

## Nova Scotia – Quebec Exchange Program

### STUDENT PROTECTION

In Accordance with Nova Scotia *Education Act*, regional centres for education (“RCEs”) are required to establish policies for the protection of students from abuse. The RCEs are responsible for ensuring that students attending school under their jurisdiction are protected by taking all reasonable precautions to screen all persons who may pose any risk to students. RCEs must require all employees and other engaged by the education entity who will have direct contact with students, or who would occupy a position of trust or authority towards students or vulnerable persons, to provide a criminal record check, vulnerable sector check, and Child Abuse Register search at regular intervals.

Records checks for volunteers fall under the [Volunteer Background Check Policy](#). Those engaged with students in education entities throughout the province submit necessary checks in alignment with these policies as expected by their RCE.

In the context of the Nova Scotia-Quebec Student Exchange Program, applications to volunteer as a host family in Nova Scotia shall be conditional upon:

- The successful completion of the interview process by the school liaison teacher(s);
- The absence of outstanding criminal charges or prior convictions as proven by the submission of a current criminal record check, vulnerable sector check, and Child Abuse Registry check.

These regulations are applied to the exchange program in Nova Scotia in accordance with policies of the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. **In both the province of Nova Scotia and the province of Quebec**, the process of ensuring the security of all students involved in the program is further supported by a thorough interview of all potential host families and a solid local support system for all students involved. All host families in both provinces are required to provide a certified and true copy of a current criminal records check and a completed Child Abuse Registry form.

Both student and parents must demonstrate a commitment to participate in this program. Unless deemed an emergency, visits by parents to the student’s exchange home in Québec is not permitted.

### CONSENT

We have read the Nova Scotia-Quebec Student Exchange documents and have read and understood the student protection provisions associated with the Nova Scotia-Quebec Exchange program.

We accept that the host family in Quebec acts as guardian for our child while living under their authority for the duration of the exchange. This authorization also covers emergency medical care.

We will also ensure that we have Health and Liability coverage for our child for the duration of the exchange.

We understand that the interview questionnaire will be assessed by the selection committee in our child's school and by the Provincial Coordinator at the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

We understand that should our child be accepted as a candidate every effort will be made to find a suitable exchange partner among the Québec exchange student candidates.

We therefore agree that \_\_\_\_\_ may participate in the Nova Scotia-Quebec Student Exchange Program, and we agree to provide all the required documentation and to abide by the program's regulations pertaining to the safety and well-being of the student we will be hosting. In addition, we hold harmless the Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the \_\_\_\_\_ Regional Centre for Education from any and all claims arising out of any situation relating to the criminal record check, vulnerable sector check, and Child Abuse Registry checks.

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian 1

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian 2

*(If parents/guardians are separated or divorced, it is still required for both to be included in this form)*

As the participating student, I am committed to the successful completion of this exchange. If chosen, I will make every effort to make my selected exchange partner feel welcomed in our home, school, and community.

\_\_\_\_\_

Student

\_\_\_\_\_

School's Liaison teacher

\_\_\_\_\_

School's Principal