

## Chapter 2: Organization and Structure of the Educational System

The Department of Education is the foundation of the province's school system. It is ultimately responsible for the education of all citizens from pre-school to post-secondary and beyond. To meet the needs of such a diverse population, the department provides its programs and services through one of the following three branches.

- The Primary, Elementary & Secondary Branch has responsibility for school services; program development; student support services; evaluation and research; distance learning and innovation; and early childhood learning.
- The Advanced Studies Branch focuses on all aspects of post-secondary education, including institutional and industrial education; student financial assistance; skills development; and adult learning and literacy.
- Finally, the Corporate Services Branch is responsible for strategic planning and annual reporting; budget preparation and monitoring; financial services; school bussing; policy development and accountability; school construction; teacher payroll services; and federal-provincial agreements.

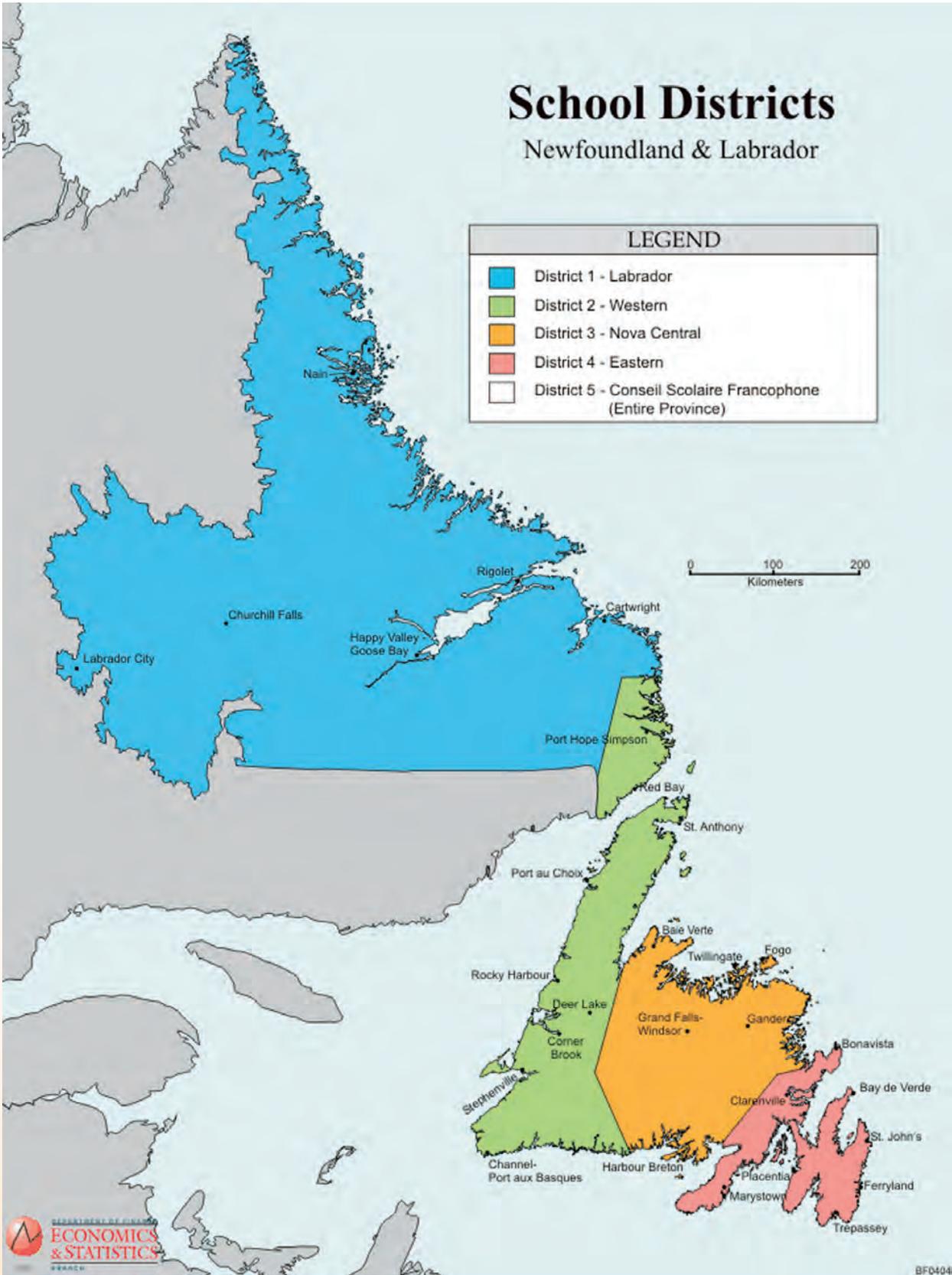
On a local level, five regional districts oversee the day-to-day operations of schools. Each district is managed by a regional school board responsible for a wide range of duties including staffing and distributing resources; evaluating, acquiring, distributing and maintaining technological resources and buildings; transporting students; and developing instructional policies and practices. These five districts include four geographic (Labrador, Western, Nova Central and Eastern) and one Francophone district, the Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF). The CSF was created to meet the needs of students whose first language was French. It is responsible for five schools located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador City, Cap Saint-Georges, La Grand'Terre and St. John's. The following table and map provides a profile of the districts in 2009/10.

District	Number of full time equivalent		
	Students	Teachers	Schools
Labrador	3,477	301	15
Western	12,489	1,082	71
Nova Central	12,493	1,040	67
Eastern	40,950	3,104	121
CSF	256	41	5

# School Districts

Newfoundland & Labrador

LEGEND	
	District 1 - Labrador
	District 2 - Western
	District 3 - Nova Central
	District 4 - Eastern
	District 5 - Conseil Scolaire Francophone (Entire Province)



## School councils

Under the *Schools Act, 1997*, each school is required to establish a school council. The role of the school council is to represent the school's educational interests, advise on the quality of teaching and learning in the school; assist and encourage parent and community involvement, and advise the school board on matters of concern.

The school council is composed of the principal and elected representatives from the student body, parents, teachers and community representatives. Ultimately, the council represents a partnership among the school, family and community. It brings together education professionals, parents, students and other community members in order to build on the collective knowledge, skills, abilities, interests and resources to enhance the education and development of students. The collaborative efforts of school councils has had a positive influence in improving the teaching and learning environment for the children in the schools they serve.

Specifically, school councils have the following roles:

- to provide a formal structure through which all partners can come together to discuss the education of the children with the primary goal of enhancing the quality of teaching and learning, resulting in improved student achievement;
- to represent the educational interests of all students collectively and the views of their respective groups;
- to encourage active participation from the school community in the teaching and learning process;
- to advise on the quality of the teaching and learning in the school through participation in the school development process; and,
- to advise the board on matters of concern to the school and to the school community.

(Department of Education, 2008, p.8)