



**Tri-County Regional School Board**  
Nova Scotia, Canada

**Students First**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **Review of Educational Programs and School Utilization Study**

The Tri-County Regional School Board has initiated a formal review of the educational programs being delivered in each of its schools with the overall purpose of understanding what is in place and determining how the program delivery can be improved for students. This "Program Review" process will get underway in September and will be completed over the next 2 years. Public consultations will be a critical component of the process so that schools and their communities have an opportunity for input.

The purpose of the Program Review is defined more specifically with the following questions:

1. Is the basic program, the Public School Program (PSP), being delivered in each school as required by the Department of Education?
2. What additional educational programs are being offered in each school and regionally?
3. How can the delivery of the educational programs be improved?
4. Are there particular issues or problems in program delivery that should be addressed under high priority status?
5. How can the school facilities be utilized more effectively and efficiently to deliver the educational programs?
6. What are the financial implications of making the recommended improvements in program delivery and school utilization?
7. What is a reasonable timeline in making the improvements?

These questions will be answered through a 3-phase process. Phase I will be a review of the "Educational Program Delivery" in each school and how it can be improved. Phase II will be a "School Community Consultation" in which schools and their communities have an opportunity to provide input into the program review. Phase III will be a "School Utilization Study" to determine how the schools can be used more effectively and efficiently.

The School Utilization Study is a timely component of the overall Program Review because of the ongoing, serious decline in student enrolment which is expected to continue over the next 5 years or more. The TCRSB has an educational and fiscal responsibility to ensure that the schools are being used as efficiently as possible and that the diminishing school enrolments are not having a negative effect on the delivery of the required programs to students.

Dr. Jim Gunn has been hired as an external consultant to carry out this Program Review. Dr. Gunn served as Superintendent of Schools for the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board prior to retirement in 2005 and then in an interim position as Superintendent of Schools for the South Shore Regional School Board in 2006. Most recently, in the role of a consultant, he has completed a school utilization study for the SSRSB.

The TCRSB wishes to be open and “up front” about the possibility that some schools might ultimately be identified for possible reconfiguration or closure as a result of this program review and school utilization study. This is a possibility but any formal consideration of a school closure would have to occur under a separate, year-long process. A process called “School Review” is defined formally in provincial legislation and is completely independent from this Program Review process. Any school review process for an individual school could only occur after this Program Review has been completed (likely in March, 2010). This means that any schools identified for “School Review” would be considered for reconfiguration or closure from April 1, 2010 until March 31, 2011. In other words, no schools can be closed as a result of this Program Review before September 2011.

As the details of this process are worked out, they will be made known to the schools and the general public on a regular basis. It is the wish of the Board that the process and its results are fully transparent publicly, from beginning to end.

“We are very fortunate to have an experienced educator to do a Review on the Educational Program Delivery and School Utilization Study,” said Faye Haley, Chair of the Tri-County Regional School Board.

For further information, contact:

Phillip Landry  
Superintendent of Schools  
Tri-County Regional School Board  
79 Water Street  
Yarmouth, NS B5A 1L4  
Phone: 902-749-5682  
Toll Free: 1-800-915-0113  
E-mail: [plandry@tcrsb.ca](mailto:plandry@tcrsb.ca)