



# YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY BE DEAF TO EXPERTISE ...BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE THEM DEAF EXPERTS!

On 19 July 2010 at the International Congress of Educators of the Deaf, more than 800 highly experienced teachers of deaf children from around the world formally repudiated 130 years of efforts to close Deaf schools and eliminate the use of Sign language.

Exactly one week later, the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador eliminated quality Deaf education in this province by closing the Newfoundland School for the Deaf (NSD).

Thousands of Deaf people, Deaf consumer organizations, experts in Deaf education and Deaf children protested with letters, emails, petitions and demonstrations.

The Government's response was to dismiss them all as "outsiders" who are "out of date". Really? These thousands of people are Deaf themselves and work in the Deaf community, whereas the

Government doesn't have a single Deaf person advising it. Who are the "outsiders" to the education of the Deaf?

And "out of date"? This Government pushed the province back 130 years, while the rest of the world was advancing Deaf people into 2011 and beyond!

Then-Minister of Education, Darin King, claimed to have followed "expert" internal advice. Fact: he has made an endless series of erroneous statements in the House and to the public that expose the lack of real expertise in the Department.

He claimed to have consulted with the community and obtained their support. Fact: he never once met with the Deaf community and repeatedly refused requests to do so. The closure of NSD is unanimously opposed by all Deaf community organizations and services.

He claimed guidance was provided by NSD staff and administration. Fact: staff and administrators known to support the continuation of NSD were harassed, intimidated, and reassigned.

He claimed no one wanted to enroll in NSD. Fact: parents were told NSD was no longer an option. Any parents who persisted in trying to enroll their Deaf child at NSD were refused and, in at least one case, threatened with consequences.

This government deliberately strangled NSD without any justification based in pedagogy or economics, and without any proper consultation with the public.

We ask the people of Newfoundland and Labrador who has more credibility in this issue: tens of thousands of Deaf experts around the world, or one government without a single recognized Deaf education expert in it?

## **DO THE RIGHT THING! CALL AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE CLOSURE OF THE NEWFOUNDLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF!**

Sponsored by the Committee for Deaf Education (Newfoundland and Labrador) and supported by: Newfoundland and Labrador Association of the Deaf, Newfoundland and Labrador Deaf Sports Association, Canadian Association of the Deaf, Canadian Hearing Society, Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada, Deaf Bilingualism Coalition, World Federation of the Deaf, 14 provincial/local Deaf consumer organizations across Canada, more than 30 private individual donors, and over 10,000 petitioners. [www.cdenl.ca](http://www.cdenl.ca)