

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

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2022

NLTA REACTS TO BUDGET 2022

St. John's... The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association is cautiously encouraged by today's Provincial Budget.

"We are encouraged to see no obvious cuts to education in Budget 2022, and some recognition that investments must be made in our public K-12 system. We are still analyzing the budget details, but are hopeful that today's announcements will be just the beginning of a major focus on strategic investments to ensure a quality, responsive and resilient public education system," said Trent Langdon, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. "Maintaining funding for additional supports in guidance and school administration that was implemented during the pandemic is critical, as well as the teaching resources required to support government's Education Action Plan. However, continuity and recruitment/retention needs are not best served by a temporary, budget-to-budget approach to appropriate staffing levels. It is not business as usual in our schools and the experience of the last two-plus years has shone a harsh light on matters that are in desperate need of improvement."

The NLTA was hoping to see more detail in today's budget announcements about how the ongoing Newfoundland and Labrador English School District transition process is realizing savings for investments at the school/classroom level, as intended. Increased support for teacher recruitment/retention in our French first-language schools is welcome, but the impact of a national teacher shortage is being felt in all regions of the province. A comprehensive strategy to address teacher recruitment and retention, in light of ongoing immigration initiatives and the particular challenges of our rural areas, should be a focus moving forward.

"Last year's budget announced government's plan to integrate the NLESD with the Department of Education, and we hoped to see more specifics, a full year later, on exactly what this process is expected to contribute towards targeted reinvestment in schools/classrooms come September 2022, which is fast approaching," said President Langdon. "Budget 2022 would also have been an ideal place for government to indicate a commitment to addressing teacher recruitment/retention challenges within our entire K-12 education system. Teacher shortages, including lack of substitute teachers, is impacting NLTA members, students and the teaching and learning environment in our schools every day."

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Jennifer Tulk, NLTA Communications, 682-3751; jtulk@nlta.nl.ca