

A Message from the Minister



I am pleased to present ***Beyond High School: The Report of the Follow-up Survey of June 2001 High School Graduates***. As the Minister of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education and as a parent, I know the value and importance of a good post-secondary education. Our goal as a government, and my personal goal as a Minister, is to ensure that post-secondary participation in Newfoundland and Labrador is the highest in the country and that all learners in this province make sound choices and achieve credentials that will ensure a bright future for themselves and for our province. In reaching this goal, it is important that we understand how our youth make decisions on post-secondary study, who influences those decisions, and what ultimately happens to students beyond high school.

Beyond High School highlights the results of a study conducted by the Department of Youth Services and Post-Secondary Education to determine the post-graduation activities of high school graduates of June 2001. Graduates were asked whether or not they were attending a post-secondary institution and what influenced their decision. Those graduates not attending post-secondary were asked to indicate if they had future plans to attend. Most importantly, the document studies the factors that affect students in making their decision to attend post-secondary.

Key findings of the report indicate the majority of the June 2001 high school graduates in this province were engaged in post-secondary studies in less than a year following graduation. Of those attending post-secondary, there has been an increase in the percentage of students attending Memorial University and College of the North Atlantic from 1996 to 2001. ***Beyond High School*** also includes the reasons graduates chose not to pursue post-secondary studies.

I encourage educators and administrators, and most importantly, parents, to use the findings of ***Beyond High School*** in the counseling of our youth with respect to career planning. We must all work together to provide career planning information so that students make informed decisions about their post-secondary education. Parents and students should begin this planning as early as possible and well in advance of attending post-secondary institutions. I am confident that you will find the information in ***Beyond High School*** will assist you in this process.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Thistle'.

ANNA THISTLE, MHA
Grand Falls - Buchans District
Minister