



MEMORANDUM

March 19, 2020

TO: Substitute Teachers

RE: COVID-19

The NLTA is concerned about the potential economic hardship for our substitute teachers resulting from the unprecedented decision to suspend classes for schools indefinitely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Association recognizes that not all teachers will have access to benefits through regular Employment Insurance (EI) programs, both as a result of not yet meeting the required number of insurable hours worked and uncertainty about access to future substitute or replacement contracts. The Association is actively advocating on behalf of its members.

At the provincial level, the President is in contact with Premier Ball and Minister Warr and has asked that existing budgets for substitute time be used to develop a relief program to support teachers who substitute. The Association has also sent letters to federal Members of Parliament to address issues for substitutes who may not meet usual EI eligibility requirements, including part-time teachers who also substitute and would not be eligible under current rules. See letter below.

NLTA staff are currently reviewing new benefits announced on March 18, 2020 by the federal government in response to concerns about COVID-19, which include the creation of an emergency support benefit program. As legislative measures are required to bring this new benefit into effect (and we understand that all parties are being fully cooperative, according to Prime Minister Trudeau), more information should be available soon.

Rest assured that your Association is making every effort to secure financial relief for substitute teachers, and will provide timely updates as soon as new information is available.

http://www.nlta.nl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/March-18_-2020-Hon_-Seamus-O_Regan.pdf