

# Introduction

## Purpose of the Document

This document is a framework for home economics and family studies education programs in Newfoundland and Labrador. It states the vision for home economics/family studies education in the K-12 system.

The document provides the rationale for program development in this field of study and the framework for the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of programs and courses.

It establishes connections to the Essential Graduation Learnings; states the outcomes at the end of grades 9 and 12; and identifies and references the natural linkages to other disciplines.

Program developers, teachers, administrators, facility designers, and others in the learning community will use this document as the basis for decisions and actions related to the education of young people in home economics/family studies programs and courses.

The framework, which reflects current research and practice in this area, has the following purposes:

- to provide the vision, philosophy and outcomes for home economics/family studies
- to provide the scope and sequence of learning in the area
- to serve as a guide for program development, revision, refinement, implementation, and evaluation of home economics/family studies and related courses
- to serve as the basis for the design and construction of required facilities

## Rationale

*The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that the family is the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children..., and that "the child should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding"*

(United Nation's Convention of the Rights of the Child, Hull, Quebec, Minister of Supply and Services, Canada, 1991.)

The rapid social, economic, and technological changes occurring in society impact on work, personal and social relationships, and challenge individuals and families. The changing face of the family and increasing social diversity are altering patterns of needs and wants. Increased numbers of both single-parent and dual-income families, as well as higher labour force participation rates for women have necessitated economic and social adjustments. At the same time, our complex marketplace, offering an enormous variety of goods and services from all over the world, often compels individuals to make difficult choices about basic personal and family needs with respect to care, services, housing, textiles, and food.

Home economics education contributes to the development of individuals and the family as functioning units of society. It attempts to provide 1) experiences which develop attitudes, skills, and understandings essential for the maintenance and improvement of family living, and 2) skills that create an awareness that the decisions a person makes affect the quality of his or her life.

In addition, home economics/family studies prepares students to use entrepreneurial skills, accept challenges, adjust and adapt in a climate of change, experiment and use creativity, make informed judgements, and apply reasoned action to practical life situations.

Home economics/family studies education contributes to individual learning and development related to the Essential Graduation Learnings: aesthetic expression citizenship, communication, personal development, problem solving, technological competence, and spiritual and moral development.

The curriculum focus is on practical perennial challenges related to family and daily living and ways of generating responses to these challenges. As a field of study, home economics draws knowledge from many disciplines, including psychology, sociology and the sciences, in the formation of its conceptual framework. It brings a multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary approach to issues which impact families. Through the five dimensions (Human Development, Foods and Nutrition, Financial Management, Clothing and Textiles and Shelter and Housing), students are provided with opportunities to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities to enhance quality of life for individuals and families in Canada and throughout the world.

Through home economics/family studies education, students come to identify, clarify, examine, and deal with significant concerns of daily life. Learning in this area contributes to reasoned judgments by students as they consider their decisions in terms of consequences to self, family, and society.