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intervene when individuals show signs of becoming radicalized. We as politicians do not enforce the law, but we have the duty to make sure that law enforcement has the necessary tools to

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ed truth that we have fallen behind in educating our children in Nova Scotia. And they, in turn have fallen behind their peers, nationally and internationally.

On national and international tests of achievement in literacy, math, and science, Nova Scotia students generally perform lower than their peers in other Canadian provinces.

Adding to these disturbing trends, teachers and administrators are facing increasing demands and expectations-taking on responsibilities well beyond traditional education, particularly when it comes to the mental and physical well-being of students. Schools today are delivering an array of programs and services in cooperation with a variety of agencies and departments. This is in addition to their traditional role of teaching the Public School Program.

The province's action plan will bring several changes for students. A new electronic school file will be created for every child at birth so parents can track development and educators can suggest services. Preschoolers will be screened at 18 and 36 months, as well as six months before starting school to help determine whether supports are needed.

Young students will spend more time on math and literacy, and funding will be targeted for math mentors in grades Primary to 3. Grade 10 students will take a mandatory citizenship course,

keep Canadians safe. We will continue to do just that. More is also available at <http://pm.gc.ca>

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll - free at 1-888-752-0552; visit my website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on

Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong MP.
Scott Armstrong is Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Social Development and MP Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley.

and Grade 11 academic math will become a full-year course.

The province will create a homework policy, to be developed with input from teachers. Some students "go on to university and get a rude awakening of how much homework they have to do."

The province will develop a student code of conduct that identifies acceptable behaviour, and what the consequences are for unacceptable behaviour.

The auditor general will be asked to examine the governance model of the province's eight elected school boards, including the committee structure, the effectiveness of management structure of senior staff (Central Office) and the efficiency of services, such as payroll, purchasing, transportation and finance.

The report calls for the eight professional development days to be pulled out of the 195 teaching days. Casey will also ask that principals and school board administrators be removed from the union. Roughly 600 of the union's 10,000 members fall into that category. It is uncommon for management to remain members of the same union as those they supervise. These changes will be accomplished through cooperation and/or negotiation with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

But there are positive aspects to the report, she said, including the increased reliance on teacher assessments rather than standardized tests, and the development of a student code of conduct.

"I like the fact that we're going to do something about student

behaviour. Teachers are dealing with a vast amount of violence in the schools," she said. "If we can manage that behaviour, I think learning outcomes will be easier for students to achieve."

Among other changes in the offing are: a new observation survey of literacy at the start of Grade 1; a new class-size cap of 24 students in grades 10 and 11 academic math; by 2020, students will be required to complete three high school math courses before graduation; new requirements for teacher certification; school boards will be encouraged to make more opportunities for new teacher graduates; new provincial criteria for placing a student on an individual program plan and a review of efficiency of the Education Department.

Nova Scotia is a small province filled with enormous potential. At one time, our province had a reputation of innovation in the classroom and for leading the way in education. We can be leaders again by building upon the tremendous potential that we have right here at home. We have talented students, supportive parents, and skilled teachers who are all committed to student success. The cooperation of everyone involved will be fundamental to the successful implementation of the Action Plan. Starting now, we will renew, refocus, and rebuild. Thank you for your anticipated support.

Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North is Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

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believe council approved an increase in the balefill tipping fee to cover the increasing cost of baling, burying garbage, plus collection and treatment of the leachate. Had I been at the meeting, I would have supported the increase. This will not have any effect on your household garbage rate, only for those who deliver commercial waste, construction debris etc. I understand the residential portion will be covered by reserves. Now this may sound unfair to commercial, but keep in mind, for the most part commercial garbage is not sorted the way residential is and thus much more costly to dispose.

I know it is not wise for a politician to talk about unpopular things, but I want to speak briefly about the Civic Center. Since the

beginning it has been a lightning rod for many reasons, some right and some wrong. There is no question there have been growing pains. Regardless, we built it, we own it and there is no turning back.

I think/hope, many of these growing pains are behind us and it is time to move forward in the right direction. This is a modern recreation facility and essential to any growing community. Trust me we have to grow our community. Without growth, more and more tax burden falls back on us, the residents.

Over the next while you will hear reports detailing economic spin offs of events held there and dollars spent in our community as a result. The naysayers will say yes but all that did was support businesses and we the residents got no benefit. I have said this before and will say again now, that is absolutely not true! Without those businesses the residents would be paying a very

significantly higher tax rate to provide services they require. During annual budget deliberations we are given information and comparables to other Municipalities. Trust me, those areas without a significant commercial tax base struggle with difficulty to provide the services required.

In closing, I'll mention I was away at a conference in London, Ontario last week. I am sure you are tired of me talking about garbage and renewable green energies etc, so I won't bore you today, except other to say, it was a very interesting worthwhile event and I feel fortunate to have been able to attend. I have written a report to council and if anyone wishes let me know and I will share with you.

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

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Mr. Baha'i had also rented the bunker out to a local film producer that shot a full length movie inside the facility. With Jonathan's entrepreneurial spirit and absolute determination to see the bunker succeed and prosper I believe we will be hearing a lot about this facility in the near future.

With our tours completed and it well past noon we decided to have lunch at the Double C. This gave me a great opportunity to present the Premier with a copy of the Geological/Archaeological survey which was conducted on approximately 588 acres of land around the Debert Airport last summer. The Province and County cost shared the \$40,000 for the survey.

This project was approved and carried out as a research project in partnership between The County of Colchester, the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, the Kwi'mu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiations Office and Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and

Heritage. The survey itself and the recommendations that followed are quite detailed in a 38 page report. Much more detailed than I could possibly explain properly in this article.

Premier McNeil, Karen Casey and I had a lengthy conversation on the struggles and the importance of trying to expand an Industrial Park in the area of a 12,000 year old Paleo Indian site. I was impressed with the knowledge the Premier has of this area and the advice he had for me moving forward. I want everyone to know our Council has placed the expansion of the Debert Air Industrial Park at the top of our priority list.

Over the next several years you will see new infrastructure projects and business moving to the park. I may be a bit bias but I truly do believe Debert is the jewel in the crown of this County.

As always if anyone would like to discuss this or any other matter please don't hesitate to contact me. My home phone number is 902-895-2242.

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

Armstrong gets Second Appointment

By Maurice Rees

On February 16th, Scott Armstrong, MP for Cumberland - Colchester-

Musquodoboit Valley was appointed to the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour, the

Honourable Kellie Leitch, while retaining his responsibilities as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Social Development, the Honourable Pierre Poilievre.

The role of Parliamentary Secretary is to assist the Minister in operating the assigned Department; answer questions in Question Period

when the Minister is not present and take on special projects assigned by the Government.

This is MP Scott Armstrong's second appointment as Parliamentary Secretary in the last eighteen months. Prime Minister Harper appointed him as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Social Development in September, 2013.

MacCaul Villa Notes

By Hazel Hill

Well that was quite a storm wasn't it? February is a month that can be very stormy, but this is the worst one I can recall in all my 93 winters! The snow is piled up high and there are huge drifts around my apartment. Hopefully it's the last one for this winter!

The snow didn't affect the 90th birthday party held in the Great Village Legion on January 30th for Bernice Kaulback. She had lots of friends call on her that day and received many cards and well wishes from her friends. Her

family was all there; including Inez who came from Calgary, and Fred from Ontario.

We had a surprise party for Harold Murray who has been a resident here for 14 years. Harold decided he needed more care so has moved to Shannex in Debert. We will all miss him and are sorry to see him go.

Only one birthday for the month of February, and that is for Morris Eagles. Happy Birthday to you, Morris!

George Cook and friends were here last Thursday to entertain.



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