



MEMORANDUM

Office of the President

August 28, 2018

TO: All Teachers
FROM: Dean Ingram, President
RE: Cuts to Student Assistant Hours

The following memo is to provide information regarding NLTA reaction and actions in response to the cuts to student assistant hours provided to schools in June. The cuts amounted to approximately \$800,000.

The Newfoundland and Labrador English School District provided insufficient time for administrators to determine how schools could absorb the cuts, and schools were clearly told that only appeals resulting from newly identified students would be considered. The NLTA immediately sought and received information from school administrators regarding the impact these cuts would have on student programming and student safety. (Survey results are attached) The results clearly indicated that school administrators were convinced these cuts would negatively impact both student programming and their ability to provide safe and caring school environments for some students.

Your Association then engaged both the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District through written correspondence, followed by meetings with the Minister of Education, his senior staff, and the NLESD Director of Education and his staff. The NLTA provided copies of the administrators' survey with detailed commentary on the impact these cuts would have on the system. We sought to have the Department of Education reinstate the hours that were cut in June and for NLESD to provide guidance and allow discretion to school administrators when organizing staff and students at the school level to ensure minimal impact on the learning environment where student assistants are required.

As a result of the efforts of your Association the Department has rescinded the majority of the cuts and that schools should be getting revised allocations. We will continue to press for a full reinstatement of hours and greater school level autonomy when organizing students to optimize learning.

We will continue to monitor the degree to which necessary supports are being provided in both the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District and the Conseil scolaire francophone provincial de Terre-Neuve-et-Labrador.