

**Education Update in La Loche**

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The Ministry of Education continues to work closely with the community and the Northern Lights School Division (NLSD) to ensure a safe and inclusive learning environment for the students and staff in La Loche. A 2016-17 school plan is under development, which will aim to improve outcomes for students.

The Ministry of Education, Keewatin Yatthé Health Region (KYHR) and NLSD worked together to coordinate counselling services over the summer at the La Loche Friendship Centre. NLSD has also hired four additional counsellors, for a total of six.

Resources are being reallocated to offer Adult Basic Education (ABE) and trades education options for students. The Tri-Trades program is open to students 18 years of age and older. It provides students exposure to more than one trade. Students can earn a Practical and Applied Arts Credit, credit for hours towards a particular trade, and/or a trade certificate.

The Ministry of Education also provided \$20,000 for the replacement of gym equipment at the high school.

Security at the schools continues to be a priority. Emergency lock-down protocols are in place for both Ducharme Elementary and Dene High School. Security officers are stationed in both schools during operations and are on site during any after school or weekend activities. NLSD continues to work closely with the RCMP, including a School Resource Officer (SRO) and a Crime Prevention Officer (CRO) working with both schools.

Security assessments have been completed for both schools and the schools security and phone systems have received a \$140,000 upgrade. Violent Threat Risk Assessment training will continue to be offered throughout the Northern Lights School Division.