

# Press Release

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## **BUSSING ISSUES IN MOUNT PEARL UNDER NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR ENGLISH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Due to recent developments in the Southlands Area parents are finding difficulties getting their students to school. French Immersion Students who attended St. Peter's Elementary for K-6 are being sent to Mount Pearl Intermediate and High School for their remaining years. According to the 2001 Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Education Bussing Policy these students are not entitled to bussing because they are in French Immersion. As a result these students are required to walk great distances through high traffic areas or have transportation provided by their parents in order to attend school. Both of these options creates barriers relating to access for students and is causing some to rethink their decision to complete their studies in Canada's Second Language – French. To deny students this opportunity in 2014 is not viewed as wise or acceptable. CPF- NL calls on the authorities to take corrective measures so that all students in NL will have equal access to French Immersion Programming.

Canadian Parents for French-Newfoundland and Labrador is voicing their support of the parents and students in this situation. CPF-NL believes that firstly, bussing should be provided to these students regardless of which program they choose or where they live and secondly, that the existing policy needs to be revised to include all students within the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District.