

**For Immediate Release**

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## **NLTA QUESTIONS THE RISING INTEREST IN HOME SCHOOLING**

St. John's, NL... The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association is noticing an increase in the level of interest in home schooling and is questioning whether this is a vote of non-confidence in the government's K-12 Education Re-entry Plan.

"We have seen an increase in discussions around home schooling in recent weeks," says Dean Ingram, President of the NLTA. "Home schooling has never been widespread in our province, so we are left to assume that a lack of confidence in government's K-12 Education Re-entry Plan is the source of this unusual spike in attention to the topic."

Are concerns about school safety and the lack of emphasis on tried and tested Public Health safety measures, such as physical distancing, in government's Plan pushing parents to consider other options? Home schooling refers to the provision of instruction in an educational program administered by a parent/guardian outside of school, using the provincially authorized curriculum or a recognized alternate curriculum, and requires approval from the school district. This should not be confused with circumstances such as those which occurred this past spring, where students had access to instruction and learning resources/supports from their teachers at home while in-school classes were suspended.

"Parents understand when they hear Public Health officials and the Minister of Health and Community Services clearly state that large groups should not meet in confined spaces with poor ventilation for long periods of time, that this describes the reality of many classrooms in our province," says Ingram. "But yet, these classroom environments will continue to exist and operate despite this Public Health advice, which includes the oft repeated mantra of "people, space, time and place" to remind us all, as Minister Haggie did during the public briefing yesterday, that "physical distancing is still the key to reducing the transmission of COVID-19". Parents are worried."

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