



July 15, 2020

Dr. Janice Fitzgerald
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Dr. Fitzgerald:

I am writing in follow-up to my June 15 and July 6 correspondence in which I requested a meeting to discuss anticipated public health directives and guidelines and how they may impact the public education system.

In both letters I highlighted the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association's concerns regarding how physical distancing and other public health directives on access to and provision of services in controlled spaces frequented by adults will be applied and adapted to our schools in order to provide the safest possible environment for students and the adults who provide services to them.

It is now one month since my initial request for a meeting without having received a response. I appreciate that you are very busy; however, schools are by nature very complex and dynamic workplaces in which services are provided to children with varying degrees of adaptability and self-regulation skills. If there will need to be changes to school configurations and operations, teachers and school administrators need to know this soon.

The recently released K-12 Education Re-entry Plan appears to be in contradiction with the advice your office has provided to other agencies, organizations, and employment settings. While the rest of our society has been required to comply with physical distancing expectations for both workers and clients – for example, I observed RNC officers measuring outdoor patio seating areas in the Water Street pedestrian mall on Friday – this does not seem to be the case for children and those who work with them.

I am providing you with some initial questions that concerned teachers and parents have presented to the Association. I look forward to hearing from you regarding possible meeting dates. The Association has committed to providing all new information to our members in a timely fashion.

Regards,

Dean Ingram
President

- c. Honorable Dr. John Haggie – Minister of Health and Community Services
- Honorable Brian Warr – Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Anthony Stack – Director of Education – NLESD
- Kim Christianson- Director of Education -CSFP
- Steve Brooks – NLTA Executive Director

Attachment