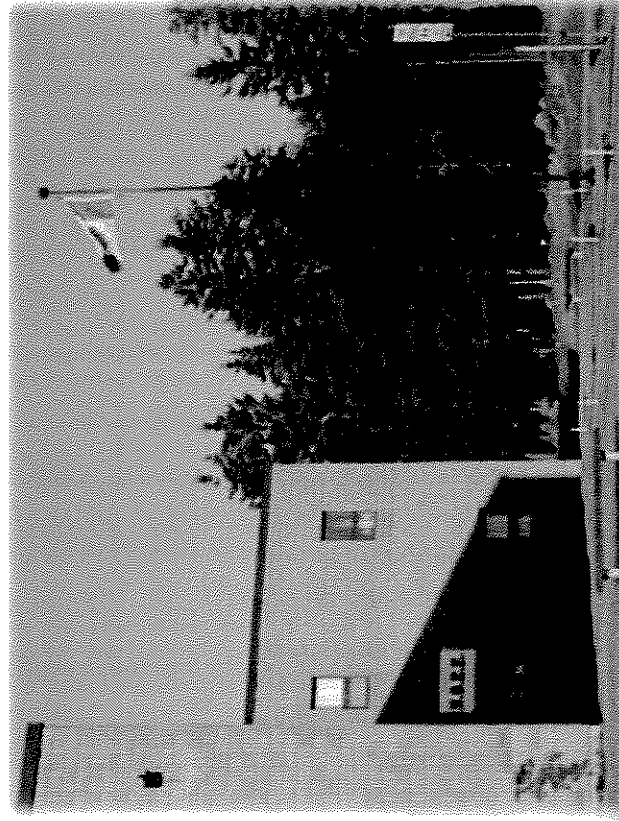
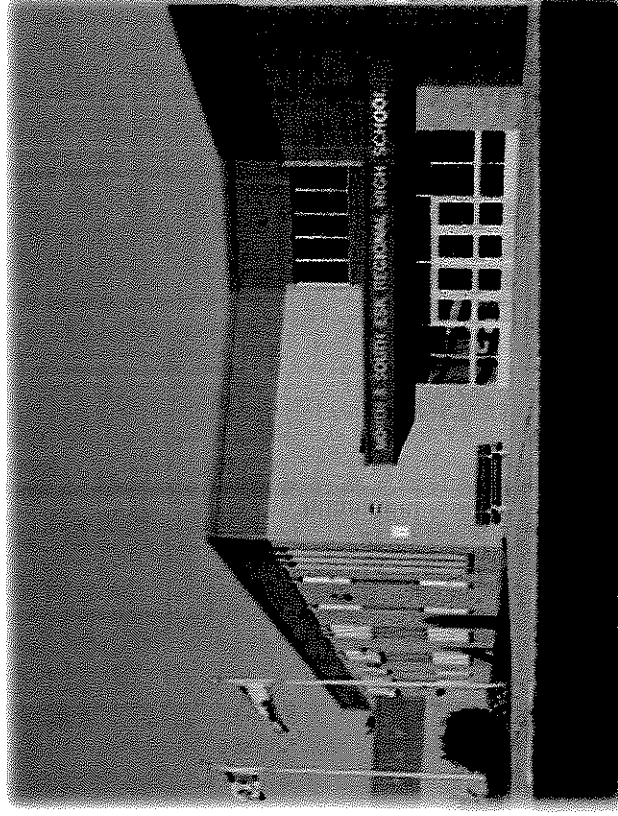


# Save Our Schools Committee Presentation

November 4, 2015



North and South Esk Elementary



North and South Esk Regional High

**ON BEHALF OF THE SAVE OUR SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

**WELCOME**

**I AM**

**ROY SILLIKER**

**PAST DEC MEMBER, CURRENT PSSC MEMBER,  
MEMBER OF NSER ALUMNI CLASS OF 1980**

**AS WELL AS A**

**OVER ALL FAN OF NSER /NSEE AND QUALITY EDUCATION**

**On September 30, 2015, the District presented to us 3 options:**

**1**

**Status Quo: Leave both schools as is**

**2**

**Move the grade 6 students to NSER making it a 6-12 school. NSEE would be a K-5 school**

**3**

**Move all students to NSER and close NSEE**

It is the opinion of the Save the Schools Committee that  
the best **OPTION** is:

**OPTION# 1:**

**Status Quo- Leave both schools as is**





## Rational:

- As per the district presentation we are currently at 30.3 % in 2015-2016 so we shouldn't even be here tonight as we do not fall below the new catchment figures.
- We will also show that numbers are only as good as the information that is collected to determine these numbers. Our research is based on facts, and education requirements not on someone from the Department of Education from Fredericton walking through a school with no understanding of the school and counting rooms.

# Topic #1

# Enrollment

6.4.4 A DEC must consider the following criteria when studying a school's sustainability. This list does not preclude a DEC from considering other factors relevant to their local circumstances.

Low/Declining enrolments:

Impact of declining or low enrolments on the learning environment

(Is enrolment reaching a critical threshold or will it be dropping substantially over the next few years?)  
Enrolment trends and projections must be considered.

This Chart presented during the District presentation for NSEE is using numbers determined a study completed by Department of Education Staff using a procedure that is not written or approved by the Minister of Education.

- It counted every available space (18 Spaces) in the school even those that are required just to meet the requirements of the education program.
- This includes computer labs, science lab, special needs rooms and resource room.

Functional Capacity Data	Student Enrolment September 2015	Number of Teaching Stations	School Capacity	Capacity Rating
--------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	-----------------

Based on 24.7 students per class

159      18      445      35.7%

This chart is a result of our study of the teaching stations at NSEE not including those rooms required to offer the education program as required by the Department of Education.

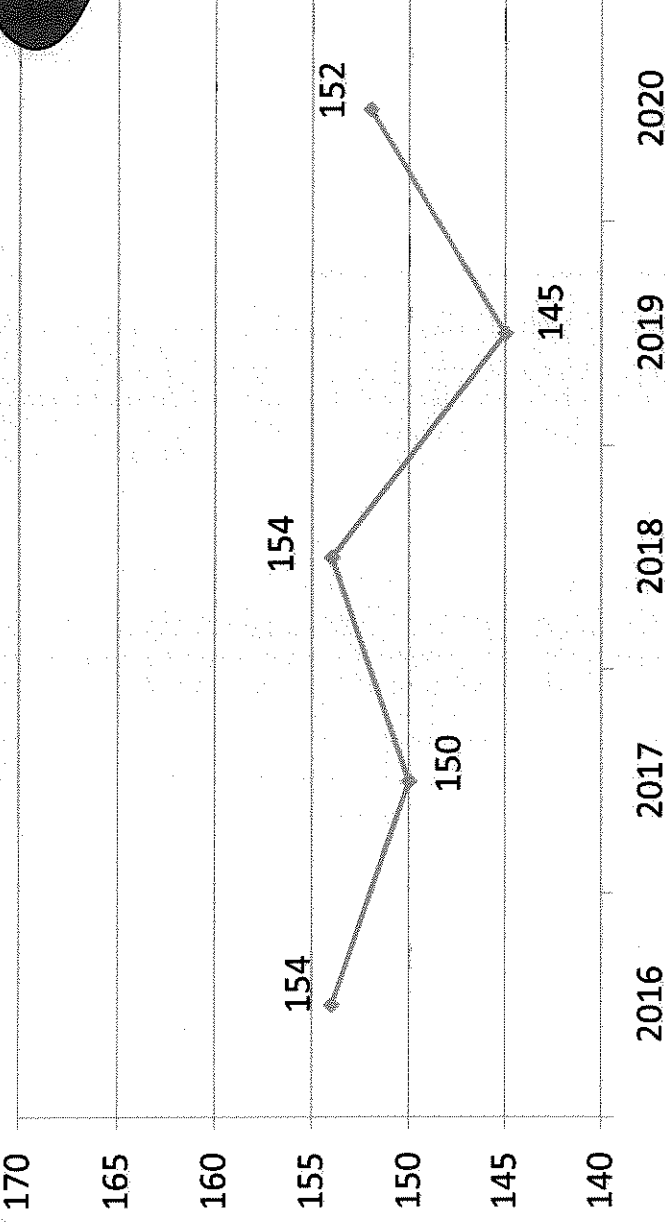
- Rooms such as computer labs, science lab, special needs rooms and resource room.
- We also removed the First Nation room that is provided to them for their cultural resource room.
- This also includes the number of current students enrolled which is more than the District presented.

Functional Capacity Data	Student Enrolment September 2015	Number of Teaching Stations	School Capacity	Capacity Rating
	166	13	296.4	56%

Based on 24.7 students per class



## Projected Enrolment North & South Esk Elementary School (District Presentation)



District Slide

Using the actual Teaching stations as per our study and using the lowest projected numbers the % at NSEE would be at 49%

This Chart presented during the District presentation for NSER is using numbers that were achieved by a study completed by Department of Education Staff using a procedure that is not written or approved by the Minister of Education.

- It counted every available space (32 Spaces) in the school even those that are required just to meet the requirements of the education program.
- This included the Chemistry Lab, Biology Lab , Computer labs, Music room, Art room, wood shop, mechanic shop and Gym.

Functional Capacity Data	Student Enrollment September 2015	Number of Teaching Stations	School Capacity	Capacity Rating
--------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	-----------------

Based on 29 students per class

225      25.6      742      30.3%

The number of teaching stations is 32. This has been reduced by 20% to reflect the impact of all types of course and variability in student course selection at the High School level.

This chart is a result of our study of the teaching stations at NSER not including those rooms required to offer the education program as required by the Department of Education.

- Rooms such as Chemistry Lab, Biology Lab , 2 Computer labs, Music, Art room, woodshop, mechanic shop and Gym.
- We also removed the First Nation room that is provided to them for their cultural resource room.
- We also did not use the 20 % reduction as noted in the District slide. We used actual numbers !

Functional Capacity Data	Student Enrolment September 2015	Number of Teaching Stations	School Capacity	Capacity Rating
--------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------	-----------------

Based on 29 students per class

225

20

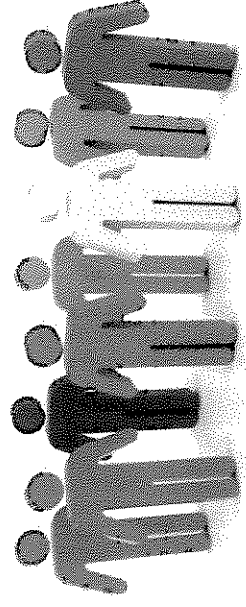
580

38.8%

## **Projected Enrollment: NSER**

- As for the projected enrollment we are not sure where the District got the numbers but NSER Feeder schools NSEE, Red Bank First Nations School and Eel Ground First Nation School enrollment is not making that drastic of a change.
- In fact, the district did not count Eel Ground school in the projected numbers.

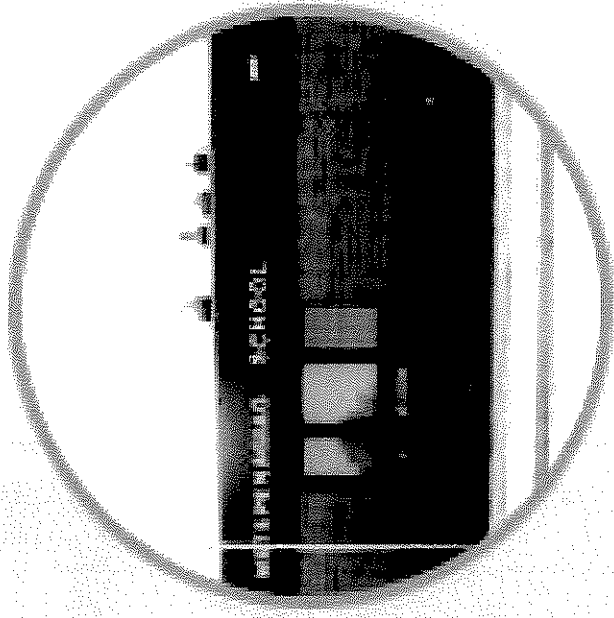
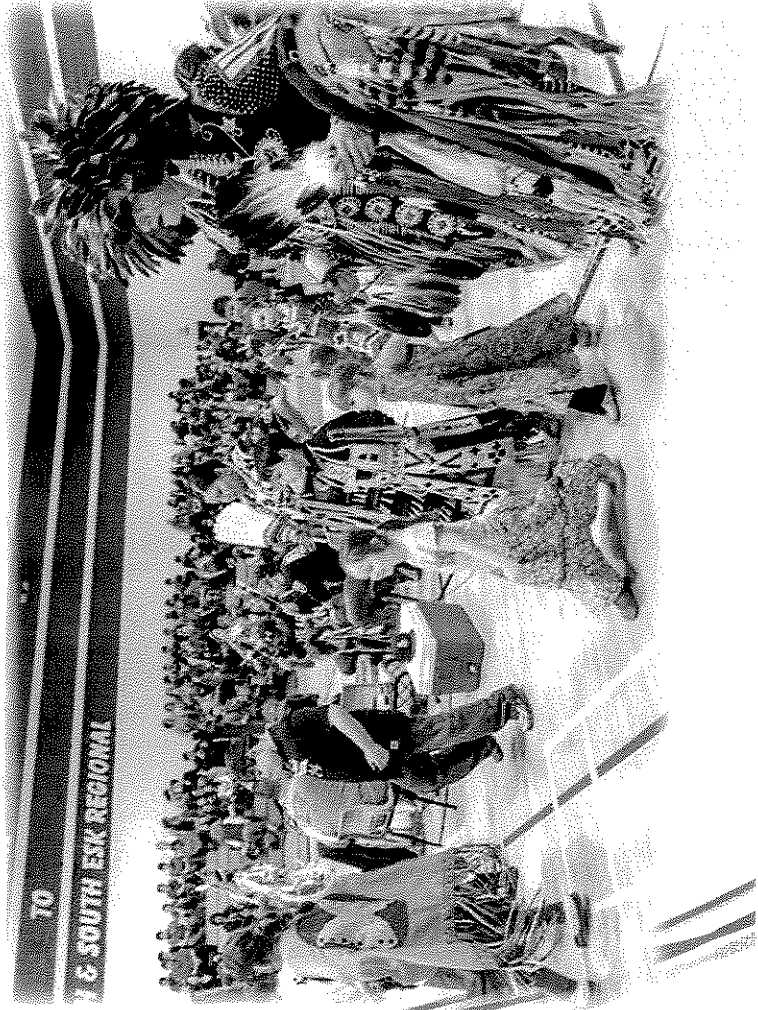
I would now like to introduce some speakers that have a vested interest in the enrollment numbers at NSER and NSEE.





# Acting Chief Bill Ward

## Metepenagiag (Red Bank) First Nation



Good Evening Everyone,

On behalf of the Chief & Council of the Metepenagiag First Nation, as Director of Education for our community, it deeply concerns us to see the potential loss of our neighboring schools which have been identified through this study and how this will impact our First Nations Students.

Metepenagiag Elementary School is a First Nation's feeder school into NSEE & NSER, our First Nations Students add to your overall enrollment population at both your schools, anywhere between 50-55 approximately each year and this number is not going to decline anytime in the future. The majority of students have always attended NSER as their High School. It has been historically the choice of parents to support a school that is geographically located across the river from Red Bank (Metepenagiag). Because of the close proximity to Sunny Corner, this in turn reduces a cost factor to providing transportation services for our students which generates savings to our overall Education Budget as we provide our own busing for students at no cost to the District. If this were to change and transportation was increased due to the distance factor, our transportation budget would increase significantly. This would also affect student attendance, especially if students miss the bus and decide not to attend school that day because of the challenge of having to be transported into town schools. So this would definitely create a problem.

Because our First Nations are Federally funded by the government we do not burden the overall budget to your schools. That being said, we have always provided our own First Nations Staff & Support Workers at no cost to the operations of both schools. Further to this, we are separately funded through Education Tuition Agreements with the local School District and the Province of New Brunswick which in turn generates positions and support services to your schools based on our First Nation Student Population. And in some cases we have provided under these agreements, additional specialized positions at no cost to the District to service our children. We also support your Schools with a Nutrition Program at our own expense which in turn supports your cafeteria operations. We have many health & social programs that are made available to our students within our own community.

In fact, we have built strong Education Partnerships over the life of many of these tuition agreements with your schools. These relationships have evolved over many years and improvements have been made to foster and promote positive educational outcomes of our students. Our students have built life-long relationships with our Non-First Nations community of Sunny Corner and surrounding areas through many extra-curricular and sporting activities, bottom line, we support one another ultimately. Your school has welcomed our Mi'kmaq Language Program, our rich Mi'kmaq Cultural History and Teachings. Our students feel pride and respected now when they enter the doors of your schools and feel they are welcomed. Our First Nations staff work along side your teachers & support staff to guide all students in achieving their educational goals.

Statistically we have graduated on an average in the last 5 years between 5 to 6 graduates each year and over a 30 year period well over 200 graduates of NSER. Our Community has always regarded NSER as a top notch school, who have provided our children with a solid educational foundation, so that they could lead into University or College Studies. Ultimately, preparing our people for entry into the workforce. Many former First Nations Graduates of NSER have gone on to be Teachers, Social Workers, Nurses, Physiotherapists, Dental Therapists/Hygienists, Pharmacy Technicians, RCMP Officers, Fisheries & Corrections Officers, Business Administration Professionals, Artists, Trades Careers in Welding, Heavy Equipment Operators, Mining & Forestry Technicians just to name a few. It should be noted that many of our Graduates have also received many scholarships, bursaries and awards for Academic Excellence from both Schools.

In closing, Metepenagiag definitely supports Option # 1 to keep our Schools Status Quo. I'm also former Alumni and proud Graduate of NSER 'Class of 1982'. I would like to thank Mr. Dean Much, Mr. Jamie Henderson and their school leaders & staff, honored guests, Members of the DEC, our District Superintendent, students & your community in allowing us to express our views on this very important issue which affects us all.

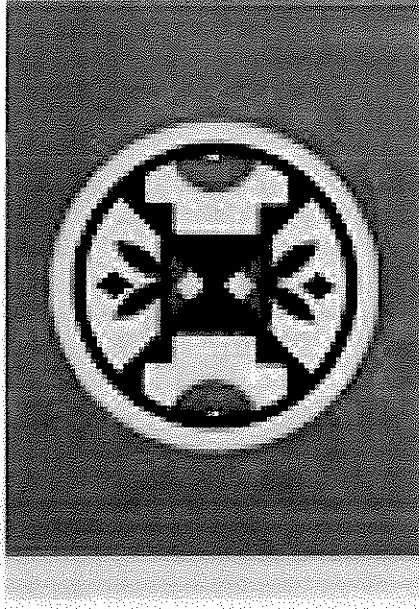
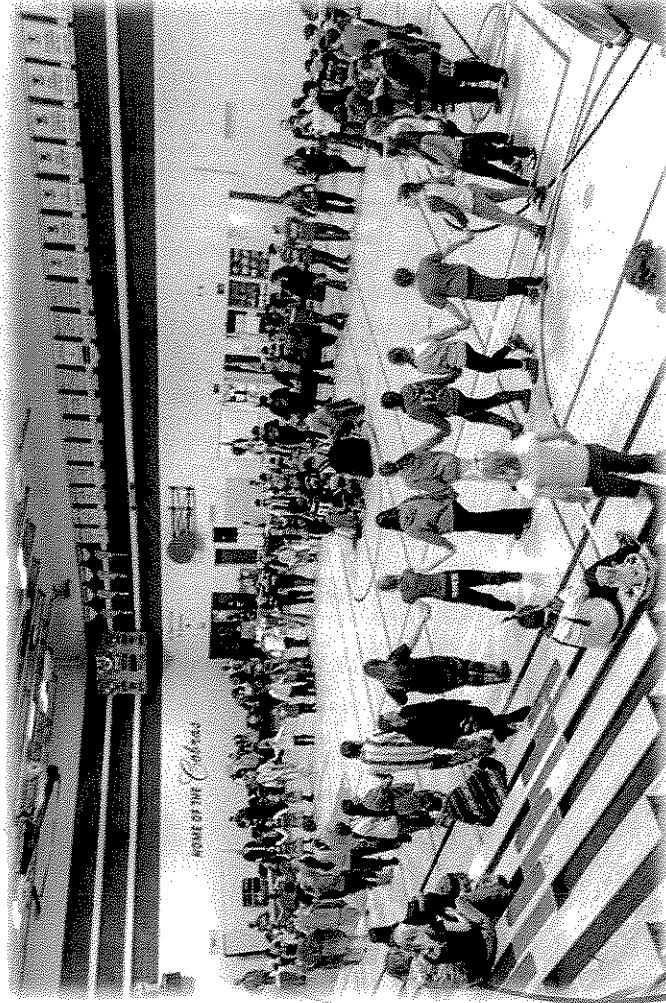
Let's remember Kids Come First and we are proud to call YOUR SCHOOLS, OUR SCHOOLS. Welieg! (Thank You)

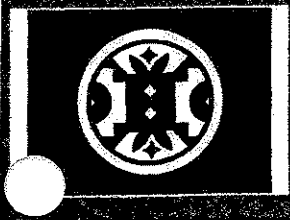
Respectfully Submitted By:

Patricia Ward  
Metepenagiag Director of Education  
On Behalf of Metepenagiag Chief and Council

# Chief George Ginnish

## Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) First Nation





**Eel Ground First Nation**

47 Church Road  
Eel Ground N.B., E1V 4E6  
Tel. (506) 627-4600  
Fax. (506) 627-4602

Mr Roy Silliker

**Re: Save our Schools, NSER-NSEE Committee**

November 1, 2015

Dear Mr. Silliker,

I am writing in regard to your invitation to present as part of the Save our Schools Committee presentation on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Unfortunately, due to prior commitments, I am not able to attend. I am, however, sending this letter to provide our perspective on this issue.

The school is the heart of a community. Our Council and Education Committee understand and sincerely appreciate that reality.

There are many reasons we support the concept and would accept no less for our children. First and foremost is the safety of our precious children and grandchildren. The transportation of our very youngest comes to mind, given that our weather already creates challenges from November into April of each year. The additional time required each day to bus would be of concern to parents if local schools were no longer operating.

Community Schools also serve as a meeting/gathering/training space for all involved, in many aspects of education. The role they play in bringing together members and expanding learning opportunities should not be underestimated. Events that celebrate the unique culture of all the student are opportunities for expanding all our horizons.

Our First Nations Educators recently had the opportunity to present our issues of concern to the Advisory Committee for the Development of a 10-Year Education Plan. We understand what it feels like to struggle to be heard. When given the opportunity we advised that it was critically important that all schools in NB recognize and




celebrate the contributions of First Nations and that the true history of Canada is shared with all students. Our language and culture are vital to our members and we need to see them taught and celebrated in all public schools. We believe that our NEAT (Native Education Advisory Teams) that are working at NSER and MVHS and have developed a progressive partnership that will help us move toward our goal of an inclusive system that meets the needs of all and celebrates our differences.

Community schools provide a very important program to our most vulnerable. Food security is a challenge for many parents and partnered and subsidized breakfast and lunch can make a huge difference in the life of a youngster. A community school, where staff are familiar with all the students can make interventions possible and timely.

We realize that there are fiscal challenges and realities that all struggle with in pursuit of the best possible educational outcomes for our children and grandchildren. We would also hope that given the obvious commitment and interest of those served by NSER/NSEE, an option that is acceptable to retain their schools can be reached.

I would close by saying that our Council and Community Education Committee strongly support Community Schools and wish your Committee a positive outcome.



Chief George H Ginnish



## **Conclusion (Enrollment):**

NSEE has more than 100 Students and a 56% Capacity Rating

NSER has more than 100 Students and a 38.8% Capacity Rating

We would also like the DEC to work with us to develop a team that can address this evaluation of classrooms and have a good clear process for all New Brunswick's to use.

**Therefore no CONCERN !!**  
**Status Quo works!**

## Topic #2

Health & Safety

## Conclusion (Health & Safety):

- As noted in the District presentation both Buildings are in very good condition with minimal capital projects needed There are no concern noted by either party .
- Health and Safety: the structural integrity of buildings; indoor air quality and water quality; circumstances that present a significant health or safety threat; fire safety systems and the safety and security of school grounds and play areas.

**Therefore no CONCERN !!**  
**Status Quo works!**

# Topic #3

Education & Services





## **Quality of Education Programs and Services:**

The appropriateness of facilities for curriculum delivery and student services.

This would include availability of facilities and diversity of educational programs and increased educational opportunities as a result of a closure, enrolment per grade or multi-level class and pupil-teacher ratio at affected schools, as well as the ability to meet the needs of all students, including students with exceptionalities.

# Assessment Results North & South Esk Elementary

District Slide

## Grade 5 Math

Year	NSEE	District	Province
2010-11	68.6%	67%	60.8%
2011-12	92.2%	64%	63%
2012-13	82.3%	58.4%	62.9%

## Assessment Results North & South Esk Elementary

### Grade 2 Reading

Year	NSEE	District	Province
2010-11	80.8%	78.1%	80.3%
2011-12	87.2%	84.3%	79.3%
2012-13	84.5%	83.2%	79.5%
2013-14	95.5%	76.7%	77.5%

# Assessment Results North & South Esk Regional

District Slide

## Grade 7 Reading

Year	NSER	District	Province
2010-11	80.5%	67%	69.4%
2011-12	80%	74%	68.4%
2012-13	83.3%	78.5%	76.2%
2013-14	88.6%	76.7%	77.1%

# Assessment Results North & South Esk Regional

District Slide

## Grade 9 ELPA Writing

Year	NSER	District	Province
2010-11	83%	70.8%	78.9%
2011-12	70%	79.4%	82.2%
2012-13	88.3%	79.4%	82.4%
2013-14	85.7%	86.2%	88.2%

# Assessment Results North & South Esk Regional High

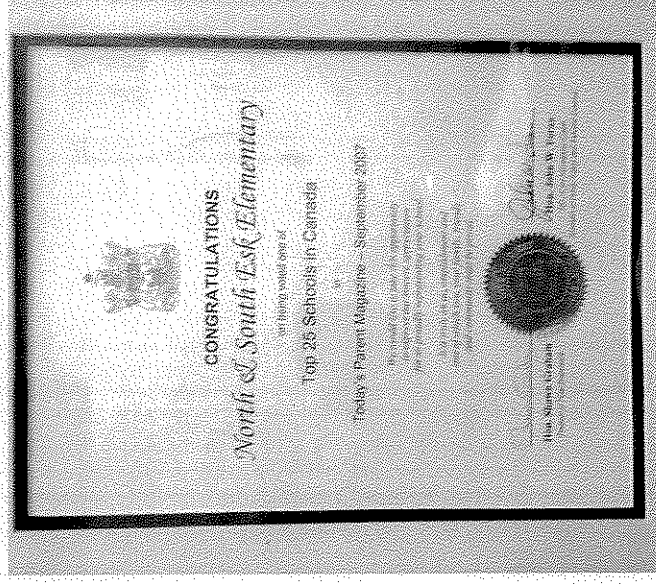
District Slide

## Grade 8 Math

Year	NSER	District	Province
2010-11	78.8%	64.5%	57.6%
2011-12	83%	61.6%	57.5%
2012-13	70%	63.8%	58.5%
2013-14	65.2%	59.4%	57.7%

## Example of Quality:

NSEE was awarded one of the Top 25 Schools in Canada in Today's Parent Magazine (2007)





# Provincial Assessment Results for North & South Esk Elementary School (K-6)

Grade	Assessment	Target 2016	Province at Appropriate or above - 2015	District at Appropriate or above - 2015	School at Appropriate or above - 2015	School at Appropriate or above - 2013
K-5	2 Reading	90%	76.9%	77.2%	100.0%	80.8%
	Reading FI	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Writing FI	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Mathematics	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	82.4%
6-8	Reading ENG	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Reading FI	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Reading PIF	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Mathematics	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Science	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
7	Reading					
	Writing					
8	Mathematics					
9-12	Reading					
	Writing					
	Reading FI					
	Writing FI					
10	Orals FSL					
	Early FI Orals					
12	Late FI Orals					

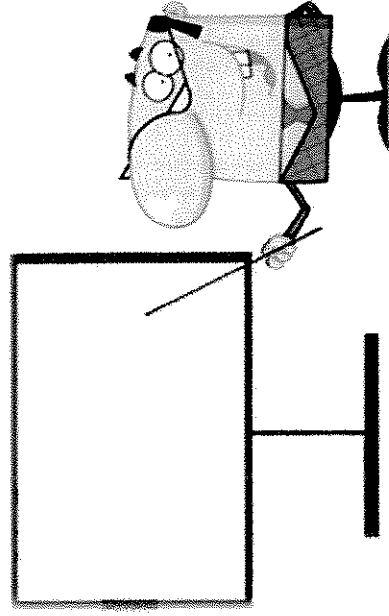
# Provincial Assessment Results for North & South Esk Regional High School (7-12)

Grade	Assessment	Target 2016	Province at Appropriate or above 2015	District at Appropriate or above 2015	School at Appropriate or above 2015	School at Appropriate or above 2013
K-5	2 Reading					
	4 Reading FI					
	5 Writing FI					
	5 Mathematics					

6-8	Reading ENG					
	Reading FI					
	Reading PIF					
	Mathematics					
	Science					
7	Reading	85%	N/A	N/A	88.6%	86.5%
	Writing	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	64.9%
8	Mathematics	85%	57.7%	59.4%	67.6%	65.2%

9	Reading	100%	78.3%	75.7%	86.1%	79.1%
	Writing	100%	90.7%	87.6%	88.2%	88.4%
10	Reading FI	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Writing FI	85%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Orals FSL	70%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12	Early FI Orals	85%	41.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Late FI Orals	85%	56.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A

You have listened to me enough for now.  
I would like to call the following people to do a  
presentation for you.



# NSEE Student

Landon Foran



Good evening everyone! My name is Landon Foran and I am a grade 6 student at N.S.E.E. I am here tonight to give you all a child's perspective on this issue we are facing in our community. I can assure you that all my fellow classmates and schoolmates from kindergarten to grade 6 will agree with me when I say we love our school!! We may be young, we may be little, but our voices too must be heard!! I have attended N.S.E.E since kindergarten, and I can honestly say that every teacher I have had along the way was great! Our school is full of teachers who really care about us students. We each feel valued and important. They want to see each of us reach our highest potential by encouraging and motivating us each day because academics is such a strong part of our school. The expectations are very high and I think each of our students has met the standards.

Our Elementary school is very important to our community. And our community likewise is so important to our school. Last year at our breakfast with Santa, through support of our community, we raised enough funds that my grade 5 intensive French class was able to go on a 3 day field trip to Snider Mountain. And it was really fun!

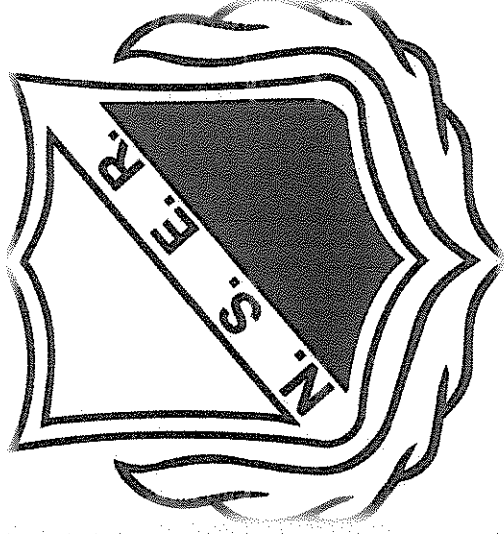
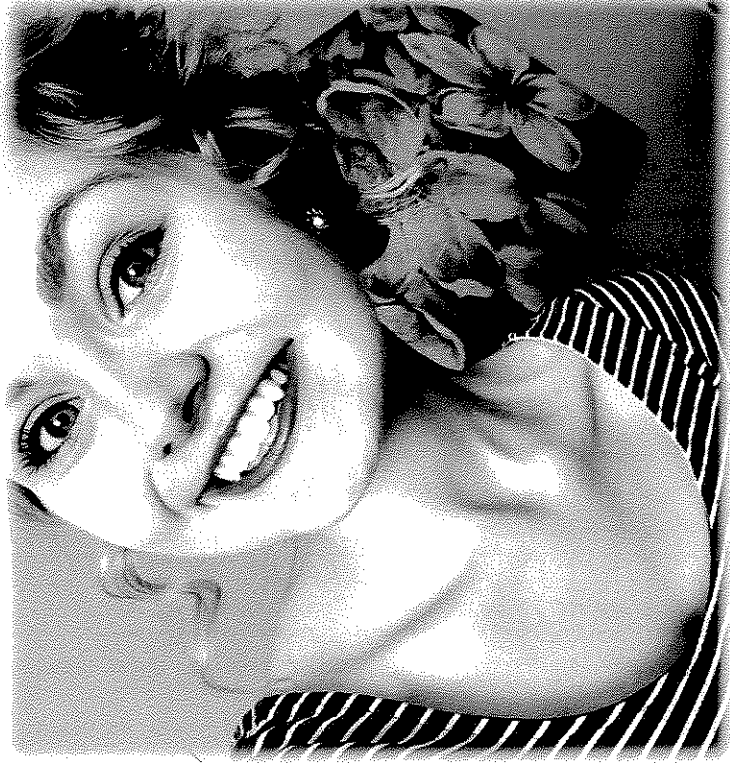
The elementary school provides a place for many activities such as karate, which I have been a member of for the last 6 years. If it wasn't hosted here in Sunny Corner, many of us would have missed out on this great opportunity. Other activities our community enjoy are the Walking Club, Yoga, Girl Guides, Mad Science, Small Ball and Kountry Kids after School Club. Our gym at N.S.E.E. is also used for middle sports when the high school gym is booked. And is sometimes used by Mini Pulamoo Basketball too. As I said already, I am a grade 6 student, so technically I'm in middle school. I really don't feel like I'm missing out on anything being at N.S.E.E. For example, I just finished the soccer season on the middle school boys team, which we won the championship for our district! There was no division between grades, we played as a team. Grade 6 play sports all through the year with grade 7 and 8's. We are also involved with the Science Fair, Stem Fair, and Wee Day. There is great communication between our two schools and they kind of lean on each other.

There is so many positive things about having grade 6 at the elementary school. One being, this year I am a student leader! It is a great leadership role to have. It helps to build confidence, leadership skills, and learn responsibilities. We are very involved with the Fall Fair, Remembrance Day Ceremony, after school sports, noon hour sports, equipment sign-out, and Breakfast With Santa, just to list a few. Another reason is the grade 6 banquet. This is something I think we have all looked forward to since kindergarten. It's our last big experience at N.S.E.E. before we head out to the " Big School".

I really hope my two little sisters get to enjoy and experience the elementary school the way I am. As a K to 6 school!! Because it's awesome, just the way it is! I wouldn't change 1 thing about my school!!! I love it!!!

# NSER Student

Kathleen Dunn



Good evening DEC members, superintendent Stymiest, Distract office staff, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Kathleen Dunn, and I am a grade 11 student here at North and South Esk Regional High School. I attended kindergarten to grade six at North and South Esk Elementary, and started at NSER in grade seven. I am here tonight to tell you why I love being a student at NSER, and why I want others to have the chance to be students here as well.

When you walk around the hallways of NSER, just as in every high school, you will find pictures of previous graduating years hanging from our walls. When you look closely at those pictures, you see smiling faces who are proud to be NSER graduates. Personally my favourite grad years are 1969, 1988, and 1995. In these years you will find pictures of my grandmother, mother and aunt respectfully. I am not a first generation cobra, not a second generation cobra, but a third generation cobra, and I'm proud of this. The thing that terrifies me though, is that fact that my aunt's children may not get the chance to be third generation cobras as well.

Every child needs a good foundation to kick off their learning, and I received mine by attending NSEE. There, I was taught the essential skills that I needed to succeed here, at the "Big School", NSER. From being given the chance to be a student leader, helping out with noon hour activities and other events, to being told by Mr. Buggie from the first day we started kindergarten that we should always "be the best that we can be," I was taught so many things. NSEE teaches children some pretty amazing lessons, and the only way that you can understand those lessons, is if you've been a student there.

I know that this may sound cliché, but here at NSER, teachers genuinely care about their students, and I know this from personal experience. Just recently, I received a not so great accounting test mark, and my teacher, who just so happens to be Mr. Mutch, came up to me and told me that if I needed extra help, or if I had any questions about what was going on, that I could ask him anytime. He understood that the mark that I had made was not the usual standard to which I held myself. He knew this because he recollected from previous years what kind of an academic student I was, because at a small school like NSER, you're able to remember personal things like that about your students. Teachers here know all their students names, getting to know and understand their unique personalities. They know who hangs out with whom, what their interests are, and what exactly it takes to get them passionate about a topic. When you're able to connect to your students in such ways, I personally find it makes class so much more interesting, allowing teachers to anticipate student reaction to certain subjects. It allows class to be even more personal and lively than it already is.

So, what's your favourite thing to do? Play sports, sing on stage, volunteer? You can do all of these and more at NSER. I am not a very "sporty" person, so I'm part of the drama club and also Rotary Interact. The staff at NSER encourage students to get involved, and be part of their school because they want everyone to have the best middle, as well as high school experience possible. One of my favourite things, is the fact that grades 9-12 are given the ability to earn an academic incentive, rewarding students who have missed five days or less of school during the semester, with the ability to have their final exam mark be worth 15%, 30% or 100% of their final mark. It gives students who work their hardest on school work all year round, a reward for all those hours spent in classroom. Middle school students are also rewarded for



their good attendance. If they don't miss any school days in the month, they are given the chance to have a "high school lunch hour," allowing them to venture off to the Irving and get Subway, or other things, one lunch hour a month. Every middle school student I've talked to about this incentive, loves it.

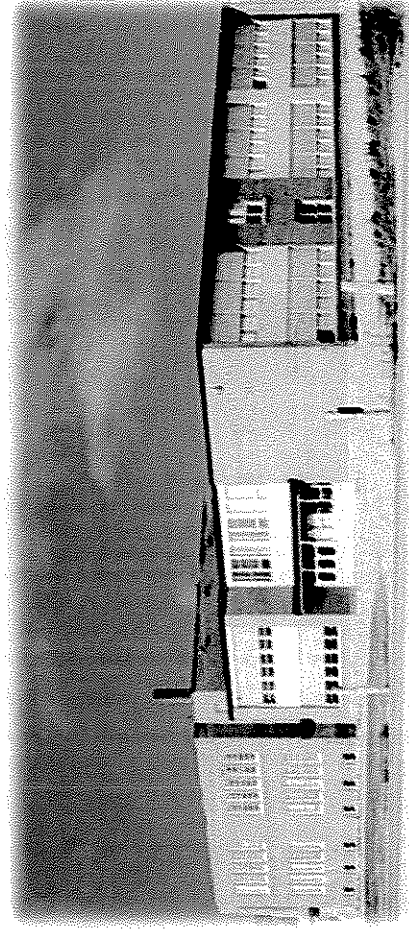
As I've gotten older, one thing that I have begun to notice, especially during a time like this, is that the community of Sunny Corner loves and supports our school more than anything else. Where else would a gym class of high school students be allowed to use private property to canoe in the spring as well as fall, and be welcomed? Our gym is always full when tournaments take place, and whenever we're set up at the Irving selling tickets on something, people pull the \$10.00 out of their pockets before even asking what it is they'll be buying. We're loved that much, and it feels pretty amazing.

To see NSER from my point of view, here's what you have to picture. Each morning, with the exception of only few, at 7:50 when I walk off the bus, there awaits Mr. Mutch at the front doors, coffee mug in hand, greeting each and every student with a smile. When I walk into the doors of my school each day, it feels like I'm where I'm supposed to be. Our student body isn't too big, and it's not too small, it's just the right size in my opinion. We're given the chance as students at NSER to get to know each other personally, mainly because we've grown up together since the age of six. To me, NSER feels like a second home. It's somewhere I can be completely vocal about my opinion, and have my voice heard, somewhere that my educators help, and look out for me every step of the way. It's a place where everyone is welcomed and treated equally. School is a huge part of my life, I spend upwards of 8 hours here 5 days a week, 10 months of the year, and I can tell you truthfully, I wouldn't ever want to attend school anywhere else. I love my school, and I'm proud to say that I'll be a member of NSER's class of 2017, I just hope that others with the dream of graduating a cobra will be able to achieve their wish as well.

NSER Alumni

Wendy Matthews

NSER  
ALUMNI



I am Wendy Matthews. I am a graduate of NSER, a retired teacher from NSEE, a founding member of Alumni and Friends of NSER and a past President of the Alumni. I am speaking on behalf of NSER Alumni.

Anyone who has attended NSER, is a graduate of NSER or has been or is a staff member of NSER is a member of Alumni and Friends of NSER.

I would like to address two points.

My **first point** is about the **community** support given to NSER from alumni as well as the community at large – hence Friends of NSER.

NSER is one of the very few schools of its size in this province to have an active Alumni Association.

NSER Alumni was formed as a charitable organization in 1996. Since then we have raised well over \$200,000 and have given over \$80,000 in scholarships and education grants. In June of this year for example, we gave \$8000 in scholarships. We are now financially prepared to support teachers who may wish to carry out innovative classroom projects and we can support school projects as well.

Where does the money come from? It is donated by the Alumni and friends in the community. Annually we raise thousand of dollars through generous donations, memorial donations, and fundraisers: Examples are raffles, dinner/auctions, home tours, fashion show, bake sales just to name a few. Many of these activities take place at the school, a traditional base for community activities. The community supports the school through volunteering, attending and supporting the events and making donations.

There are many examples of families and individuals who each year make large scholarship donations available through NSER Alumni. In addition donations are received annually from Alumni living in numerous places around the globe.

The amount of financial support for NSER students, shows that the Alumni Community values the school, and its place in providing quality education to young people in the area. Many former graduates have returned to become members of the teaching staff. It is not uncommon for children of former staff to become, in turn, teachers at NSER or NSEE. Graduates come back to the community!

There is a real fear that should any tampering be done with the education system as it presently exists in the Sunny Corner area, the financial assistance and community commitment would not follow students to another bigger or more distant facility.

2. My **second point** is about the **quality** of education received at NSER. Alumni of NSER are products of a school that has both historically and to this day, shown achievements in tests well above the district and provincial results, as shown by the recent DEC presentation. NSER has had four Beaverbrook scholars, three within the last three years.

I would like to point the high number of very successful graduates from NSER. Like any school we have our share of successful professionals, business people and skilled trades people and others, however there also alumni who have been **extremely** successful. Two prominent examples: An Emeritus Professor of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at San Diego State University, a Professor of Civil Engineering & Geological Sciences, University of Notre Dame. It is not my wish to name individuals. I could easily name chartered accountants, architects, PhD's and MD's, nurses, medics,

chiropractors, artists, musicians, writers, computer scientists, physiotherapists, professors, teachers, Armed forces both enlisted and high ranking officers, veterinarians, engineers, politicians (Member of Parliament) truckers, carpenters, farmers, very successful trade people, business people and high profile entrepreneurs. And that is just a few.

Last week's Telegraph Journal profiled an example of one highly successful business -Sunny Corner Enterprises whose management and staff have many NSER graduates. One could name several successful businesses in the Miramichi area that are owned and managed by NSER grads. There are examples of entire families who have several children that are extremely successful professionals.

NSER students consistently receive entrance scholarships to University. A recent example is a student who received a 4year Vice - Presidential Scholarship to a university in USA. NSER has been the foundation of these successes and the Alumni feel strongly that this should continue without interference.

You can argue that this can be said of any school, but NSER, as you are pointing out, is small in numbers and therefore has an exceptionally high percentage of success among its graduates. In fact, low numbers over the years might well be a factor in explaining the school's exceptional success. As well as smaller class sizes, the support of being close to home and part of a known environment could also be contributing factors in making rural schools successful. We, the Alumni of NSER, support quality education and feel strongly that the quality would be affected should the school be overcrowded. School size has a lot to do with success.

It is our belief that NSER and therefore NSEE should remain as they are without any changes to the quality situation that exists in these 2 modern community facilities.

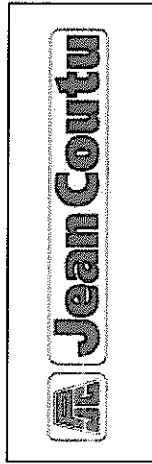
## **\$8,000 in scholarships 2015**

- 1 - \$1,000 Alumni Scholarship: Bruce and Leah Whipple Memorial
- 2 - \$1,000 Alumni Scholarship
- 3 - \$750 Alumni Scholarship (For NON University applicants)
- 4 - \$250 Alumni Award: Carlee Carney Memorial Scholarship
- 5 - \$500 Alumni Scholarship: Frances Wilson Stewart Memorial Scholarship
- 6 - \$1,000 Alumni Scholarship: Dr. Jerry Wilson Memorial
- 7 - \$700 Alumni Scholarship: Frances B. McKenzie Memorial Scholarship
8. Dr. Frank and Irene Wilson Memorial Scholarship - usually \$2,000 or \$3,000
9. \$500 Abigail E. Hubbard Memorial Award

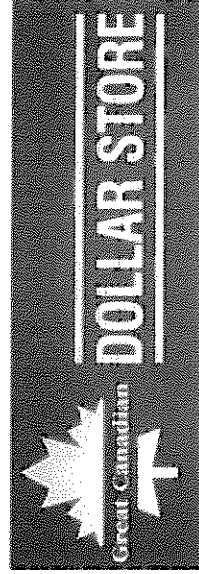
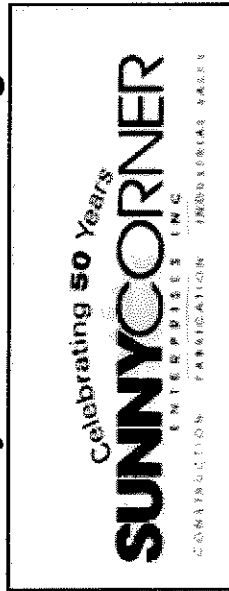
## Professions and Occupations

- chartered accountants
- architects
- PhD's and MD's
- nurses
- medics
- chiropractors
- Artists / Musicians / Writers
- computer scientists
- Physiotherapists
- Professors/Teachers
- Armed forces both enlisted and high ranking officers
- Veterinarians
- Engineers
- Politicians
- (Member of Parliament)
- Truckers
- Carpenters
- Farmers
- very successful trade people
- business people
- high profile entrepreneurs.

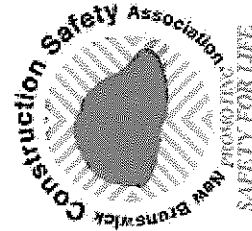
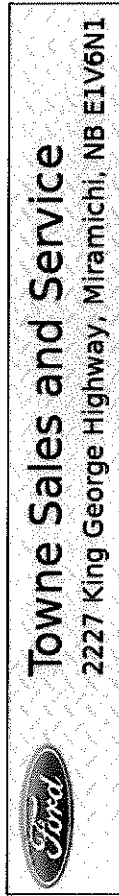
# Business Examples



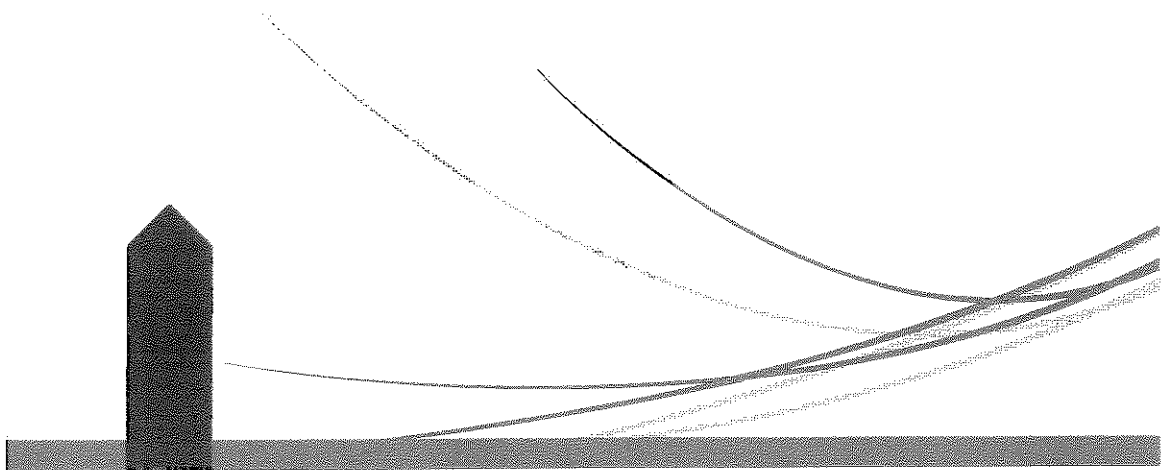
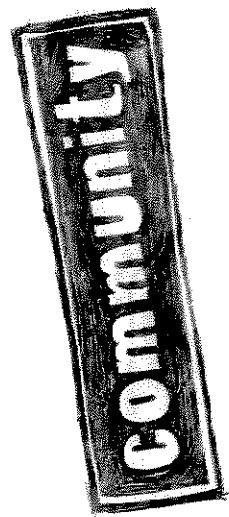
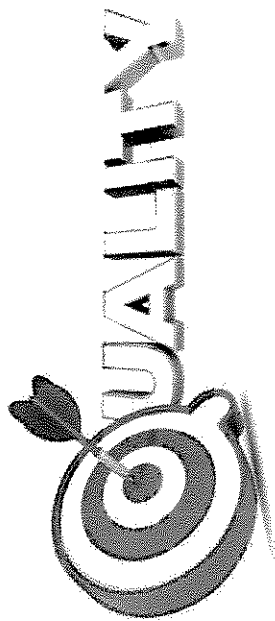
Danny Stewart Trucking Ltd.



Ace Leasing Ltd in Miramichi NB







## **Conclusion (Education Programs and Services):**

North and South Esk Elementary and High School have both been leaders in the province for quality education.

**Therefore no CONCERN !!**  
**Status Quo works!**

## Topic #4

# Transportation

## **Transportation:**

Time spent in transit and cost of travel.



The following slide was given by the District on September 30, 2015

# Transportation

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- Currently in excess of 90% of students within the catchment area for the two schools are provided with bus transportation.
- There are 10 morning runs served by 9 buses. The earliest pick up for a student attending NSEE or NSER is at 7:22 am.
- Longest ride in for an NSEE student is 50 minutes and 45 minutes for a NSER student.
- In the afternoon there are 14 runs covered by 9 buses.
- The longest ride out time for an NSEE student is 47 minutes and it is 48 minutes for an NSER student.

## **Conclusion (Transportation):**

Both North and South Esk Elementary and High School are well serviced by the current system and we see no problems.

**Therefore no CONCERN !!**  
**Status Quo works!**

# Topic #5

Finance





## Finances:

The operating costs including staffing and utilities; the physical condition of buildings, considering short and long-term capital costs and modifications required to school(s) to accommodate transferred students.

- Although we do not disagree with the numbers that the district presented to us on September 30, 2015, we do feel the business case was not accurate.
- In business, we look at both cost and revenue. District office collects revenue thru partnerships NSER and NSEE have with our First Nations communities in Red Bank and Eel Ground. NSER has 45 students and NSEE has 18 Students that fall under these agreements.
- The revenue that is earned in these partnerships should be deducted from the total Operating cost of each school The following slides will show the Cost per Student using this revenue in the manner it should be used.

**Income:**

**NSER**

First Nation Students	X 45	\$ 5,537	\$ 249,165
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Total

\$ 249,165

**NSEE**

First Nation Students	X 18	\$ 5,537	\$ 99,666
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Total

\$ 99,666

# Operation Costs 2014-15

Minus First Nation Revenue

District Slide  
Minus Revenue

Category	NSEE	NSER
Salaries – all staff	\$ 1,354,169	\$ 1,749,205
Instructional Expenses	15,381	20,559
Telephones	3,431	5,213
Electricity & Water	82,586	102,879
Heating Fuel		
Minor Repairs	15,219	15,162
Snow & Garbage Removal	11,917	11,917
Cleaning Supplies	3,159	4,093
Rental		
Total Operating Costs	\$ 1,485,862	\$ 1,909,028
Total Minus Revenue from First Nations	1,386,196	1,659,863
Costs per student	\$ 8,106.41	\$ 7,649.14

## Cost Comparison Per Student Basis

### Elementary Schools

With taking off revenue received by District form First Nations

School	Operation Costs	# of students September 2014	Cost per student
St Andrews Elementary	\$ 2,246,704	285	\$ 7,883.17
Gretna Green Elementary	\$ 1,572,831	197	\$ 7,983.91
Rexton Elementary	\$ 2,073,005	259	\$ 8,003.88
North & South Esk Elementary	\$ 1,485,862	171	\$ 8,106.41
Croft Elementary	\$ 1,548,505	174	\$ 8,899.45

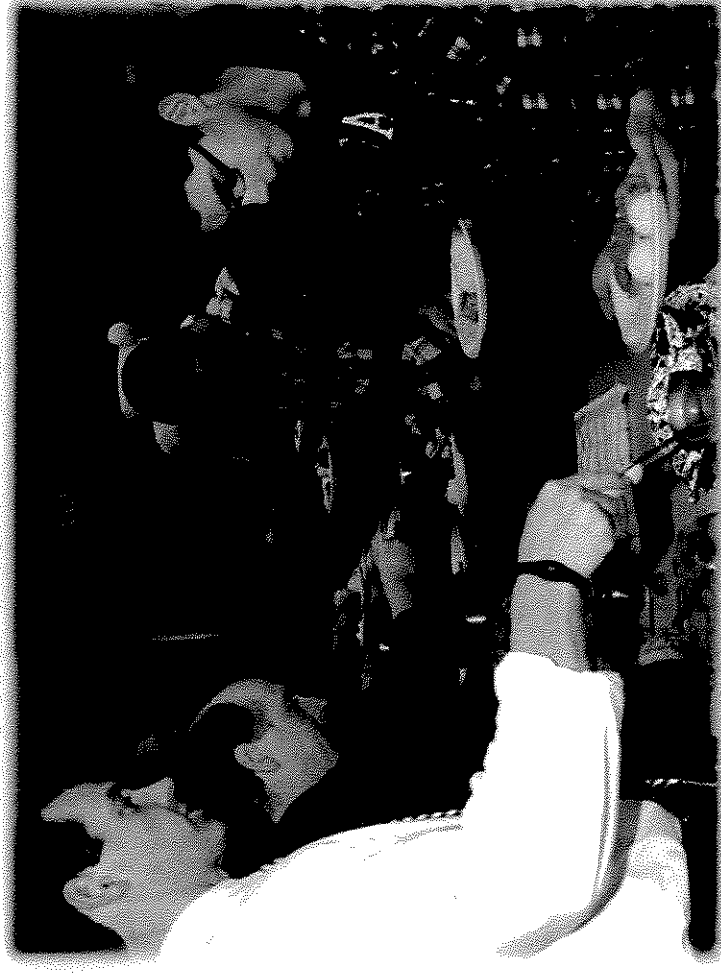
# Cost Comparison Per Student Basis Middle & High Schools

With taking off revenue received by District form First Nations

School	Operation Costs	# of students September 2014	Cost per student
Superior Middle	\$ 2,311,808	316	\$ 7,315.85
Sugarloaf Senior High	\$ 2,992,787	374	\$ 8,002.11
Dalhousie School	\$ 2,971,424	350	\$ 8,489.78
Eleanor W Graham	\$ 1,588,518	181	\$ 8,776.34
North & South Esk Regional	\$ 1,909,028	217	\$ 7,649.13

# Report from NSE Food Services

Kevin Silliker



## North and South Esk Food Service

Ladies and Gentlemen: My name is Kevin Silliker and I serve as the Chair of the volunteer board which governs NSEFS.

Three years ago the commercial company, which operated the NSER and NSEE cafeterias, withdrew its services because it could no longer make a profit while working within the Department of Education's healthy food guidelines for schools. At the time of closure, it is my understanding that they employed 3 ladies, for approximately 21/2 hours per day each, to run the 2 cafeterias.

My board of volunteer parents felt that quality food could and should be provided for the students, at both schools, for a reasonable price. Our hope for the first year was to cover our payroll and expenses and to break even. We did much better than that. As we currently function, our 4 employees and 2 casuals (all of whom are NSER Alumni) collectively get 111hrs weekly. We have paid of 1/2 of our original capitalization. We continue to work with District

Nutritionists to produce menu selections which the students and staff like and which fall well within provincial guidelines for salt, fat and nutritional value.

In our last full year of operation, we paid just slightly under \$4000.00 to the district; the required 3% of sales for use and maintenance of the kitchen area.

Because of the wonderful efforts and success of the Manager and Staff, NSEFS patronize 8-10 local business and we have been able to cater Senior and Elementary graduation banquets, senior citizen dinners, staff appreciation dinners and snacks, as well as district and NBTain-service events. In short, we are a successful school and community service and serve as an example of how closely interconnected this school and this community has always been!

Obviously, as a fledgling service business, we would prefer to maintain the status quo, as we know the markets we serve.

What does concern us deeply is how the Department has inflicted this "trigger" and "formula" on the DEC. First of all, I am quite familiar with this facility as I enjoyed a 32 year career here. The classroom count bears no relation to reality, thus making the maximum capacity number for student's wildly unrealistic.

Secondly, I understand the point of the 30% occupancy figure, but it seems short sighted to not require at least 2 consecutive years below that figure before triggering anything.

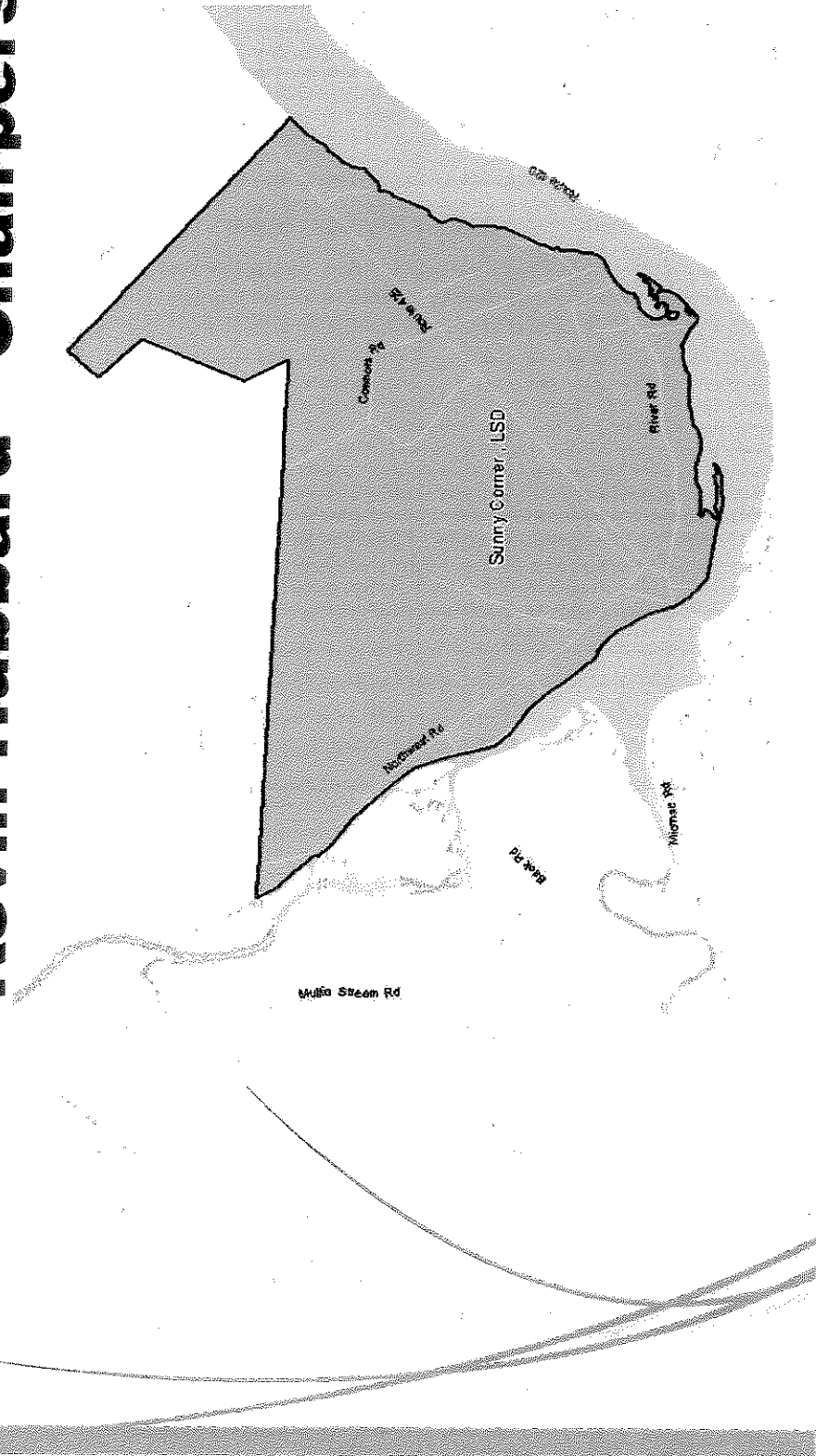
NSEFS is concerned that the muddled thinking, evident in this sustainability study, could produce other ill-conceived financial guidelines, which will be detrimental to the service we provide and reduce the amount of money we can donate to the schools we serve.

I firmly believe the DEC has the best interest of all District students at heart. I implore you to use any and all tools at your disposal to convince the Minister to make this process realistic and honest.



# Sunny Corner Local Service District

## Kevin Hubbard - Chairperson



Superintendent Beth Stymiest, DEC Chairperson Michael Mortlock and members of Anglophone North District Education Committee

As Chairperson for the Sunny Corner Local Service District Committee, one of the situations I would be concerned with if it came to closing our NSEE school would be our tax rate. In the Sunny Corner L.S.D. area our tax base is now \$54,226,800. which gives us a local tax rate of 0.3797 per \$100. of assessment.

If NSEE were to close, our tax base will drop by 4.7 million.. The impact (if we use 2015 figures) would be an increase on the tax rate of 0.0361 per \$100. assessment making the new rate 0.4158. For a property assessed at \$50,000. in Sunny Corner Local Service District, the property tax would increase by \$18.05 or on a \$100,000. assessment the property tax would increase by \$36.10

With our economy the way it is now, why would we put a further strain on people by increasing property tax?

Thank You for considering our perspective.

Kevin Hubbard, Chairperson for Sunny Corner Local Service District

## Conclusion (Finance):

- Both North and South Esk Elementary and High School are in line with other schools as a per student cost. As the District noted the capital cost associated to both is minimal.
- With the extra revenue each school earns that is collected by District, we are well below cost per student with school of similar size in the district.
- Our only suggestion would be that if you expect a Principal to maintain a million plus dollar operation it should be controlled by having a full time position to do so.
- Again in the real world of business you would not allow your company of this size to operate without having someone watching and dealing with issues on a full time basis.

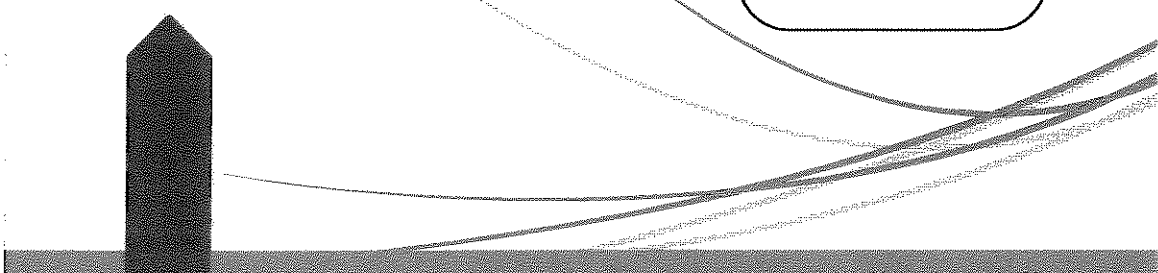
## Conclusion (Finance):

52

Therefore no CONCERN !!  
Status Quo works!

# Topic #6

Impact on Local Economy



## **Impact on the local community:**

Parental involvement and feasibility of continued parental involvement (particularly for elementary pupils), community support, the school's relationship with the community, the effects on culture and language, consideration of whether the school is the sole school in the community, especially at the elementary level.

**We have several people who will speak on the importance and value of our two schools in the community.**

# Home and School

Carla O'Toole



I am here this evening to represent the Home and School Committees for both NSEE and NSER. **Before I continue, allow me to clearly state that we support Option #1...Status Quo.**

Home and School committees play a key role in ensuring a strong and healthy relationship between our children's school and home life. But, this is not where our role ends. We are also a critical entity in helping to organize and fund many of our school's endeavours.

Our committees have remarkably strong relationships, not only with the school they represent, but also with the community that supports them.

Without the generosity of our community, NSEE's Home and School would not have been able to install a \$10,000 playground...even though the committee only started out with a balance of \$2000. We have also purchased a new score-clock for the gym, a storage shed to house equipment and new library furniture...just to name a few.

In terms of the options set before us by this study, we recognize that NSER's Home and School Committee will be relatively unaffected. However; the fate of NSEE's committee will be largely affected by a decision to either close NSEE or move grade six students to NSER.

With a decision to move all students to NSER, both committees would be amalgamated. This is understandable however; **what would then become of the hard work; dedication; and financial sacrifices made by our committee, and more importantly our community, to provide state of the art equipment for our elementary children?**

With a decision to move Grade six students to NSER, we will lose a large amount of our parental support and student involvement. As students progress through elementary, and become more engaged with their school, we see a notable increase in Home and School support by their parents/guardians. Removing grade six students will cause a significant decrease in our membership leading to a decrease in the financial support that we are currently able to provide to our school. The current list of activities that we provide, or support, would be drastically diminished. If you are unsure just what a Home and School is capable of...here is a sample of our recent efforts and contributions:



- Annual “welcome” and “farewell” bbq’s
- Teacher Appreciation Day
- Family Skate Night
- Sports Day
- National Child Day snacks
- Snacks and books for Literacy Day
- Donations towards the skating program; school uniforms; the Breakfast Program; TNB presentations and Science East.
- Free bike for the annual Bike Rodeo

We also feel it is our role to support our school and ensure that it is accurately represented.

In the presentation, given on September 30, it was suggested that moving our Grade six students to NSER would better align our schools with others in the District or province.

Our Response: Our K-6 school is not alone. According to the province’s website, there are currently 16 other K-6 schools.

The study also suggested that this move would allow Grade six students the opportunity to participate in more age appropriate activities.

Our Response: Our schools have a unique advantage over most schools. Our close proximity allows for Grade six students to attend try-outs for middle school sports. Students of both schools are then able to connect, or re-connect, on a social level.

We’ve taken the time to research the topic of placing Grade six students in a middle school environment. Although researchers are “sitting on the fence” with this issue, one of the supporting factors is that middle school allows more independence for sixth graders.

NSEE has already taken the initiative to support the need for independence for these students.

We currently have a Student Leader Program that involves a wide assortment of tasks and responsibilities tailored to the needs of the school, while meeting the desire of involvement and independence within the students. This program was

designed to help students develop the self-confidence and independence they need to be strong and successful students.

The Student Leader Program provides the following opportunities for students:

- Junior Reporters (create and deliver morning announcements)
- Fundraising tasks
- Babysitting
- Buddy Readers
- Technology Mentors
- Volunteering at Fall Fair; Sports Day; Skating Program
- Peer Helpers

I feel the need to highlight the task of being a Peer Helper. These students are trained by Guidance to assist with peer conflict on the playground. Imagine the qualities that are developed, and enriched, by this program. **Qualities that will last a lifetime.**

NSEE will stand to lose the Student Leader program if the decision is made to move these students to NSER. Grade five students cannot simply inherit the Student Leader program due to their required classroom time. We also feel as though most Grade five students have not yet reached the same maturity level to effectively fulfill the majority of these tasks.

We would also like to emphasize the fact that NSEE could stand to lose 2 teaching positions with the loss of the Grade six students while NSER may only gain one position. If the schools amalgamate, the extensive sports programs, currently offered at NSEE, would no longer have the ability to operate at the same level due to limited gym time.

**In closing, I would like to recognize how this recent feasibility study has forced us to take a look at the importance of our schools and the impact they have on our community and vice versa. In a strange way, this study has strengthened our bond and made us take a step back and truly appreciate what we have built, and maintained, over the years. Perhaps we should be thanking the provincial government for making everyone else realize it too.**

# Sunny Corner Fire Department

Chief Murray Sherrard



## Save Our Schools-by Chief Murray Sherrard

In 1980 the Local Service District of Sunny Corner was formed. A couple of years later... in 1982... the Sunny Corner Volunteer Fire department was formed and I became a part of the fire department to help make Sunny Corner and the surrounding areas a safer place to live. I was honored to be elected fire chief by my peers in 2001 and have been chief ever since.

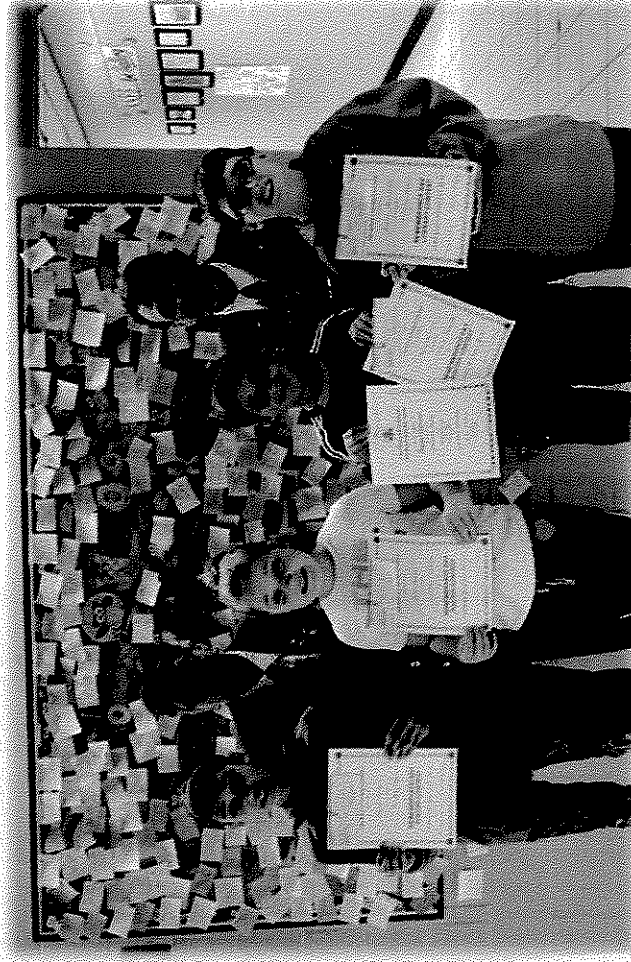
In 1992 when our oldest child was graduating, they were renovating NSER and therefore they used the Lions Center for their prom.... and used NSEE for the graduation ceremonies. At that time the community as a whole got together and made this very important time in these people's lives happen.

The fire department works closely with NSER and NSEE when called upon...for example,,,breakfast with Santa, breakfast programs , safe grad demonstrations, attend both schools as part of fire prevention week, do scheduled fire drills and help out with other activities when called upon.

Today the same community will rally together again to help us keep our two schools open here so that those attending will continue to know the love and support of our community. As Fire Chief,,,, as a father,,,, as a grandfather ,,,,and a member of this great community...please reconsider leaving our schools as they are. NO SCHOOLS...NO KIDS....NO COMMUNITY!

# Legion Branch #90

Russell Whitney



Mr. Chairman, Members of the DEC, friends and neighbors, my name is Russell Whitney and I am speaking on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion, North West Branch #90 located here in Sunny Corner. I am the Service Officer and the Treasurer.

By way of background, Branch #90 was chartered in 1957 by several World War II veterans who wanted a Branch in their own community. Several transferred their legion memberships from Newcastle and Chatham and several other veterans joined to form Branch #90 to serve veterans, their families and the community of North and South Esk, the same geographic service area as North and South Esk Elementary and North and South Esk High School now serve.

Over the years we have worked with, first just NSER then in the 80s with NSEE and now we also serve and work with Natoaganeg (Eel Ground) First Nations and Metepenagiag (Red Bank) First Nations.

The Principals, teachers and the students have fully embraced a relationship that has grown and flourished with all participating in the Poster, Poem and Essay Contest that has hundreds of thousands of student participants in Canada.

All four North & South Esk schools have excelled in these programs and they have been the recipients of winner certificates and thousands of dollars from Branch # 90, New Brunswick Command and Dominion Command.

Dozens of Provincial and two National Winners have been earned by our schools just over the last ten years.

We are proud of our community schools. The Legion has, for years, supported Cadets, first the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corp #2441 at North and South Esk Regional, which was supported both financially and through legion volunteers' involvement with the Corp. For the last 12 years we now sponsor Corp 3037 army cadets in Miramichi where many North & South Esk students participate.

Branch # 90 also provides two bursaries annually to graduates of NSER and these bursaries have gone on since the Branch as formed.

The use of our building and hall for fund raisers for Safe Grads, etc., is another area where we freely and without charge assist the students of North & South Esk.

Each year in July we offer, up to three students from Grade 11 and 12, the Royal Canadian Legion Leadership Training Residential School for one week at Mount Allison University at no cost to the students. Many NSER students have participated, all return with raving reviews of their experience.

All in all, over the years since 1957, Branch #90 has contributed approximately \$120,000.00 in cash or in kind assistance to students.

I can't say enough about the Staff of all our schools we participate with. All of them are committed to our children. They teach our programs for us, let us use the school and we provide some money, wreaths and crosses and volunteers to assist. It is a true partnership.

The main purpose of the Royal Canadian Legion is to promote remembrance for those who served their country willingly and of course for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for democracy and freedom. Freedom to have our children taught the history of those who served from North and South Esk and across this great country.

As a matter of fact this school and NSEE had a student who gave the ultimate price for country and freedom just recently. Master Corporal Allan Stewart was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2007 and we honor him each year, along with so many others.

Besides the use of NSER on Remembrance Day, we participate with students from NSEE and NSER and staff at their own Remembrance Ceremonies. All veterans in attendance are so appreciative of the conduct and manners of the students. All of the Vets would never miss attending if it is physically possible.

On a personal note, I would like to express a personal observation and experience that I believe shows that these programs clearly work. My father passed away this August at the age of 96 plus. He was a World War II veteran who never missed these school visitations. About five or six years ago he received a post card from a neighbor's child. It was a post card prepared by Veterans Canada and distributed by the Legion. He showed me it with watery eyes. I didn't know how much it meant to him until my brother and I were going through his things after he passed and on the top of his dresser we found this post card addressed: "to a brave veteran".

I am just going to read what she said and I quote "Dear Mr. Whitney: Thank you for risking your life so we can have freedom. I appreciated what you did for our country. Your bravery will be remembered. Yours truly".

I believe this says it all about the quality of students, and the staff and programs that they teach our children.

In conclusion, we know your job is not easy, and that money is very hard to come by. But our children are our hope for the future and they deserve as good an education as we can possibly give them.

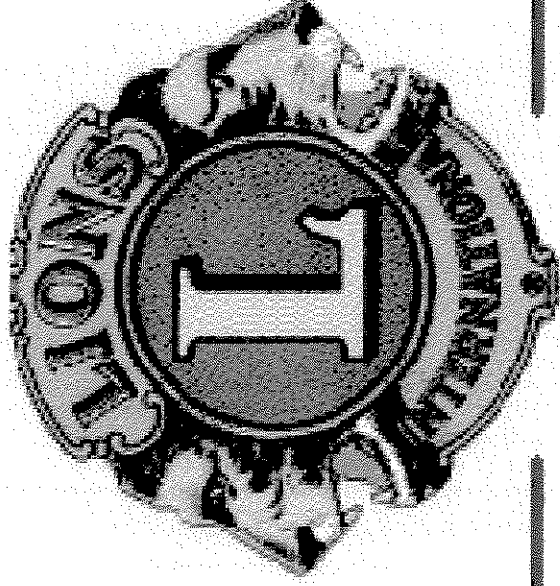
The Districts own comparisons of our schools excellence and cost per student shows no significant difference between the cost of our schools with generally higher academic achievements than others in this District and across the province. "Please don't fiddle with it". Branch #90 fully supports the position of NSER and NSEE Save Our Schools Committee. "No Change is Necessary" we support your Option 1. As outlined in the District presentation on September 30, 2015 meeting right here. "Please don't try and fix what isn't broke".

"Lest We Forget"

Thank You

# North and South Esk Lions Club

Tim Hoban



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**We Serve**

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**NORTH & SOUTH ESK LIONS CLUB INC.,**

1762 Route 425, Sunny Corner, NB

E9E 1J2

27 Oct 2015

**Re: DEC Policy 409 - NSER & NSEE - Possible closure??**

Please be advised that the North & South Esk Lions Club was chartered in June of 1976, as a non-profit Service Organization covering the region similar to that of the NSER and NSEE.

The Lions Club has had a very active and amicable relationship with the staff and students of NSER & NSEE. The following is a summary of some of the many joint projects carried out by NSER & NSEE and the Lions Club over the past several decades;

- a. Sponsored students on trips/visits to Ottawa, parliamentary experience.
- b. Provided scholarships to students to assist in furthering their education
- c. Assisted with Safe Grads, Fund Raising for Student projects
- d. Assist students in Volunteer and leadership programs
- e. Students assisting Club through volunteering with Club projects  
ie: Community Monthly breakfasts and catering functions.
- f. Attending yearly Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- g. Introduction of speak off and peace poster contests to students

Discussions commenced this year with NSER, Principal Dean MUCH, in regards to the Development and building of a "Community Walking Track and Community Garden" on the School property. The discussions

were put on hold due to this process presently taking place. Why would we develop such a project if our Schools were to be eliminated from our Community.

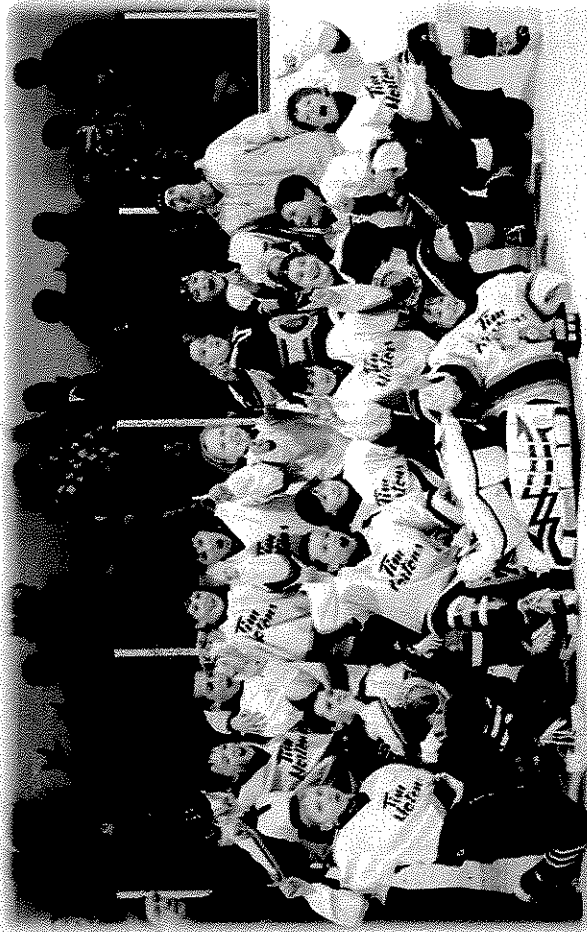
In conclusion, the closing of our schools would result in the students being deprived of sponsored trips; loss of specific scholarships to further their education; loss of Community support for specific projects; loss of opportunity to develop personal skills such as human relations, communication skills, and a sense of responsibility through working as volunteers within their Community. It is the sincere feeling of the North & South Esk Lions Club, that should our schools be eliminated from our Community, our Community would also be decimated. It is sincerely recommended that neither NSER nor NSEE be closed and lost to our community.

Tim HOBAN -

Past Council Chair, Past District Governor, Immediate Past President  
North & South Esk Lions Club

# Sunny Corner Arena

Cameron Matchett



## Save NSER/NSEE Meeting

Good Evening,

I am Cameron Matchett, one of the directors for the North & South Esk Rec council. The Rec council was incorporated in 1966 to encourage fitness and to make sure there was a rink and ballfield for young and old to enjoy. In the early years of the 1970's an indoor arena was on the minds and in the planning stage of the Rec Council.

In 1978 the footing was eventually used for the indoor arena was poured. In 1998 with ice plant installed and \$1.2 Million spent the community of North and South Esk finally realized there dream with a beautiful indoor arena.

Over the years the rec council has had a long relationship with the School District, NSER and later on with NSEE. In 1974 the downstairs of the rec building was renovated and rented to NSER to teach Motor Mechanics class for many years, until NSER was renovated and completed in 1993. When the District did away with supplying the principal with housing, which was owned by NSER, then they turned the house over to the Rec council and the council rented it for many years to generate money, then the house was sold. This gave the Council money that many years later became seed money to help start to build an indoor ice arena. The sunny Corner Arena is the major asset of the Rec Council, along with the lighted ballfield, both properties sit between the two schools.

The Sunny Corner Arena is the ONLY arena in New Brunswick that is not funded by a village, town, city, or Local Service District.

Total expenditures for 2014 was \$120,842.00

Total revenue for same period was \$109,520.00

As you can see we ran a deficit of approximately \$13,000.00

Our revenue comes from ice rentals, community fundraising, and donations. Total ice rented for 2014 was \$50,228.00, 46% of total revenue. Sunny corner Minor Hockey paid \$15,570.00 in ice rental, 31% of total ice rental revenue. As you can see Minor Hockey is vital to our rinks survival.

Children want to play hockey or ringette with their friends and classmates. If either school is closed and moved to a school in town, that will be the end of Minor Hockey in Sunny Corner. These children will sign up to play with their classmates in the Miramichi Minor Hockey Association, and that revenue will be lost.

Without the revenue of minor hockey here in Sunny corner, the arena would no longer have the funds to keep operating.

What binds all these small communities: Sunny Corner, Exmoor, Sevolge, Wayerton, South Esk, Red Bank, and South West, and many more into a big community are these two Schools, and the arena. If one of these schools closes then shortly thereafter the Sunny Corner Arena would also have to close its doors.

I and the rest of Rec Council encourage the DEC committee, School District 16, and the Minister of Education to take NSER and NSEE off the closure list. The well-being of many people is at stake.

I would also like to thank the "Save the Schools" committee, for asking the Rec Council to have a presentation and the DEC personnel for listening and of course the people of this great community for all your support and encourage everyone to get involved with the Rec Council for its continued success.

Thank You

Cameron Matchett