



# NEWS RELEASE

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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## **INCREASES IN CLASS SIZE A STEP BACKWARD**

St. John's, NL....The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has announced that the provincial budget will contain changes to the teacher allocation formula, increasing class sizes in grades 4 to 9. This will result in a loss of 77.5 teaching units to the education system.

“We understand the current fiscal challenges that Government is facing. However, in the context of today's classroom and students with diverse and complex needs, we view the change to class size caps and the reduction to the number of teaching units as a step backward,” states James Dinn, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. “An increase in class size will have a negative impact on the teaching and learning conditions in classrooms; however, we are encouraged that class size caps in K-3 and the allocation of special services will be maintained. Regarding the increase in class size caps, we fully expect Government to reverse the changes when the economy improves.”

The NLTA is encouraged by Government's continued commitment to the scheduled implementation of full-day Kindergarten. “This is welcome news for children, parents, and the education system in general,” states Dinn.

The NLTA believes increased resources are required to properly meet the special needs of students in today's inclusive classroom and is working with Government and the school districts to bring recommendations on resourcing of the inclusionary model by February of next year.

“Governments must understand that education should be treated as an investment, not an expense to be cut.”

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