

## NEWS RELEASE

*September 5, 2017*

### **Board Chair Welcomes Students and Staff Back to School**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District and marking the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, Chair Goronwy Price welcomed back to school all students, staff, and families for an exciting and promising time.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, I would like to welcome back to school all students, families, and staff and wish them much success in the upcoming academic year,” said Chair Price. “I would encourage everyone to enjoy the welcoming atmosphere that is created in our schools and to carry that spirit with them throughout the year. It is important to ensure a positive start as it will help ensure academic success at the end of the year. The 2016-2017 school year resulted in our highest graduation rate in recent memory and ensuring a positive start now in September will no doubt improve that result for June 2018.”

The beginning of a new school year is always welcome for those who work in public education and this year also marks the addition of five new schools for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District:

- East Point Elementary (St. John’s);
- Eastside Elementary (Corner Brook);
- Gander Elementary (Gander);
- A new K-7 school in Conception Bay South; and,
- A new grades 5-9 school in Portugal Cove-St. Philip’s.

“These five new educational facilities are certainly welcome additions to our school system that will foster positive environments for both students and staff and I look forward to the influence these schools will have upon their communities,” continued Chair Price. “I would like to thank the numerous District employees who have worked so hard to ensure the opening of these schools for September, along with Minister Dale Kirby and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for the commitment demonstrated in ensuring these facilities came to fruition.”

In the coming weeks the Board of Trustees will release a new strategic plan, setting the course for education in the District until 2020. The plan was developed after extensive consultation with school communities, staff, and students. Further, the Board and District staff will work with their partners in education, such as the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, to analyze and implement the recommendations of the Premier’s Task Force on Improving Educational Outcomes.

The Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District is composed of 17 elected trustees, responsible for the governance of 66,300 students and 10,000 employees.



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