

For Immediate Release  
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## **NLTA CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO TREAT EDUCATION AS AN INVESTMENT, NOT AN EXPENSE**

St. John's...The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association has presented its position on key budgetary investments for the education system to Finance Minister Siobhan Coady in advance of Government finalizing its budget for 2021.

"Yesterday, I met with Minister Coady to discuss the investments that need to be made in our education system," said Dean Ingram, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. "I made it clear to Minister Coady that education must be treated as an investment and not an expense. 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."

Research shows that investments in improving public education generate positive economic results, including reductions in crime and poverty, gains in productivity, and decreased costs in health care, social assistance and the criminal justice system. Government's priorities for the 2021 Provincial Budget must include a robust investment in education and reflect Premier Furey's previously stated commitments, namely an independent review of the teacher allocation model, re-instating class sizes to at least 2008 levels, and maintaining administrative and school counsellor allocations to at least those currently in effect for the 2020-21 school year.

"It is certainly encouraging to see reference to a review of the teacher allocation model in the Minister of Education's mandate letter – now we need to see that reflected in the upcoming budget," said President Ingram. "If we did not see it before, the global pandemic has clearly demonstrated the direct social and economic impacts of public education and the critical roles played by the dedicated professionals who work in our schools. Investments in education are critically important, as are public health measures to protect teachers and other staff working on the front lines in our schools. This includes protocols that reflect community-wide public health measures, addressing class size and composition, improving school building ventilation, and ensuring all teachers are vaccinated as quickly as possible."