

PART I - LABRADOR WEST General Information

In planning for the safety of our children during winter weather and on other occasions, the following guidelines will be used by school authorities for closing schools:

For Winter Weather:

- 1) Extreme temperatures (wind chill factor included and consideration for wind, snowfall and relative humidity)

K - 3: -45°C

K - 7: -50°C

K - 12: -55°C

- 2) Poor visibility
- 3) Poor road conditions for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

NOTE: The temperatures listed are the new wind chill factors approved, published and reported by Environment Canada in 2001-2002.

For Other Closures:

- 1) Mechanical failure of buses
- 2) Power outages

All announcements concerning cancellation of schools should be made by the **appropriate local media (CBC English/French, VOCM, CRRS)** servicing the community not later than 1 hour before the commencement of the morning session and for closure of the afternoon session at least 1 hour before the end of the a.m. session. These announcements will identify closure of schools for either the day, morning session or afternoon session, depending on the grade level/severity of the weather and forecast for the day.

The following procedures will be implemented for closure of schools in Labrador West.

When Schools Are CLOSED in the A.M.

- 1) ***For closure of K - 3 only***
If school is closed in the morning for only Kindergarten - Grade 3, then a further announcement will be made regarding the afternoon session at least 1 hour before the end of the a.m. session. Announcements will be made via the media as classes may resume or may be cancelled for the afternoon session, depending on weather conditions. If school is open in the pm, buses will begin their routes at 12:35 pm and classes will begin and dismiss at the regular time.

- 2) ***For closure of K - 7 only***
If schools are closed in the morning for only Kindergarten - Grade 7, then a further announcement will be made regarding the afternoon session at least 1 hour before the end of the a.m. session. Announcements will be made via the media as classes may resume or may be cancelled for the afternoon session, depending on weather conditions. If schools are open in the pm, buses will begin their routes at 12:15 pm for J. R. Smallwood and 12:35 pm for A.P. Low. Afternoon classes will begin and dismiss at the regular time at these schools.

- 3) ***For closure of K - 12***
If schools are closed in the morning for Kindergarten - Grade 12, then a further announcement will be made regarding the afternoon session at least 1 hour before the end of the a.m. session. Announcements will be made via the media as classes may resume or may be cancelled for the afternoon session, depending on weather conditions. If schools are open in the pm buses will follow these guidelines:
 - a. Buses for Grades 8 - 12 will cover their regular routes beginning at 12:00 noon. School for Menihek will reopen at 12:30 pm and dismiss at the regular time.
 - b. Buses for Kindergarten to Grade 7 will begin the regular bus routes beginning at 12:35 pm. Schools for Kindergarten to Grade 7 will open and dismiss at the regular time.

When Schools Are OPEN in the A.M.

- 1) In case of weather and all other circumstances to be considered for closure (ie: power outage), the following shall apply **when schools are open in the a.m.**
 - a) If schools are open in the morning, then they will remain open until the next normal dismissal time for students.
Example:
 - i) Students who normally go home for lunch would not return in the p.m.
 - ii) Students who would normally remain in school for lunch and the normal dismissal time is at the end of the school day then they will remain in school. In this case, parents should expect their children home at the regular time. Buses will drop students off as per the regular routes. Buses may take a little longer if weather conditions are poor. Safety is the priority.

- 2) For the safety of children, once school is in progress, school will not be cancelled during a morning or afternoon session and students will remain in school until the next usual dismissal time.

- 3) Parents should have an emergency plan in place to care for their child at home should a community emergency be declared during the school day and students have to be returned home earlier than expected. In the event that parents cannot be contacted, names of contact people should be provided to school personnel for notification in an emergency.

- 4) In emergency situations, arrangements will be made to ensure the safety of children which may include moving them to an alternate site. Under no circumstances would children be sent home unexpectedly.

Parents are advised to use their own discretion in sending their children to school when school remains open in poor weather. They should take into consideration their child's age, maturity, health, the road conditions and visibility in the community, and whether their child walks to school or waits for a bus.

It is very important that all students dress properly for the weather. The temperature guidelines for closing schools have been established with safety as priority. Students should dress adequately in cold weather.