

SURVEY INVITATION

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) wants input from School Advisory Councils (SACs) and comités d'école consultatifs (CEC) around the province as to how local voice can be enhanced in Nova Scotia's education system. As a first step in a multistep consultation process, we're asking each SAC and CEC to complete an online survey.

The goal of this consultation is to listen and better understand what parts of the education system would benefit from enhanced local voice, the opportunities that exist for enhancing local voice as well as any challenges that prevent local voice from being heard.

EECD will host a series of engagement opportunities with SAC/CEC members in May and June. Starting now and continuing over the next month, EECD will be seeking input through the following engagements:

1. On-line survey – one per SAC / CEC
2. On-line thought exchange – open to all SAC/CEC members
3. Regional / CSAP focus groups – limited seats available

This email is your SAC/CEC's invitation to participate in the on-line survey. The main purpose of this survey is to gather feedback from SACs/CECs on the current challenges to hearing local voice as well as the opportunities that exists for enhancing local voice.

Local voice refers to the values, opinions, beliefs, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds of the people in a school community—including students, school staff, parents/guardians, and local citizens. Enhancing local voice means having the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback and input based on your experiences and the unique needs of your school community to inform education policy and decision making to support student learning and well-being.

The survey will be open until June 30, 2022. Please note that only **one survey per SAC/CEC should be completed and submitted.** We recommend that SACs/CECs discuss their responses as a group, and then have a designated member enter the responses into the online survey. There will be more opportunities for individuals to provide feedback on their own.

We thank you for your participation in this important survey, your input is very valuable. All responses to the survey are confidential and will only be analyzed at an aggregate (grouped) level.

We appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey. The information collected will be used to enhance opportunities for local voice and improve the school system for our students.

Please click the link below to access the survey.

<https://forms.gle/PVb31wQYYgQmbWpw7>

If you have any questions on the survey, please contact Kate Calnan: kcalnan@gnspecs.ca

THOUGHT EXCHANGE INVITATION

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) wants input from School Advisory Councils (SACs) across the province as to how local voice can be enhanced in Nova Scotia's

education system. As the final step in a multistep consultation process, we're inviting each SAC member to participate in an online thought exchange.

The goal of this thought exchange is to better understand which parts of the education system would benefit from enhanced local voice, what opportunities exist for enhancing local voice, as well as any challenges to providing local voice input.

EECD is hosting a series of engagement opportunities with SAC members. Starting in May and continuing until the end of June, EECD will be seeking input through the following engagements:

1. On-line survey – currently open to all SACs
2. Regional / CSAP focus groups – registration now closed
3. On-line thought exchange – open to all SAC members

This email is your invitation to participate in an online thought exchange. The main purpose of the thought exchange is to have an open commentary among SAC members on specific questions around enhancing local voice input.

You can participate in the on-line thought exchange by clicking the link below. You can click the link multiple times to see and respond to new comments posted by other SAC members. The thought exchange will be open until end of day June 28th, 2022.

Your input and comments in the thought exchange will not be connected to you as an individual. For privacy reasons we ask you not to identify yourself or other individuals in your comments. ThoughtExchange, and EECD and its partners will not identify individual participants based on the results or in the final reporting. Please see the ThoughtExchange Privacy Policy (<https://thoughtexchange.com/privacy-policy/>) for more details on how your information will be handled by them.

We thank you in advance for your participation, your input is very valuable. We appreciate you taking the time to provide feedback. The information collected will be used to enhance opportunities for local voice and improve the school system for our students.

Please click here link below to access the online thought exchange.

Please note this link should not be shared beyond SACs. There will be future opportunities for broader public consultation on this topic later in the year.

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/158832747>

If you have any questions about the thought exchange, please contact kcalnan@gnspe.ca.

FOCUS GROUP INVITATION

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) wants input from School Advisory Councils (SACs) around the province as to how local voice can be enhanced in Nova Scotia's education system. As one step in a multistep consultation process, we're inviting SAC members to participate in a virtual focus group discussion.

The goal of these discussions is to listen and better understand what parts of the education system would benefit from enhanced local voice, as well as to identify the opportunities that exist for enhancing local voice and any challenges that prevent local voice from being heard.

EECD is hosting a series of engagement opportunities with SAC members. Starting in May and continuing until the end of June, EECD is seeking input through the following engagements:

1. On-line survey – currently open to all SACs
2. On-line thought exchange – open to all SAC members
3. Virtual/online focus groups – limited seats available

This email is your invitation to participate in a virtual/online focus group discussion the week of June 6-10, 2022. The main purpose of these discussions is to gather feedback from SAC members on the current challenges to hearing local voice as well as the opportunities that exists for enhancing local voice.

If you would like to participate in a virtual/online focus group session, please fill out the registration form by clicking the link below.

Please note, there are limited sessions and limited seats per session available. Participants will be selected to ensure diverse representation. **If you are selected to participate you will be contacted to confirm your participation by June 3rd, 2022.**

Only those SAC members who have completed the registration form and who are contacted will be able to participate at this time.

Registration will be open until 11:00PM on June 1st.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/HKkFdFBQh5ZaQTJn6>

If you would like to provide feedback but cannot attend at the available times or were unable to get a seat, please consider participating in the virtual thought exchange. An email will come from your SAC Chair soon with more information on how to participate.

If you have any questions about the focus group sessions, please contact kcalnan@gnspes.ca.