



Provincial Budget 2021

Education Highlights

May 2021

On Monday, May 31, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador delivered Budget 2021.

Education funding is as follows:

- \$22 million to maintain additional teaching resources associated with the Education Action Plan.
- More than \$13 million to maintain COVID-19 staffing and supports in K-12 education for the current school year, and to maintain increased administrator and guidance counsellor positions for the upcoming school year.
- \$2 million in professional learning for teachers, school administrators, and guidance counsellors who will be implementing new programs and services arising from the Education Action Plan.
- \$357,000 to hire additional English-as-a-Second Language teachers to address the educational needs of newcomers.

Also announced in the budget:

- The independent review of the teacher allocation model committed to by the Premier during the recent provincial election campaign, however the NLTA continues to seek clarification on the funding for this review to ensure its objectivity
- No change to the current teacher allocation model/class size caps
- No change to the allocation formula for Instructional Resources Teachers (IRT)
- Steps to integrate the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District into the Department of Education

With respect to the resources introduced over the past 3 years as part of the implementation of the Education Action Plan, this would include:

- 5 Program Specialists for Reading
- 6 Program Specialists for Mathematics
- 102 teaching units for school-based Reading Specialists
- 39 teaching units for Teacher Librarians
- 200 Teaching and Learning Assistants

While the NLTA welcomes the public education investments contained in Budget 2021, we continue to advocate for:

- Retention of, and increase in, term contract substitute positions that were introduced for the 2020-21 school year;
- Reinstatement of 2008 class size caps;
- Other measures to address issues around class size and composition, including increased allocations for instructional resource teachers;
- Additional supports to enable students with special needs and mental health issues to access the same opportunities as their peers, including increases to allocations for school counsellors, school psychologists and speech language pathologists;
- Adjustments to the draft Responsive Teaching and Learning Policy to address teacher workload concerns and the sustainability of this initiative; and,
- An increase in the student assistant budget;
- Increased infrastructure funding to upgrade and enhance school building ventilation systems.