

Government Response TO THE “RAISE THE BAR” REPORT

Government is accepting the spirit and intent of the recommendations in Dr. Avis Glaze’s report, “Raise the Bar: A Coherent and Responsive Education Administrative System for Nova Scotia.”

Here are some of the changes government will make first:

Unify the system by dissolving the seven elected regional school boards and create one provincial advisory council. The structure of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial (CSAP) board will not change.

Money saved from dissolving elected boards (expenses/stipends) will go back into the education system.

A portion of the money saved will go to enhance the role and influence of School Advisory Councils (SACs) for all schools (or families of schools) in the province to strengthen the local voice in schools.

Ensure voices of Mi’kmaq and African Nova Scotians are heard at senior and ministerial levels.

Change the name of superintendents to Regional Executive Directors and enhance their role to focus on student achievement, reporting directly to the Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Move principals, vice principals and other supervisory staff at the board level from the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) while protecting salaries, pensions and benefits.

Move teaching support specialists (literacy leads, math mentors) out of regional education offices and into classrooms four days a week, with the fifth day dedicated to planning and preparation.

Find ways to exchange staff between the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and schools, so classroom teachers have more input on curriculum.

Give teachers and principals the responsibility for the selection of text books and learning materials, while following the provincial curriculum, to best support their teaching needs.

Create a provincial College of Educators, a self-regulating professional association, for teachers.

Give teachers the mobility and choice to work anywhere in Nova Scotia without losing their seniority.