

## LIBERALS WANT MANDATORY PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS

### **News Release**

December 13, 2007

Leo Glavine, MLA  
Education Critic

### **LIBERALS WANT MANDATORY PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS**

(Halifax, NS) Liberal Education Critic Leo Glavine today re-introduced legislation that would make physical education mandatory for Nova Scotia students.

The Liberal amendment to the *Education Act* would provide for at least 30 minutes of daily physical activity at school for children grades primary to nine.

“Liberals are committed to helping young people develop active, healthy lifestyles,” says Glavine. “Our bill allows students to develop healthy habits at an early age that will serve them well throughout their lives.”

Glavine says Canadian youth are becoming increasingly sedentary and there are numerous benefits to promoting physical activity in the school system. “Regular exercise helps protect children from obesity and disease, such as Type 2 diabetes. It reduces stress and we all know that healthy children learn better.”

“By focusing on developing healthy lifestyles in students, we will actually relieve some of the pressure on our healthcare system. I hope the government recognizes the value of this bill and takes the necessary steps to make Nova Scotia students healthier.”

News Release: LARGE CLASS SIZES DETRIMENTAL TO LEARNING

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### **LARGE CLASS SIZES DETRIMENTAL TO LEARNING**

(Halifax, NS) Liberal Education Critic Leo Glavine says many classes in Nova Scotia schools are just too large and our children’s education could be suffering as a result.

Glavine today re-introduced legislation to amend the *Education Act* to limit class sizes in public schools to no more than 35 students, from grades primary to nine. “Nova Scotia educators are feeling the strain of large class sizes,” said Glavine. “It makes it more

difficult for teachers to do their jobs and for students to receive the one-on-one attention they deserve.”

The current funding formula is designed to support school boards where enrollment has decreased by more than two per cent. Glavine says the Hogg report on school board funding falls short in addressing large class sizes, especially at junior and senior high school levels.

"An adequate and stable learning environment is essential for the overall development of Nova Scotia youth," said Glavine. "Large class sizes are detrimental to any student's learning environment."

Glavine notes that junior high classes can be especially challenging where more one-on-one attention is needed. "These are the grade levels now experiencing the highest dropout rates."

There are 70 classes with over 35 students in the Halifax Regional School Board alone. Annapolis Valley Regional School Board has 35 classes with over 35 students.