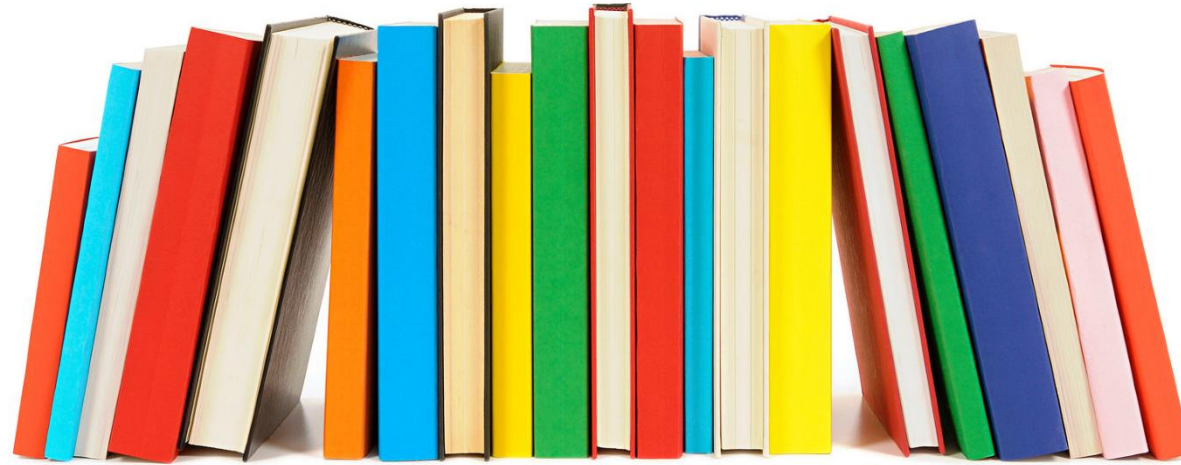


SAVE OUR SCHOOL



LIBRARIES

In the  of Education
Au  de l'éducation
CUPE Local **2745**
Section locale

Who we are?

We represent the
School Library workers
of CUPE Local 2745

Local 2745 represents
approximately 4500
education support staff
across the province.

The Library
Workers Committee was
formed to address the
reality of the reduced
hours and funding in
our school libraries.

New Brunswick Literacy Rates

In 2012, there were **53.4%** of adults with inadequate literacy skills in New Brunswick ¹.

22.5% Anglophone Students and **25%** of Francophone Students fell below the appropriate achievement level at the end of Grade 2 (June 2014) ².

18.5% of the NB population between 16-65 falls into the category of low literacy (PIAAC 2013) ³.

This jumps to **24.5%** within the **unemployed population** ⁴.

The New Brunswick francophones' literacy test results lag behind those of the anglophone population by **14 points**, and they are also **10 points behind francophones from Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba** ⁵.

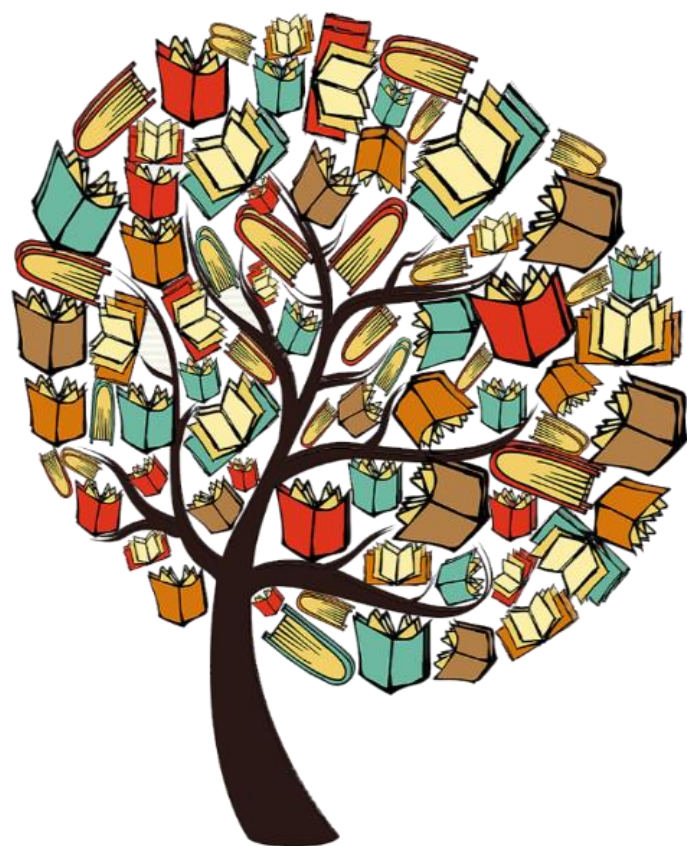
1. The Conference Board of Canada (2012). [http://www.conferenceboard.ca/\(X\(1\)S\(1ccunubb0xfe2ho414ckz5hf\)\)/hpc/provincial/education/adlt-lowlit.aspx?utm_content=buffer7beea&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](http://www.conferenceboard.ca/(X(1)S(1ccunubb0xfe2ho414ckz5hf))/hpc/provincial/education/adlt-lowlit.aspx?utm_content=buffer7beea&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1)

2. GNB (2018). http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/public_consultations/NBLiteracyStrategy/Facts.html

3. Ibid

4. Ibid

5. Statistics Canada (2016). Study: The literacy skills of New Brunswick francophones, <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/160919/dq160919a-eng.htm>



What we want?

**Protect and
improve our
existing libraries**

**Guaranteed
hours of work**

**A revised funding
formula for library
staffing and
resources**

**Readily available,
accurate statistics
of library funding
and usage**



Protect and improve our existing libraries

- School libraries are **not mentioned** as part of the province's **literacy strategy**.
- We believe that having **daily access** to a variety of reading materials covering all reading levels and interests **enhances student literacy skills**.
- Rather than library staff hours being **reduced**, they should be **increased** to reflect the **literacy needs of all students** in this province.

Guaranteed hours of work

Every student across the province has **the right** to equal resources, support and access to the library.

Some school libraries have as little as **six hours per week** and **more than half** are under **twenty one hours**.

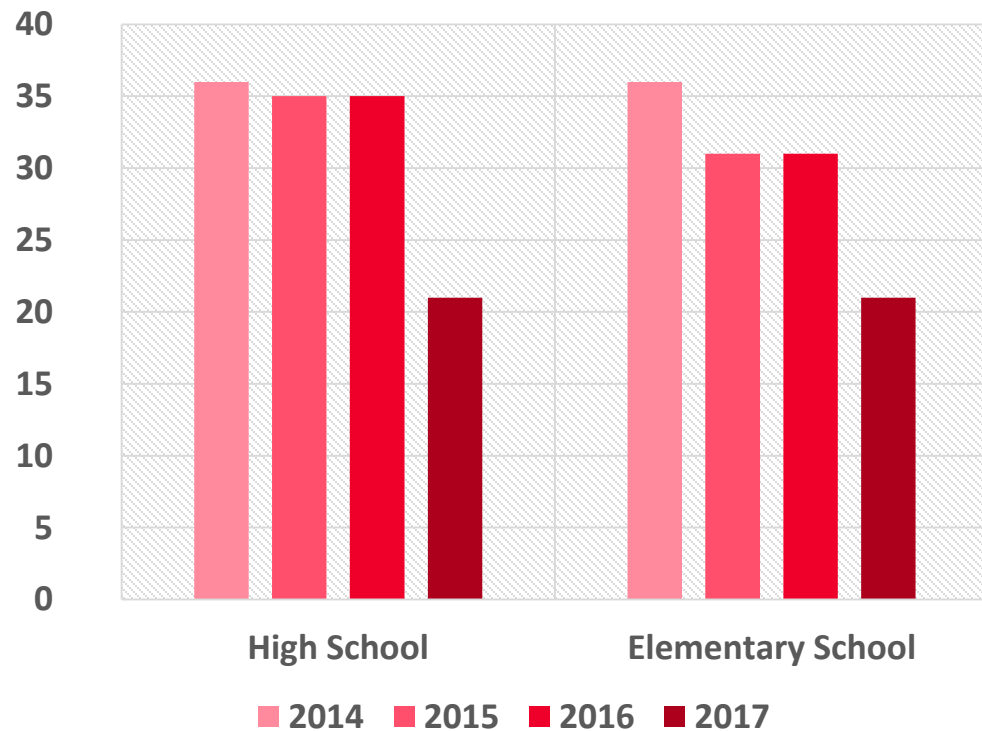
It is **essential** that all school libraries be **staffed full time, five days a week** to provide students **continuous access** to the resources and expertise that library staff provide.

Skilled school library workers are able to assist students in the selection of material that is **engaging** and **accessible**.

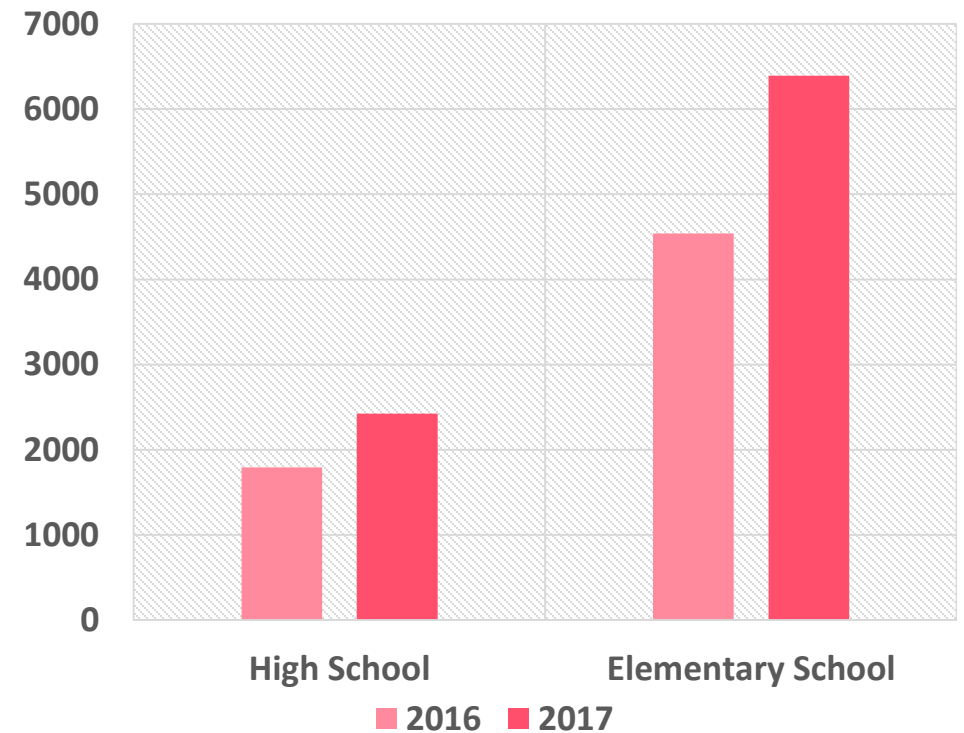
In some schools, such as “Cité des jeunes” in Edmundston, the library workers also **manage the printing system for students**.

Statistics

Reduction of Hours 2014-2017



Book Loan 2016-2017



Source: Self reported data from CUPE Local 2745

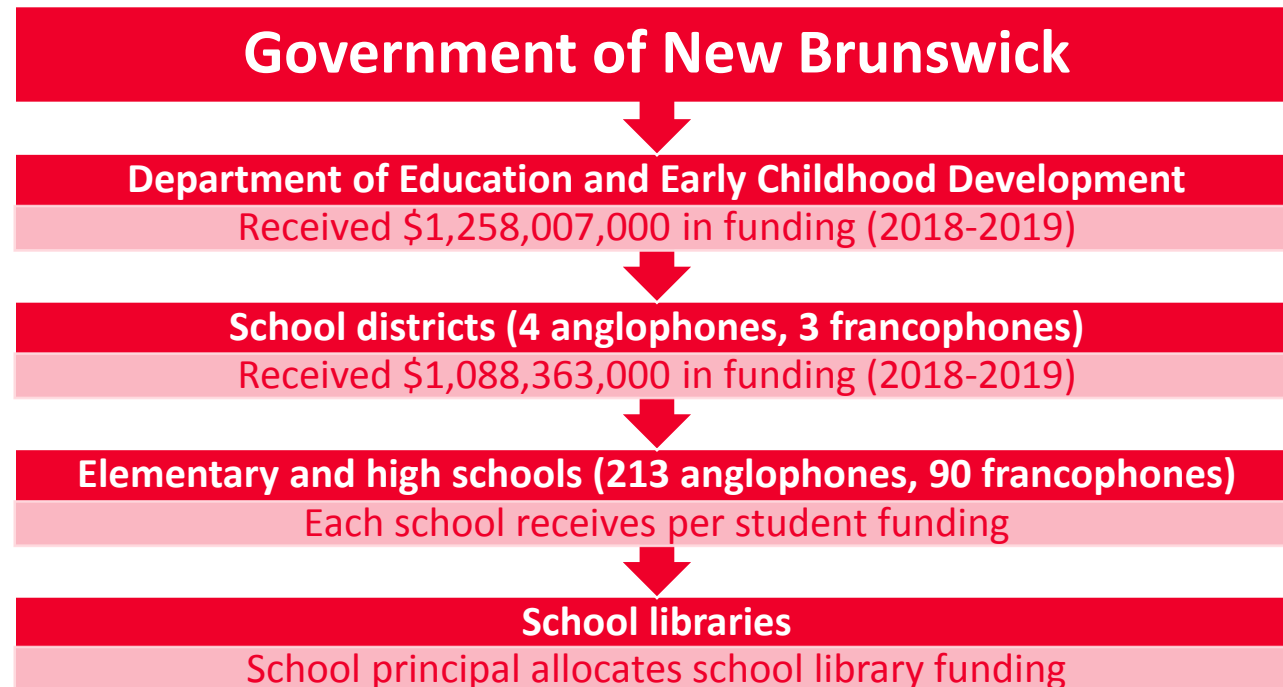
A revised funding formula for library staffing and resources


- **Additional funds** provide increased resources to support student success.
- The existing funding formula **does not** allow for every students' needs to be met.
- There is **inequality** in service provision because there does not seem to be **one consistent ratio** for service across the province



Readily available, accurate statistics of library funding and usage

- At this time, it is **extremely difficult** to obtain statistics on library funding
- **Transparency** would help to **encourage consistency** on how resources are **allocated** throughout the province





A good example: The "Cité des jeunes" library in Edmundston

This library has become a **real hub of activity** for both the school and the community. This resource for students has **clearly been prioritized**. It has:

- Book lending services
- Three workspaces that can hold up to 15 people
- A relaxation reading nook
- 24 computers with printers
- iPads
- Wireless internet
- Equipment rental
- Enough space for group presentations

Meeting space can also be rented by organizations. For example, a not-for-profit organization can rent the space for \$250-\$300 for 6 days.

Why?

Staffed school libraries are essential learning resources that provide:

Direct services to students by collaborating with others to enhance curriculum, support learning strategies, and assist students in the use of essential learning skills needed in the 21st century.

Enhancing school libraries would enhance literacy skills and lifelong learning. Library workers are an **essential part** of the education system.

Promote a love of reading in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment

Empower students to be enthusiastic readers



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP OUR SCHOOL LIBRARIES OPEN

- Without libraries, we have no **past nor future.**
- We must realize that if **no one speaks, nothing will change** and these services will no longer be **available to students.**
- You can make a **difference** by **supporting** our campaign



How can we work together?

Provide policy support to help us meet our goals which are to:

- Protect and improve our existing libraries
- Obtain guaranteed hours of work
- Involve the Union in the revision of the funding formula for library staffing and resources
- Demand schools provide accurate statistics of library funding and usage. Support transparency by making information available to the public.

Conclusion

We believe the **most important** element to guide and incorporate **innovative changes** in the school libraries is **the library workers**.

Our members provide **quality services** that have and will evolve with changes relevant to the **21st century**.

Navigating through the world of school libraries should be a **positive** and **fruitful adventure** for students. This is **key** to **lifelong learning**.

“We read to children for all the same reasons we talk with children: to reassure, to entertain, to bond, to inform or explain, to arouse curiosity, to inspire. But in reading aloud we also: condition the child’s brain to associate reading with pleasure; create background knowledge; build vocabulary; provide a reading role model.”

Jim Release, The read-aloud handbook