

PRESS RELEASE

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Canadian Parents for French - Newfoundland and Labrador disheartened by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Budget 2016

The Newfoundland and Labrador Branch of Canadian Parents for French is disheartened by initiatives announced by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in its 2016 budget, affecting French language learning in the province.

The budget calls for a limited access to the intensive core French by reducing the teaching services funding. Intensive Core French aims to increase accuracy and fluency in French through the creation of period of intensive exposure to French, three (3) times the number of hours of instruction normally devoted to French in the school year. Fewer teachers mean that fewer students will have the opportunity to experience this program.

The document presented by the Government is also allowing larger class sizes in schools, combining grade levels meaning students from more than one grade level will be taught in a single classroom. Increasing the number of students in French Immersion classes, from Grades 4 to 9, will affect the quality of education by diminishing the capacity to offer individual time to correct grammar and pronunciation of French Second Language as well as the ability of teachers to effectively support students and address the diverse needs of students.

Moreover, the 2016 Budget also cut into the professional development funding for teachers, an important resource for all teachers, particularly French Second Language teachers, who have to

travel outside the province to access French courses, seminars, workshops along with cultural and linguistic immersion opportunities.

Canadian Parents for French - Newfoundland and Labrador is concerned by measures weakening French education, French Second Language or Francophone, throughout the province.

Canadian Parents for French furthers bilingualism by promoting and creating opportunities for youth to learn and use French. In Newfoundland and Labrador, Canadian Parents for French is a network of volunteers working towards universal access to high quality French official language programs that meets youth's needs and aspirations. The organization is looking forward to continue working with the Department of Education to implement innovative and proactive activities to support students, parents, teachers and other stakeholders in the education sector to change the face of bilingualism, one child at a time.

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