

**Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board
Annual Activity Report
Fiscal Year 2007-08**

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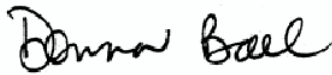
Chairperson's Message

Honourable Joan Burke, M.H.A.
Minister of Education

April 8, 2008

I am pleased to submit the 2007-08 Annual Activity Report of the Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board. This report covers the period of April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. My signature below is on behalf of the appeals board and indicative of the board's accountability for the actual results reported herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Ball". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DONNA BALL
Chairperson

Overview

The Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board is established under authority of section 11.(1) of the *Student Financial Assistance Act*.

The board currently consists of a panel of seven persons appointed by the minister and includes:

- one representative from Memorial University, Ms. Donna Ball;
- two students attending educational institutions in the province, Katherine Giroux-Bougard and Ms. Megan Mitchell;
- one representative from the College of the North Atlantic, Ms. Shriley Woodward;
- one representative from a private educational institution in the province, Ms. Pricilla Brewer;
- two employees of the government of the province, Ms. Ramona Cole and Ms. Virginia English.

All appeals board meetings are held at the Confederation Building in St. John's.

A person may make an appeal to the board with respect to a denial, term, condition, amount of a student loan, financial assistance, interest or payment relief made or established under the Act. A person who makes an appeal to the board has the right to be present, with or without representation, or to be represented by a person of his or her choosing. The board offers hearings in-person or via telephone.

The board is required to hear and consider an appeal not more than six weeks after receipt of same. The board shall notify the appellant of its decision, including the reasons for same, in writing not more than ten days after the appeal is heard.

Mandate

The Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board's mandate is established under section 12 of the *Student Financial Assistance Act*, as follows:

- (1) A person may make an appeal to the appeal board with respect to a denial, term, condition, amount of a student loan, financial assistance, interest or payment relief made or established under this Act.
- (2) Appeals made under subsection (1) shall be made in accordance with the regulations.
- (3) The appeal board or a committee of the appeal board shall, in writing and not more than 10 days after the hearing and consideration of an appeal, notify the appellant of its decision and the reasons for that decision.
- (4) A decision of a committee of the appeal board and of the appeal board on an appeal is final and binding.

Vision and Mission

The Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board is committed to supporting the vision and mission of the Department of Education by ensuring that all individuals in the province, who require financial assistance to access post-secondary education, have access to an appeal mechanism to verify proper entitlement.

Vision of the Department of Education

The vision of the Department of Education is citizens with the values, knowledge and skills necessary to be productive and contributing members of society.

Mission of the Department of Education

By 2011, the Department of Education will have maintained an educational system for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador which is of high quality, safe and affordable.

Activities

The Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board identified one goal in its 2007-08 transitional plan to guide its work for the fiscal year:

Goal: By March 31, 2008, the Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board will have met regularly to hold appeal hearings for students accessing the student loan program upon their request.

Measure: Heard appeals upon request

Indicators: Number of hearings held

Objective:

By March 31, 2008, the Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board will have met regularly to hold appeal hearings for students accessing the student loan program upon their request.

Measure: Heard appeals upon request

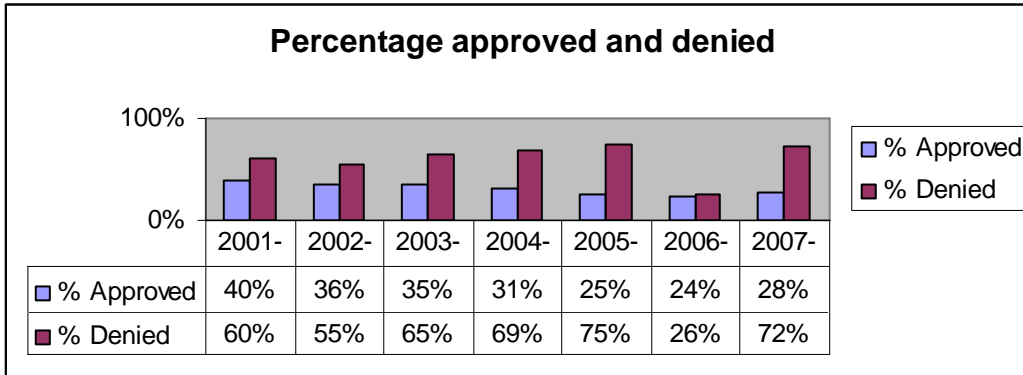
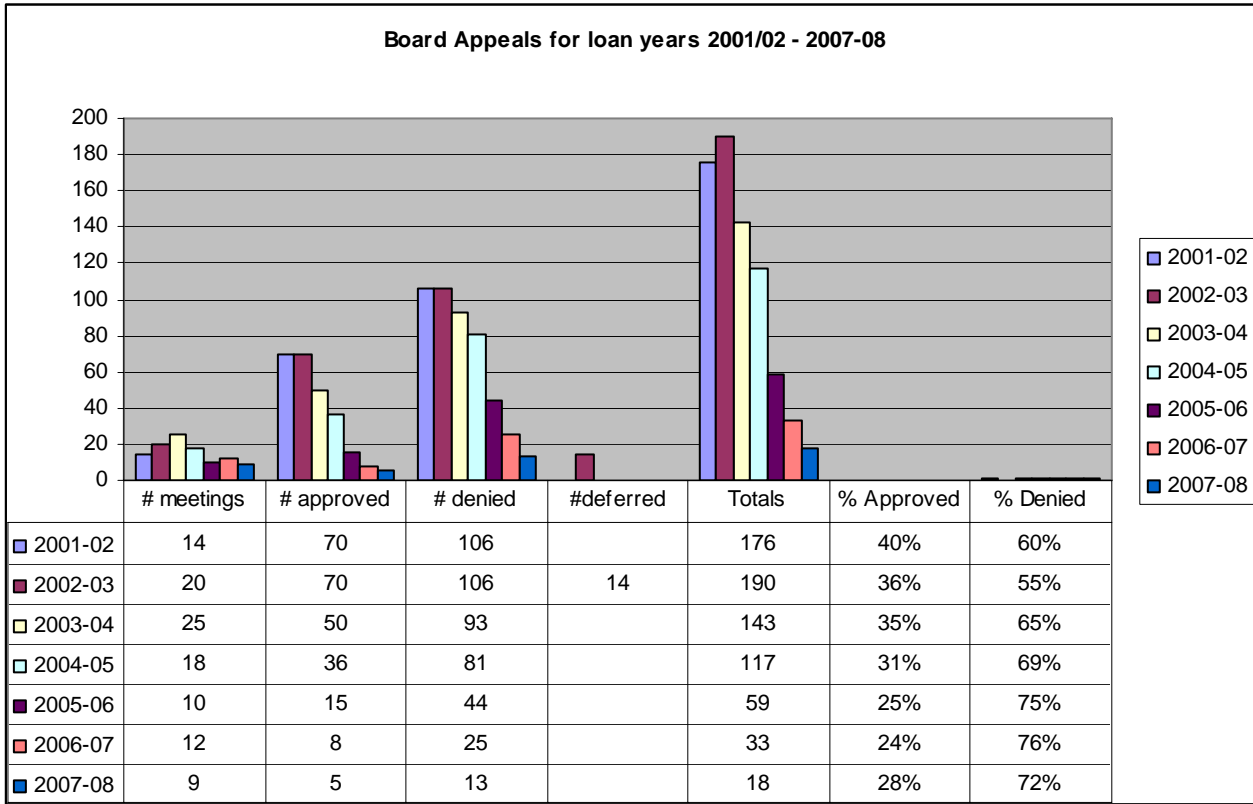
Indicators: Number of hearings held

The following details the board's successful achievement of the indicators presented in the activity plan.

During fiscal year 2007-08 the board held nine meetings during which 18 cases were heard. Five cases (28%) were approved in favour of the appellant and 13 (72%) were denied.

During the 2007-08 year, the board supported the Public Post-Secondary Education strategic direction of government by ensuring that post-secondary students who required financial assistance had access to an effective and fair process of appeal.

Comparison with Previous Fiscal Years



The figures indicated in the 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 years include combined data from the Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board and the Student Loan Remission Appeals Committee. As of November 2004 these boards were abolished and the New Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board was established replacing both.

Financial Statements

The Student Financial Assistance Appeals Board members serve without remuneration as per section 18.(8) of the Student Financial Assistance Regulations. Incidental expenses incurred by the board are minimal and are covered in their entirety by the Department of Education. The board is not required to prepare financial statements.