

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*A Monthly Report to the Eastern School Board*

*September 2007*

## **Senior Management Team**

I am pleased to perform the duties of CEO/Director of Education (acting) while Dr. Darin King pursues his personal goal of securing a seat in the provincial legislature in the upcoming election.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Dr. Albert Trask following a two year secondment to the Department of Education. Dr. Trask has taken up his former position of Assistant Director of Education, Rural Education and Corporate Services. Mr. Edward Walsh is temporarily filling the position of Assistant Director of Education, Programs.

## **Staffing Update**

This past summer has seen us fill a record number of job competitions. Since March 2007, we posted over 1,100 job competitions. Of these, 90 have been for administrative positions and the remaining for teaching positions within our district.

New additions to the *Personnel-Package* software helped speed up the flow of information related to job competitions and subsequently aided in more efficient filling of job competitions. Again this year we were able to carry out these competitions online resulting in major savings in paper consumption and efficiencies related to handling applications.

## **Facility Repairs Cause Delayed Openings**

Three schools in the district have students and teachers temporarily deployed to other facilities while work is carried out to remove mould and wet building materials discovered during recent school renovations.

Students and staff at Cabot Academy, Western Bay; St. Peter's Elementary, Upper Island Cove; and Swift Current Academy will be temporarily relocated to other schools and community facilities while interior renovations are carried out. We anticipate that students at Cabot Academy and Swift

Current Academy will be back at their respective schools in three to five weeks. We anticipate that St. Peter's Elementary will reopen for all students by the end of October. These dates are tentative and are subject to a number of factors that may impact the final date of re-opening.

We wish to thank students and staff at receiving schools for their cooperation and assistance during this time.

## **Paradise Elementary Update**

Minister of Education, Joan Burke, announced on Friday, August 31, 2007, that \$10 million has been approved by government to replace Paradise Elementary. The new school, which will have a gymnasium and a cafeteria, is expected to be completed by 2010. The location of the new school has yet to be determined.

## **Capital Update**

Major capital projects are ongoing in schools throughout the district. These projects range from extensions and new school construction to roof/window replacements and parking lot improvements. The District is also carrying extensive maintenance work to renovate schools to create additional classroom space and enhance program delivery.

## **Programs Staffing**

We are pleased to report that in the area of Student Support Services we have acquired two new managers to support teachers throughout the district. In addition, we have hired nine Numeracy Support Teachers to assist our classroom teachers in Mathematics instruction

### **New Human Resources Team**

The Human Resources Division has hired a new team of human resource professionals. Under the direction of Senior Administrative Officer for Support Staff, Mary Barron, three new human resources managers will provide support to the district in the areas of recruitment and benefits. The Division will also be recruiting for an occupational health and safety manager.

These new positions will combine to create strong cohesive support for all of our employees. The Division will start immediately to develop new policies and procedures to address issues relevant to work safety, recruitment of staff at all levels, and provision of support as it relates to benefits and job security. This expansion of the Human Resources Division will better prepare us to meet the needs of an ever changing workforce and job market.

### **NISEP Update**

Ms. Cheryl Fisher was recently appointed to the position of Director (NISEP). Ms. Fisher's extensive experience with International Education will certainly enhance the growth of NISEP as an integral part of our school district. Opportunities to secure additional funding for the organization are being explored and meetings with agents have been ongoing as part of the recruitment process.

### **Student Assistants Staffing Update**

In preparation for September school opening, we have filled 357 student assistant positions. These positions are located throughout the district with 27 in Vista; 24 in Burin; 77 in Avalon West and 231 in Avalon East region.

We have compiled the substitute lists for Vista, Burin and Western regions and are currently updating the list for Avalon East region. A new on-line substitute list for student assistants was piloted in eight St. John's schools in June and we are hoping to offer this service to all schools in September 2007.

### **SEO Retires**

Our Senior Education Officer for Vista Region, Allan Fudge, retired in August following a 30 year career in education. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Allan for his valuable contributions to Eastern School District and wish him well in his retirement.

### **Teacher Induction Program**

A two-day in-service for our new teachers took place at the District Conference Centre on August 26 and 27.



The session included many topics that will help our new teachers as they make the transition into full-time teaching. This session was the first of many sessions scheduled to be held for new teachers throughout the school year.

### **Applause**

- Congratulations to Holy Heart of Mary Chamber Choir on winning first place at the 2007 National Music Festival held recently in Moncton, New Brunswick.
- Congratulations to St. Matthew's Elementary and Leary's Brook Junior High on being named among the top 25 schools in Canada by *Today's Parent Magazine*.