

July 2, 2010

Liberals: NDP's Decision To Raise Tax Will Reach The Classroom



(Halifax, NS) Liberal education critic Kelly Regan says the NDP's HST hike has Nova Scotia's school boards bracing for increased costs and she's concerned the negative financial impact could reach the province's classrooms.

"As a province, we need to be investing in our educational system - not siphoning money away from our students and teachers," Regan contends. "Unfortunately, taking money out of the classroom is exactly what the Dexter government has done with this two per cent tax grab."

Regan says the increase in the HST means the province's largest school board, the Halifax Regional School Board, must cope with an additional \$250-\$300 thousand in costs for this fiscal year.

The full impact of the NDP's HST increase on the province's school boards is estimated at \$600-\$700 thousand - a total equivalent to approximately 10,000 text books. The Liberal MLA for Bedford-Birch Cove believes recouping that amount of money in an education system already stretched thin will be challenging.

"The school boards required a 3.6 per cent increase in their budgets this year just to keep pace," Regan says. "Not only did the government fail to provide an adequate level of funding, now the NDP are clawing back two per cent more in taxes."

"This is a government that balked at making the tough decisions," explains Regan. "Now our educators and administrators are forced to deal with those difficult choices at the board level."