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Press Release

For Immediate Release

Date: 13 March 2020
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All Education Institutions to Close Starting, Monday, March 16

Premier Alden McLaughlin has advised that after consultation with Public Health and the Ministry of Education, Youth Sports, Agriculture and Lands (MEYSAL), all educational institution (schools, early childhood education centres, universities, tutoring centres, technical and vocational training centres, etc.) will close starting, Monday, March 16.

In an announcement today, the Premier advised, “In the wake of the recent announcement of a local confirmed case, we have made the difficult decision to suspend operations of all educational institutions until further notice. The fact of the matter is that educational institutions are hubs for large gatherings of children/students where it is difficult to control certain outcomes.”

Social distancing and avoiding large gatherings are best practice protection and prevention measures in the wake of the new global COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

Minister for Education Juliana O'Connor-Connolly also advised, "MEYSAL and the Department of Education Services (DES) have been closely monitoring the developments of the COVID-19 Coronavirus, while adjusting business continuity operations and plans in specific response to the newest global pandemic. Some of these plans include the provision of home learning resources for all our students. We understand that these are trying times for our parents and ask that we continue to all work together towards adjusting our lives to this phenomenon."

Educational Institutions will remain closed until at least Monday April 27, 2020. The Ministry of Education will hold a meeting on April 20, 2020 to review the situation and see if institutions can re-open on April 27 or if an extension of closure is needed. Education officials will inform parents/guardians and continue to update the wider public as necessary.

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