

NEWS RELEASE

March 16, 2020

In-School Class Instruction Suspended at District Schools

In-school class instruction will be suspended at all schools under the jurisdiction of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board, effective Tuesday, March 17 and continuing for an indefinite period. The Provincial Government made the announcement today, in consultation with the Board and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, as part of province-wide efforts to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 coronavirus.

School buildings will be open for teachers tomorrow (Tuesday) for instructional planning purposes. Students will have access both Wednesday and Thursday to gather books and other instructional materials they will need to continue their learning at home. But all students will not access the schools at once. The District will be advising schools and families when individual students can access their schools as soon as possible.

“All in-school instruction is suspended, but that doesn’t mean all learning will stop” said Goronwy Price, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School Board. “We have been planning over the last few weeks in preparation for this possibility, and will be advising our school communities in the coming days of plans to continue curriculum delivery to the best of our ability.

“There are still issues to work out, and there will be some gaps in service, but we hope to use technology where possible, and various means of communication between teachers, students and families to continue education delivery as best we can.”

Tony Stack, CEO/Director of Education, said the first priority is to ensure students eligible to graduate this year will receive a valid mark; graduate on time, and not be disadvantaged in terms of their post-secondary plans. This is particularly important for schools which operate on a semesterized system.

“This is an unprecedented event, but it is a global event,” Mr. Stack said. “There are many jurisdictions facing similar challenges. I want to assure families that we are determined to continue to support administrators, teachers and student learning during this difficult time.”

More information will be provided to students, families and employees in the days ahead.

-30-

Media contact:

Heather May | Director of Strategic Planning, Policy and Communications | www.nlesd.ca |
O: 709-758-2371 | M: 690-0056 | heathermay@nlesd.ca | @NLESDCA