



NEWS RELEASE

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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THE PATRICIA COWAN AWARD FOR SUPPORT AND PROMOTION OF EDUCATION PRESENTED TO KATHY LEGROW AT NLTA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

St. John's, NL ... The Patricia Cowan Award, named in honour of the first female President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, was presented to Kathy LeGrow at the NLTA Biennial Convention on Thursday, April 9, by NLTA President James Dinn. The Patricia Cowan Award for Support and Promotion of Education was established in 2007 to recognize outstanding contributions and/or support for education by groups or individuals outside the K-12 school system.

Kathy LeGrow has been involved in public education as a volunteer for over 30 years. She began her volunteer work as a member of a Parent Teacher Association and from there she became involved in various positions as School Board Trustee, Chair of the Conception Bay South School Board, President of the Integrated Education Council, member of the Avalon East School Board, and Chair of the Board from 1998-2000. It was during her term as Board Chair that saw the consolidation of the denominational-based school districts. Kathy ably demonstrated her willingness to consult with all stakeholders while leading the Board through difficult decisions, fierce opposition and court challenges. She led the fight to reform the denominational education system.

Kathy served in various capacities on the Board of Directors of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, including as President. She served as a member of the Government Advisory Commission on the Implementation of the Williams' Commission Report on Education. She was a member of the Liaison Committee with the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors of Education and the Department of Education, and served as Chair of the Educational Alliance on Child Poverty. She was also a Director and President of the Canadian School Boards Association.

Kathy's volunteer work has not been limited to education. She has served the board of the Health Care Corporation of St. John's, the Literacy Endowment Fund, Junior Achievement, St. John's International Airport Authority, Salvation Army Youth Assessment Centre, and has been chair of the Primary Care Advisory Committee for the Department of Health and Community Services, a member of the Premier's Council on Social Development, member of the Advisory Board on Family and Schools Together Project with Family Services Canada, and founding member of the Eastern Region Strategic Social Plan Development Group, to name a few.

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A long-time leader in the community and philanthropic organizations, Kathy is also the creator, chair and financier of the Jimmy Pratt Foundation, which supports research and program development and implementation to ensure that children at risk have the opportunity to live resilient lives. Through the Jimmy Pratt Foundation, created in memory of her brother, Kathy supports research and projects that provide children with universal access to caring environments and a strong network of family support.

Kathy is a social worker by training and has a long and impressive history in business as the director of INTRA LeGrow's Travel for a decade and head of the K.A. Pratt Group. In 2000 Kathy received the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association Leadership Award of Excellence. In 2003 she received the Canadian Teachers' Federation Public Education Advocacy Award, and in 2005 was named a member of the Order of Canada. In 2014 she was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from Memorial University.

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