

## Inclusive Education Award Press Release 2021

Each year the Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living along with the Department of Education presents an Inclusive Education Award to a school that has shown an exceptional spirit and commitment to creating a space that is welcoming and inclusive for students with an intellectual disability. Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting that allows every individual to feel accepted, valued and safe. Inclusive school communities are those with an open, welcoming attitude that respects every individual, while valuing and celebrating differences and diversity.



This year, we are pleased to present the Inclusive Education Award to **East Point Elementary**. East Point Elementary application gave many examples of how their school goes above and beyond to appreciate each child. East Point Elementary offered an immersive experience for students, allowing them to learn with peers and promoted ASL within the classroom. The Principal makes daily announcements via video so students are able to see her to obtain the daily messages. When planning for Pink Shirt Day the school chose a shirt that had the words “Be Kind” written in ASL and English for students and families to order to recognize this day. To ensure the school is truly inclusive and welcoming every month a newsletter is emailed to parents and guardians in both English and Arabic. In addition, administration recognizes and values the diversity of their school community and offers students from different cultures the opportunity to speak to the entire school in their own language to share important occasions. This is an incredible learning opportunity for everyone at East Point. East Point has clearly demonstrated the conviction that every single child belongs in their community school and in diverse classrooms, with the right to learn, discover and develop their unique talents and abilities together with their peers.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Association for Community Living believes that inclusion in education leads to a well-rounded and inclusive life in the community for all students. Each year, our organization is proud to honour a school that has embodied the spirit of inclusion by creating an environment that is welcoming. We know that inclusive schools build inclusive communities; ones that celebrate diversity and the unique contributions that we all offer. We are pleased to present the Inclusive Education Award to East Point Elementary!

