

Department of Education and Early Childhood
Development
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Date : March 30, 2022
To: Superintendents, Anglophone School Districts
From: George Daley, Deputy Minister
Copies : Craig Caldwell, Assistant Deputy Minister
Lisa Lacenaire, Executive Director, Policy and Planning
Subject: **Partisan Political Activities in Schools**

By-elections may be held shortly in two electoral districts in the greater Miramichi area. This memo is intended to help interpret the school system's obligations in terms of partisan political activities in schools during elections and also during the nomination of candidates by a political party.

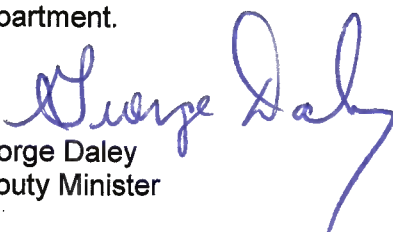
The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development believes it is important for students to gain an understanding of the fundamental "representative" form of democracy practiced in Canada and New Brunswick, as well as an appreciation of good citizenship and of the role politics play in everyday life.

However, subsection 29(1) of *the School Administration Regulation (97-150)* under the *Education Act* establishes that the use of symbols or emblems distinctive of any political party shall not be exhibited or employed in or on school property or in school exercises.

Consequently, no school or district resources shall be used to support a candidate or a political party. Partisan political activities are any activities that involve direct or indirect support of, or opposition to, any political party or candidate for public office at the local, provincial or national level. Activities include, but are not limited to, visits by individual candidates, campaign speeches and media opportunities such as photo opportunities, videos or press conferences. Visits by candidates should be allowed if offered to all those offering. Visits and/or debates can occur, but it is recommended that they be done virtually this year.

Furthermore, the Office of the Chief Information Officer's Directive: IT 13.04 state that the use of government issued email addresses are prohibited from being used to enable a personal business venture and not related to the company's business. This includes using your government issued email account to send information about partisan political activities.

Should you require additional information, please contact the Policy and Legislative Affairs Branch at the Department.



George Daley
Deputy Minister