



**Education and Early Childhood Development  
Office of the Minister**

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PO Box 578, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2S9 • Telephone 902 424-4236 Fax 902 424-0680 • [www.ednet.gov.ns.ca](http://www.ednet.gov.ns.ca)

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October 25, 2024

Conference Participants:

**Re: Strengthening Local Voice – Provincial School Advisory Council Conference**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your participation in the first Annual Provincial School Advisory Council (SAC) Conference. Your presence and engagement were invaluable, and I am deeply grateful for the time and effort you dedicated to making this event a success. I was thrilled to hear that many of you enjoyed the conference and found it valuable.

I would also like to thank everyone for the feedback they provided, whether in-person on the day, or through the online conference evaluation survey. Your insights and experiences have provided us with a wealth of information to consider as we begin to plan for next year. Reflecting on the feedback the Department received, here are some key takeaways:

- We heard your suggestions about the timing and scheduling of the conference. We recognize the importance of Truth and Reconciliation Day and worked to honour that at the conference. In future, we will work to select a date that doesn't coincide with significant observances.
- We understand that choosing between multiple interesting breakout sessions was challenging. We are currently working on translating all the breakout session PowerPoints so they are available online in English and French for all. When ready, they can be found here: [School Advisory Councils | Education and Early Childhood Development](#).
- You provided many great suggestions for future topics and content including: student, community and family engagement; school safety; educational policies and programs; and a session by SAC members, for SAC members.
- Many of you appreciated sessions that provided practical takeaways to inform your work. We will strive for future sessions to offer actionable insights and be more interactive and directly beneficial to SAC members and Administrators.

- Your input in the Safe and Inclusive Schools Plenary was particularly useful in informing the next draft of the policy. We will aim to put aside much more time in future to dive deep into important topics such as this. We have now posted an updated version of the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy for additional feedback. Please read the working draft and participate in the online consultation by visiting: <https://www.ednet.ns.ca/school-safety>.
- We were pleased that the venue and location received high ratings in the evaluation survey. For a conference of this size, the Halifax Convention Centre is currently the only available venue option. We expect to use this venue again in the future.

It is encouraging to see from the survey that so many of you are very likely to attend future conferences. Your dedication to improving our public education system is truly inspiring. The Department is committed to using your feedback to inform decision-making and to ensure future events meet your needs. Once again, thank you for your participation and for sharing your valuable feedback.

Sincerely,



Becky Druhan  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development