

NEWS RELEASE

January 13, 2020

Board Chair Congratulates National Award Recipient

Goronwy Price, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District, today congratulated Gerard Lowe for being named School Counsellor of the Year by the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA). Mr. Lowe was nominated for the prestigious award by his colleagues at Corner Brook Regional High.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Lowe for this national recognition,” said Chair Price. “Our school counsellors help students and their families navigate challenging situations each day, in addition to offering professional information and advice on a wide array of post-secondary options and opportunities. They are certainly to be commended for the work they do, day-in and day-out, in service to our school communities.”



Guidance counsellors are involved in a number of mental health, inclusion, and social emotional learning initiatives, along with providing post-secondary and career advice to students. Recent initiatives include, but are not limited to, a focus on trauma-informed practice, Mental Health First Aid, Go-To Teacher training, Internet and Social Media Safety (Digital Citizenship), LGBTQ initiatives and implementation of the provincial Safe and Caring Schools Policy. Information and resources on these and other District programs can be found at: <https://www.nlesd.ca/>.

CCPA criteria for receipt of the award includes:

- A commitment to life-long learning and evolution of professional practice;
- Exceptional leadership service within the school, community, province and/or on the national level;
- Strengths in counselling/psychotherapy competency, ethical decision-making, and intervention skills, and
- Advocacy for school counselling within the school and community.

Mr. Lowe has been a K-12 educator for about 20 years, and has served as a guidance counsellor at Corner Brook Regional High for almost 10 years. He is known for his dedication to connecting with students in innovative and meaningful ways, and for his mentorship of numerous teacher interns over the years. He also has a long history of community involvement in both sports and the arts.

Mr. Lowe will officially receive the award during the CCPA conference in Edmonton, AB in May, 2020.

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