



# CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Public interest in school-level data, particularly student achievement, is very high and increasing all the time. People want to know how their children and their schools are performing. In an effort to make our education system open and accountable to the public it serves, the Department of Education is releasing the fifth installment of Indicators: *Indicators 2010/11 - A Report on Schools*. Part I explores student performance on two provincial assessments: public examinations and criterion-referenced tests (or CRTs). Part II focuses on the international and national assessments students took part in – the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2009 and the Pan-Canadian Assessment Program (PCAP) in 2010. Finally, part III will examine two specific aspects of the educational system – graduation rates and student attitudes towards school.

Information on other educational indicators, such as, student enrolment, pupil-teacher ratios, etc., can be found in either the annual Education Statistics – Elementary-Secondary report (available at <http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/publications/k12/stats>) or through the Department of Education's K-12 School Profile System, accessible online at [www.education.gov.nl.ca/sch\\_rep/pro\\_year.htm](http://www.education.gov.nl.ca/sch_rep/pro_year.htm).

It is important to note that *Indicators 2010/11* does not rank schools. Rather, its purpose is to present selected indicators showing trends over time. These indicators are presented without any discussion of possible underlying reasons behind these trends and there are no implications or recommendations made based on the information provided. Instead, it is the purpose of this document to provide a wide range of information about the province's educational system to inform 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.

