorption of Syrian refugees into school populations. These would include but not be limited to correspondence about costs, language issues, cultural considerations, and other such matters."

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 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 (the Act):

**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.

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 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 who is 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 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 709-729-7425 or by e-mail at AmandaGarland@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

Amanda Garland
Manager of Information Services
ATIPP Coordinator

Enclosure
Ed, Revisions in bold. Any questions, call.

In the Eastern Region of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) there were 110 children who registered as students from January to June of the past school year. Seven children have registered for school so far this current school year.

- School based supports for refugees are not covered by federal funding and are provided through the K-12 education system. English as Second Language instructors (ESL) and the LEARN program (Literacy Enrichment and Academic Readiness for New Comers) provides enhanced supports for newcomers.

- The English school district has designated Syrian refugee coordinators by region to assist schools with the transition of students in a way that is sensitive to their needs, culture, and life experiences. We did designate a coordinator last winter when large number of Syrians started arriving. It was Christine Greene but duties later transitioned to Jackie Rideout. The position is no longer active as the students are no longer coming in large waves from Syria.

- Each student is assessed to determine their capacity to adjust to the school setting. Some students may not immediately attend school and the transition will occur over time and may include partial days. ESL teachers complete an assessment to gauge level of language proficiency. Other school staff (guidance, IRT’s, psychologists) have also been involved in developing transition plans some students to school). There have been times when students transition to full time attendance in school slowly. Generally this is situations when a student may have never been to school, or never separated from their parents.

- Professional learning for teachers involved with refugee students is ongoing. We offered a PL session last winter on supporting ESL learners in the classroom. It is our intention to offer the session again in March.

- NLESD continues to work with the Association for New Canadians in the Metro St. Johns area to identify the schools children will be attending, provide settlement worker for schools, and have interpreters available for students. We have an excellent working relationship with the ANC. As students arrive they gather as much information as possible on how much formal schooling students have had to date. This information is helpful in planning an intake meeting at school level. The ANC also provides SWIS (Settlement Workers in the Schools) workers and interpreters.

On Sun, Feb 26, 2017 at 1:47PM, Walsh, Ed <EdWalsh@gov.nl.ca> wrote:
Here is what we had previously.

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Ed

Ed Walsh
Assistant Deputy Minister
Kindergarten to Grade Twelve Education and Early Childhood Development
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Phone: (709) 729-5720
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Newfoundland and Labrador English School District
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