



To: Families and School Community Members
From: Michael Tobin, Senior Management Official - School Systems, NLSchools
Re: Highlighting School Access to Ensure Safe Learning Environments
Date: March 5, 2025

NLSchools is reaching out to highlight our continued efforts to ensure that our schools are safe and secure learning environments for students and staff, where young people can grow and thrive. In light of some concerning recent incidents that have occurred at some of our schools, we want to ensure school communities and the general public understand the balance our schools attempt to achieve in providing access to school property.

For the safety of students and school staff, schools are not public spaces. No one is permitted to be on school property without permission, express or implied (such as students receiving instruction or staff reporting to work). In accordance with the **Schools Act, 1997**, it is an offence to “disturb or interrupt the proceedings of a school, a school council, a conseil d’ecole, the conseil scolaire or the provincial advisory council;” or to “loiter or trespass in a school building, on property owned or used by the Crown for primary, elementary or secondary education purposes, or on property owned or used by the conseil scolaire.”

Furthermore, it is an offence under the **Access to Health and Educational Services Act** to “engage in interference; physically interfere with or attempt to interfere with a person; or intimidate or attempt to intimidate a person” at a school or on school property or in an area that extends 50 metres from the boundaries of the land on which the school is located.”

In order to provide a safe learning environment for all our students and staff, please know NLSchools will be enforcing these legislative provisions when necessary.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your continued cooperation.

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