

Executive Summary of Gaudet & Associates Perception Survey

Gaudet & Associates has surveyed educators and public stakeholders on behalf of the District 2 Education Council. The intent of the survey was to provide insight into perceptions on the overall quality of education in New Brunswick by asking the following questions:

- **What is working well in education in New Brunswick?**
- **What is not working well in education in New Brunswick?**
- **What advice, if any, would you have for the District Education Council?**

Respondents were also asked to rate the overall impression of the education system in New Brunswick on a numbered scale.

There were more than 600 individuals surveyed representing educators, administrators and a wide variety of stakeholders.

For the purpose of data presentation, the respondents are divided into two groupings; **educators and public stakeholders**. The responses, while broad due to the nature of the questions, were divided into five principal groupings: teaching and curriculum related, inclusion related, French Immersion related, communication related and other.

The overall rating of the education system in New Brunswick by educators and public stakeholders was **7.5 out of 10**. This demonstrates that while respondents believe that there are areas for improvement, they generally believe there is much that is done well.

Working Well

Educators and public stakeholders share the impression that New Brunswick has a high level of quality teachers and administrators who are dedicated to the delivery of a quality education. There is the belief that the Quality Learning Agenda and principally its focus on literacy in the earlier years is working well and is showing dividends. There is support as well for the consistency of determined outcomes and the anti-bullying program.

Educators and public stakeholders also agree that it is vital to have a strong French Immersion and Core French program in New Brunswick. There is a high level of satisfaction with the efforts of teaching assistants, resource teachers and councilors given their constraints of time and resources.

Not Working Well

Educators and public stakeholders share the impression that while resources available to assist educators are good, there are simply not enough of them. There is a significantly strong impression that there are insufficient human and material resources to meet the demands of outcomes for a high quality education.

Educators and public stakeholders are of the opinion that, while philosophically the concept of inclusion is sound, there is a huge disconnect in its current delivery.

Respondents have a strong impression that inclusion, in its present format, is not working well.

There is also agreement on the impression that there are inadequate offerings in the trades and arts. Educators and public stakeholders believe that the curriculum offerings are too academically focused and this does not reflect the reality of the large percentage of New Brunswick students not going on to University.

Public stakeholders tend to believe that there is insufficient attention given to life skills, such as skills required for job-searching, interviewing and general social behavioral issues.

Advice for the District Education Council

Generally, the educators and public stakeholders are of the opinion that the DEC should have an advocacy role on behalf of a high quality and effective education system in District 2.

Not surprising in the context of “**what is working well**” and “**what is not working well**” responses, educators and public stakeholders are of the impression that the DEC needs to give attention to the following:

- **recognizing the quality of educators**
- **advocacy for human and material resources**
- **focus on class composition and size**
- **ensure quality and equal programming in all streams**
- **communicate effectively it’s stakeholders**

This report will provide insight into degrees to which educators and public stakeholders addressed these issues and provide comparative data which should assist the DEC in the presentation of their Strategic Plan.