

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 is releasing the third installment of Indicators: *Indicators 2008 - 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 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.

The report groups schools by type (e.g., K-12, primary, senior high). It shows, for example, how students at schools of a similar structure performed on public exams and other provincial assessments in 2007/08. Many factors contribute to the success of a school and its students. The report provides information on a variety of these factors, including pupil-teacher ratios, class sizes, and the average years' experience of the teaching staff.

It is important to note that *Indicators 2008* does not rank schools. Rather, this report presents 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.

While *Indicators 2008* provides information on a provincial and district level, school-level information and 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