



Education and
Early Childhood
Development

Éducation et
Développement de la
petite enfance



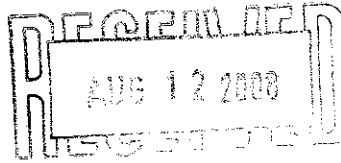
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August 4, 2008



Mr. Bill Whelan
President
PEI Home and School Federation
P.O. Box 1012
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7M4

Dear President Whelan: *Bill,*

Thank you for your letter regarding the resolutions approved at your annual meeting. Our department is pleased to respond to each of these resolutions and we look forward to meeting with you to discuss them further.

Regarding Resolution 1/08 - PUBLIC SCHOOL-BASED KINDERGARTEN

As announced in the Speech from the Throne, the province will be moving to a public, school-based kindergarten program within the current mandate. Ms. Pat Mella, Kindergarten Commissioner, will facilitate the process for dialogue and consultation on the many issues associated with this decision. One of the considerations will be the length of day for the kindergarten program.

As we move through this process I encourage the Federation to take part in the consultation process. A final report, with recommendations, will be completed in June 2009. The target date for implementation is September 2010.

Regarding Resolution 2/08 - POLICY FOR EXTENDED INTERRUPTION OF CLASSES DURING MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAMS DUE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will work with the school board superintendents to address this question over the next couple of months.

Regarding Resolution 3/08 - POLICY FOR MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR COACH TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The department supports the intention of this resolution. The PEISAA, our provincial association for the coordination of school sport, has been proactive in this regard, having a proposal that will require all volunteer coaches and teachers to take an introductory module from the National Coaching Certification Program

I would be pleased to arrange a meeting for you with Department staff and School Board representatives to discuss all of the considerations involved in this initiative.

Regarding Resolution 4/08 - SCHOOL LOCKDOWN POLICY

The three Island school boards have been working jointly with police organizations and the department during the 2007-2008 school year to develop policies in this area. Their policies are being designed to be comprehensive, and also in a manner to educate and inform students and staff.

Each school board would be willing to meet with your organization to discuss any concerns you may have. You may contact Phillip Connolly at the Eastern School District, Brad Samson at the French Language School Board, and Brenda Millar at the Western School Board.

Regarding Resolution 5/08 - DECLINING ENROLMENT

In response to resolution number 5/08, dealing with the re-investment of any savings realized from system change into education rather than other areas of public expenditure, I am hopeful that government will be able to achieve the goal of this resolution. Government's budget decisions go beyond the scope of authority of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The budget is a matter for consideration of the Legislative Assembly. As a member of government, I will be promoting the re-investment of any savings realized from system change into education.

Regarding Resolution 6/08 - RESOURCES TO MEET NEEDS ARISING FROM CHANGE TO AGE OF SCHOOL ENTRY

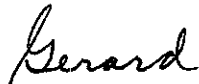
In response to resolution number 6/08, dealing with resources to meet the needs arising from change to age of entry, I wish to advise that our instructional staffing formulae are enrolment driven and will therefore incorporate allowances for added students. Other resources and materials will be provided as appropriate.

**Regarding Resolution 7/08 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FUNDING
ALLOCATION**

My officials have discussed the situation with the principal of the school concerned and she has acknowledged that the Home and School should not have been requested to provide funding for the purchase of class book sets. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development strongly strives to provide text books and other classroom learning materials on a school population and classroom size as much as possible and fund-raising done by the PEI Home and School Associations in various schools should not be used for that particular purpose. We will endeavor to make sure that this situation does not happen again.

I sincerely hope that we can discuss these issues further and look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



Gerard Greenan
Minister