

P.E.I. HOME AND SCHOOL FEDERATION INC.  
FÉDÉRATION FOYER-ÉCOLE DE L'ÎLE DU PRINCE-ÉDOUARD INC.

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April 25, 2008

Department of Education  
Instructional Staffing Model Submission  
Att. Gar Andrew  
PO Box 2000 Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Mr Andrew:

**RE: Instructional Staffing Model Review, April 2008**

I write in response to your invitation to provide a written submission on the April 2008 Instructional Staffing Model Review. The PEI Home and School Federation is pleased to provide this input. Your document was circulated to all Local Home and School Association presidents and our provincial board members for review and comment. The responses received were thoughtful and were focused on the need to reduce class size, expand EAL programming and provide adequate guidance counseling.

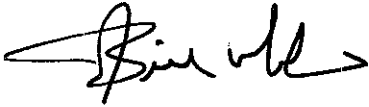
Parents are concerned that the current student to teacher ratio of 22:1 in grades 1-3 is not realistic. The early primary grades are foundational for social, academic and emotional development for our children, and with the recent change of entry age for school, the maturity level of students entering grade one in the 2008/2009 school year will expand. Class size must be addressed in order to insure that the teacher is able to balance the diverse needs and skills in the classroom while providing each student with the attention and help that they deserve. Hence the ratio should be reduced.

Parents feel that the Instructional Staffing Model does not adequately address the current reality of increased immigration on PEI. Additional teacher resources for EAL students need to be allocated to meet the current demand and a plan for future needs must be addressed. We hear that EAL students can represent 15-20 % of a classroom. It is recognized that adequate EAL support not only benefits the EAL students, but also all other students in the class.

Parents have expressed concern about the availability of guidance counselors. Some schools with less than 400 students that operate under shared counseling services are unable to provide adequate coverage. Students today are dealing with a multitude of complex issues both academic and non-academic, including family separation, anxiety and bullying. We have to ensure that all students are getting the support they need.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the staffing model review and look forward to hearing from you as the process continues. If you have further questions, I can be reached at 902.566.0419 or [wwhelan@upei.ca](mailto:wwhelan@upei.ca)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Whelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bill Whelan  
President