

Child and Youth Advocate Releases Perspectives on the Education System's Response to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

Child and Youth Advocate Jackie Lake Kavanagh has released **The Sounds of Silence**. This report highlights the many perspectives heard on the Education system's response to deaf and hard of hearing children and youth.



In October 2019, the Child and Youth Advocate issued an invitation seeking feedback about educational services to children and youth who are deaf and hard of hearing. Young people and families with direct experience in the education system, as well as professionals and other stakeholders were invited to contact the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate in confidence to share experiences and ideas. The Advocate sincerely thanks all who have participated in the process.

Jackie Lake Kavanagh said, "Children and youth in Newfoundland and Labrador have a right to the best possible education and school experience. There are no exceptions to this right." This report provides the insights of those directly involved, shines a light on this important children's rights issue and offers a valuable contribution in advancing public policy for education services for deaf and hard of hearing children.

The Advocate stated, "A meaningful systemic commitment and approach is needed to address the rights and needs of deaf and hard of hearing children in the Newfoundland and Labrador education system. This will require leadership, resources, innovative thinking, and meaningful discussions with young people, families and the diverse stakeholder community."

The report can be viewed on the OCYA website: www.childandyouthadvocate.nl.ca
The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate can be reached by calling (1-877) 753-3888 or emailing office@ocya.nl.ca.

Media Contact:

Wilma MacInnis
Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
(709) 753-3888
wilmamacinnis@ocya.nl.ca