



The strength of our province
is built on the quality of its education.

Make the Difference. You Can.

September 23, 2009

News Release

Candidates urged to seek nomination for School Board Elections

The Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association (NLSBA) is encouraging potential candidates to seek nomination for the 2009 School Board Elections scheduled for November 3, 2009. The nomination period for the School Board Elections is October 2-8, 2009, for the four districts involved in the election. These districts include Eastern, Nova Central, Western and Labrador.

“Now is time for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to give serious consideration to seeking a position as a school board trustee in their respective district,” said Brian Shortall, NLSBA Executive Director. “Trustees play an important part of our school communities and the overall education system in our province. Within our communities there are leaders who are encouraged to come forward to be part of the education system and build on the improvements that have been made in recent years.”

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 18 years of age and have the nomination form signed by two individuals. Interested individuals can contact the district school board office in their area for further information on eligibility. In addition, information can be obtained by visiting the elections website www.schoolboardselections09.com which features a candidate information package that contains general information for all candidates, district-specific information and frequently asked questions.

Mr. Shortall said that as a school board trustee, an individual can contribute to the education of children and youth and make a contribution to the community.

“The governance of our education system is structured to support decision-making at the local district level,” said Mr. Shortall. “It is through our school board trustees that we ensure that the voice of the community is heard when decisions are being made which directly affect students and individual schools. While these are volunteer positions, as a school board trustee, a person can have a very rewarding experience.”

In effort to realize a greater number of candidates who seek election and to increase voter turnout, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced in April 2009 that the School Board Elections will not be held on the same date as municipal elections and would occur later in the fall allowing for more time following the start of the school year to promote the elections. Furthermore, increased funding to \$400,000 has been provided to the NLSBA to engage in a campaign to increase awareness of the School Board Elections. Part of the effort is to also encourage more women to seek election. The theme for the election is *Make the Difference. You Can.* The campaign also features the slogan, *The strength of our province is built on the quality of its education.*

“I became involved as a school trustee to be an advocate and to ensure our children receive a quality education,” said Katie Healey, a school board trustee for the Western District. “I believe the children of Newfoundland and Labrador deserve the best programs in the safest environments. There are people in communities right across the province who can make a difference in our education system. I personally encourage them to get involved as I did. It has been a great experience for me. There is no better way to contribute to your community than by being involved as a school board trustee.”

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Media Contact:

Carmel Turpin

Vice-President of Communications and Client Services

Pilot Communications

(709) 753-0794, (709) 682-2292

cturpin@pilotcom.ca

