

Nova Scotia – Québec Exchange Program

STUDENT PROTECTION

In Accordance with Section 64(2) (t) of the Nova Scotia *Education Act*, school boards are required to establish policies for the protection of students from abuse. The school boards are responsible for ensuring that the students attending school under their jurisdiction are protected by taking all reasonable precautions to screen all persons who may pose any risk to students.

All school community members, including all staff, board members, volunteers, community members, or others who will have regular direct contact with students in the school system must provide, before the beginning of the exchange:

1. A completed Department of Community Services *Form XII – Child Abuse Register – Request for Search*.
2. A certified and true copy of a current police reference/records check (completed in the 6 months preceding the beginning of the exchange) by June 30, prior to the beginning of the exchange.

In the context of the Nova Scotia-Québec Student Exchange Program, applications to volunteer as a host family in Nova Scotia shall be conditional upon:

- The successful completion of the interview process by the school liaison teacher(s);
- The absence of outstanding criminal charges or prior convictions.

These regulations are applied to the exchange program in Nova Scotia in accordance with policies of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. **In both the province of Nova Scotia and the province of Québec**, the process of ensuring the security of all students involved in the program is further supported by a thorough interview of all potential host families and a solid local support system for all students involved. All host families in both provinces are required to provide a certified and true copy of a current police reference and a completed Child Abuse Registry form.

Both student and parents must demonstrate a commitment to participate in this program. Unless deemed an emergency, visits by parents to the student's exchange home in Québec is prohibited.

CONSENT

We have read the Nova Scotia-Québec Six Month Student Exchange Program Participant Guide and have read and understood the student protection provisions associated with the Nova Scotia-Québec Exchange program.

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We accept that the host family in Québec acts as guardian for our child while living under their authority for the duration of the exchange. This authorization also covers emergency medical care. We will also insure that we have Health and Liability coverage for our child for the duration of the exchange.

We understand that this interview questionnaire will be assessed by the selection committee in our child's school and by the Provincial Coordinator at the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. We understand that should our child be accepted as a candidate every effort will be made to find a suitable twin among the Québec exchange student candidates.

We therefore agree that _____ may participate in the Nova Scotia-Québec Exchange Program, and we agree to provide all the required documentation and to abide by the program's regulations pertaining to the safety and well-being of the student we will be hosting. In addition, we hold harmless the EECD and the school boards involved from any and all claims arising out of any situation relating to these two checks.

Date

Parent 1 (or Legal Guardian)

Parent 2 (or Legal Guardian)

(If parents are separated or divorced, it is still required for both parents to be included in this form)

As the participating student, I am committed to the successful completion of this exchange. If chosen, I will make every effort to make my selected twin feel welcomed in our home, school and community.

Student

School's Liaison teacher

School's Principal