

Foreword

Public interest in school-level data, particularly student achievement data, is very high and increasing all the time. People want to know how their children, and their schools, are performing - and where there is room for improvement.

In an effort to assist this school improvement process, and to make our education system open and accountable to the public it serves, the Department of Education has partnered with school districts to produce **Indicators 2004 - A Report on Schools**. While this report does not contain every indicator which influences a school's success, it does provide a broad range of statistical information designed to show administrators, educators, students and a school community where their schools are succeeding at this moment in time, and where they can work together to improve.

The report groups schools by type - for example, small schools, K-12, junior high only and senior high only. It shows, for example, how students at schools of a similar structure performed on provincial criterion-referenced tests (CRTs) and public exams in 2002-2003. We recognize, however, that there are many factors which contribute to the success of a school and its students. That is why the report also provides information on attendance rates, the percentage of students involved in sports and the arts, pupil-teacher ratios, class sizes, the average years experience of the teaching staff, and much more.

It is important to note that **Indicators 2004** does not rank schools. That is not the purpose of this report. Rather, this wide range of information, assembled in one streamlined document, is a tool which can be used by an education community to help make their school the very best it can be.

This is the first of what will be regular **Indicators** reports which will, in the years to come, serve to highlight individual school performance and record changes over time. Meanwhile, the school-level information contained in this document, as well as historical data, is available through the Department of Education's K-12 School Profile System, accessible online at:

www.education.gov.nl.ca/sch_rep/pro_year.htm

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