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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Board's Draft Phase II Multi-Year Plan for St. John's Area Schools to be Released December 6<sup>th</sup>**

(November 26, 2007) The Eastern School District's Phase II Draft Multi-Year School Organization and Capital Works Plan for St. John's area schools is scheduled for release at a public school board meeting being held on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at the District Conference Centre in St. John's.

"We had a very productive planning session on the weekend and reached general consensus on our vision for school organization in the greater St. John's area," says Milton Peach, Chair, Eastern School Board. "While no decisions were made, we feel that we will have a sound draft plan that will generate public discussion and help the Board formulate its final plan."

The Board's draft plan reflects current and projected school enrolment data, demographics and housing development trends, as well as feedback received last spring from local school councils. The Board also considered programming and infrastructure issues. An analysis of schools in the Eastern School District shows that the average age of schools in the St. John's area is 42 years. The current condition of a number of these facilities was an important factor during Board deliberations.

"The greater St. John's area is a complex school planning region," says Peach. "We have declining school populations in the centre of the city combined with housing developments and potential growth in other areas. We also have aging infrastructure. Our challenge is to consider all factors and formulate a plan that will deliver optimal educational programming to our students for many years to come."

Following the release of the draft plan in December, the Board will be inviting public feedback through a series of public consultation sessions in late January/early February 2008. A final plan is not expected to be ratified until early Spring 2008.