



Equal Education Association of Nova Scotia
Attn.: Wade Brummet, Chair

Via email: wbrummet@cffi.com

21 May, 2009

Dear Mr. Brummet:

I am writing on behalf of Darrell Dexter, leader of the New Democratic Party, to thank you for your letter from the Equal Education Association of Nova Scotia. As you know, Darrell has been a champion for support for learning disabled students since he first entered the House of Assembly.

The NDP is well aware of the years of hard work by your organization in advocating on behalf of learning disabled students and for tuition support. The NDP has been an active partner with EEANS on this very important cause. In fact, NDP MLAs have raised this issue many times in the House of Assembly.

The NDP recognizes the necessity for Designated Special Education Private Schools providing intensive remedial instruction, and the Tuition Support program, until the public school system is able to provide programs that are as good as, or better than, those supplied by these private schools.

With regard to ongoing program availability, the NDP believes that the current four-year limit has nothing to do with student achievement and is an arbitrary number.

The NDP anticipates that arbitrary limits to tuition support will be examined in the current review, which involves parent representatives. The NDP is committed to providing a clear response to the recommendations of that review within 60 days of its completion. This will end the uncertainty students and parents have faced for far too many years under the Conservative government.

I trust that your members will have the opportunity to review these answers in informing their voting intentions in this election. More details on our platform, *Better Deal 2009*, are available on our website at <http://www.ns.ndp.ca/>. Thank you for the opportunity to outline the NDP position on these important issues.

Best regards,

Dan O'Connor

Dan O'Connor
Chief of Staff to Darrell Dexter
Leader, Nova Scotia New Democratic Party