



**Report to Atlantic Conference 2009
St. John's, NL
January 29-31, 2009**

The purpose of this report is to highlight certain achievements and note some challenges which the NLSBA has encountered since our last conference in January 2008.

The resourcing of education within Newfoundland and Labrador continues to reflect the positive increase in provincial revenues.

- The 2007-08 Education Budget for Newfoundland and Labrador exceeded \$1 billion dollars – a first in the history of the Province. This included a special \$4 million dollar amount targeted for additional technology support, the maintenance of teacher staffing levels, increased operating dollars for School Boards including increased capital dollars and support for our various building maintenance programs. School Boards were particularly pleased with these announced provincial initiatives as they represented positive responses to many of the proposals which the NLSBA had been bringing forward to Government over recent years.
- As a result of our advocacy on resource allocations for Board staffing and teacher allocation, the Teacher Allocation Commission was implemented by Government with the NLSBA having a seat on the Advisory Committee. The recommendations of the Teacher Allocation Commission were released in March, 2008, reflecting a new allocation model based on needs. The class size maximums and the provision of additional specialists, library resources teachers and administrative support will improve conditions for teachers at the classroom level.
- NLSBA participated as a member of the Advisory Committee for the ISSP/Pathways Commission report which was released in December 2007. The report recommended changes to improve the delivery of special education programming to the Province's K-12 education system. The implementation of recommendations from this Commission will greatly reduce the volume of paperwork and workloads of teachers.
- A major focus of activity has been the completion of negotiations for the six provincial collective agreements that impact our schools.

The three CUPE and NAPE support staff agreements were concluded as was the Student Assistant's Agreement. The NLTA Agreement was also ratified, totaling 21% over four years. The Labrador West Agreement remains to be finished.

- Presently, the NLSBA is in the process of preparing submissions as part of the 2009 Pre-provincial budget consultation process.
- A planning process has begun to organize the CSBA Congress 2010 in St. John's, to be held July 7-9, 2010 at the Delta St. John's Hotel. Efforts to plan and host this conference have also been a focus of significant activity.

For the future, the dark economic clouds hanging over North America are troublesome. Our provincial revenues are heavily reliant on offshore oil revenue and returns from various commodity investments in hydro, nickel, iron ore, and so forth. While the immediate situation is troublesome, we harbor serious concerns for our future provincial economy if the national and international financial situation does not begin to rebound. For example, our per pupil loss this year over last year was 2200 pupils. Yet we have increased our teacher numbers by 117. Need I say more...

Respectfully submitted

THOMAS KENDELL
President

