

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
 **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **NLTA REACTS TO BUDGET 2021**

St. John's... The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association is pleased to see some positive investments for public K-12 education in today's Provincial Budget, but is calling on government to provide details surrounding the commitments made by Premier Furey during the election campaign.

"Today we expected to see a clear commitment in the budget to conduct an independent review of the teacher allocation model, investments to address class sizes, and measures to ensure the much needed increases to allocations for school administration and guidance counsellors introduced this fall can be maintained, for 2021-22 and beyond," said Dean Ingram, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teacher's Association. "While we are pleased to see some of the Premier's commitments to education reflected in this budget, specifically maintaining the increased school administrator and guidance counsellor positions for the upcoming school year, this is a temporary measure. We welcome the commitment to the review of the teacher allocation model; however, we have concerns about just how objective this review can be without additional funding allocated through this budget. Over the course of the provincial election, assurances were given regarding K-12 education. Parents, students, teachers and other educational staff deserve to see these commitments honoured."

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced \$22 million to maintain additional teaching resources hired through the Education Action Plan; more than \$13 million to maintain COVID-19 staffing and supports in K-12 education for the current school year, including the increased administrator and guidance counsellor positions, for the upcoming school year; \$2 million to support professional learning for teachers, school administrators, and guidance counsellors who will be implementing new programs and services arising from the Education Action Plan; and, \$357,000 to hire additional English-as-a-Second Language teachers.

"During our pre-Budget meeting with Minister Coady, I made it clear that education must be treated as an investment and not an expense," said President Ingram. "We know that investments in quality, well resourced, publicly funded public education are, in effect, investments in our economy that can have a significant and sustained positive impact over time if Government is prepared to make a long-term commitment."

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