

For Immediate Release

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NLTA RAISES CONCERN REGARDING NLESD ANNOUNCEMENT ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

St. John's, NL... The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association is troubled by a recent decision of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) to further expand access to the province's schools for non-essential activities.

"Our members are already under increased stress this year due to added duties and responsibilities arising from COVID-19 and the public health emergency," says Dean Ingram, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. "It seems contradictory and counter-productive to increase non-essential access to school buildings and cohort mixing at the same time that Public Health officials have implemented more stringent precautions for screening."

Recently, Public Health officials lowered the threshold for COVID-19 screening from two symptoms to advising anyone experiencing even one possible COVID-19 related symptom to take precautions and stay home.

This decision of the NLESD raises many concerns for the NLTA, especially in light of experiences in other provinces that have seen increased spread of the virus, which some experts attribute to lower public health precautions in schools.

"We know that safer schools equal safer communities. Our members are facing enough stress ensuring the children of this province receive the best instruction possible in challenging times. We strongly oppose any direction that further relaxes public health precautions in schools and increases risk for our students and the adults who are responsible for their well-being."

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