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October 30, 2009

News Release

NLSBA and Education Minister Encourage Voting in Board Elections on November 3

The Newfoundland and Labrador School Board Elections (NLSBA) and the Honourable Darin King, Minister of Education, are encouraging eligible voters to get out and vote during the 2009 School Board Elections on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

“The education of the children of Newfoundland and Labrador is a concern for everyone,” said Brian Shortall, NLSBA Executive Director. “It is through the district school boards and the trustees that the local community is represented when decisions are made that impact education programming and individual schools. That’s why it is important that people recognize the importance of the board elections.”

“We look to the boards to ensure effective operations at all levels of the school system,” said Minister King. “The individuals elected will help guide the direction of education over the next four years, so I encourage everyone to get out and vote. I would also like to thank all those people who want our education system to be the best it can and who put their names forward for nomination.”

Additional support was provided by the Provincial Government to the NLSBA this year to promote and raise awareness of the 2009 School Board Elections.

The 2009 School Board Elections are being held in four school districts – Eastern, Nova Central, Western and Labrador – with each board having 15 trustee positions. Following the nomination period October 2-8, 2009, a total of 99 nominations were filed for the 60 positions available. As a result of the nominations elections are required as follows:

- Zones 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 in the Eastern District

- Zone 2 in the Nova Central District
- Zones 1, 2, 4, and 5 in the Western District
- Zones 2 and 7 in the Labrador District

Information on the candidates in the respective zones and the location of the polling stations are available on the elections website www.makethedifference.ca or by contacting the local school board. To be eligible to vote, residents must be 18 years of age or older. Polling stations will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 3, 2009.

“Election day is an opportunity for voters to show that they want to ensure our students receive the best education possible,” said Mr. Shortall. “I encourage voters to find out where elections are being held, who the candidates are and exercise their right to vote on November 3.”

For further information on the School Board Elections visit www.makethedifference.ca , text SBVOTE 212121, or contact the local school district. The School Board Elections also has its own facebook site at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Johns-NL/Newfoundland-and-Labrador-School-Board-Elections-2009/144370701563>. A video encouraging people to vote has been posted on YouTube and can be viewed at www.makethedifference.ca.

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