



REGISTERING & REPORTING IN NOVA SCOTIA

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WHY REGISTER?



In Nova Scotia, the Education Act ensures the right of all families to determine the method of education that best suits their family needs. The same Act mandates that families choosing to homeschool are required by law to both register their children with the Department of Education **and** submit annual progress reports.

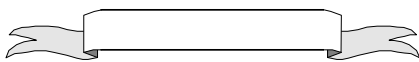
Some families do not register asserting that they are not accountable to the government for how they raise their chil-

dren. Unfortunately, by not obeying the law in this matter, all homeschoolers become subject to extra scrutiny and potential intrusion by officials. If homeschoolers obey the law, officials can easily identify the effectiveness of homeschooling and will have no motivation for pursuing 'truant' families. Registration forms are available on the Department of Education (DOE) website. Along with the registration form is a template for outlining a "homemade" curriculum. Essentially, the DOE is looking for a

basic progress plan. With packaged programs like Abeka, it is simple to identify what is done and when. Stating the intention to complete Abeka grade two will suffice. With more eclectic or less traditional approaches, a very general plan is enough to demonstrate the purpose of the program. Remember, without a goal, you have nothing to work toward! Having this outline simplifies the report required in June, meets the letter of the law and protects homeschoolers from unwanted phone calls from the Regional Education Office.

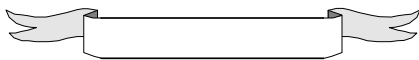
Special points of interest:

- *Registrations are not permission slips!*
- *Registrations are due by September of the academic year.*
- *Reports are due by the end of June of the academic year.*
- *Completing and submitting registrations and reports protect homeschooling families!*
- *HSLDA protects the rights of homeschoolers across Canada!*
- *If you have problems with the DOE, contact Stephanie at hems@eastlink.ca*



So, why register?

It's the law.



WHAT'S IN A REPORT?



A report card for a homeschooler may not and probably will not look like a report card for a publicly school ed child. Referring to the program outline submitted in September, the intent of the report is to illustrate progress. To send in one line that reads, "Johnny did what I told him to." or "Sally had a great year." does not reflect the true benefit of the homeschool experience. Although the family does not want to provide the DOE with too much information, the report must demonstrate some

level of progress. Including brief descriptions such as, "Jack completed Math U See Zeta without difficulty and is now ready to move onto Pre-Algebra." or "Jill has demonstrated a high level of competency in grammar and writing and has completed a personal anthology of poetry." show progress without excessive detail. Conversely, the statement, "Bobby struggled in science theory this year but was very eager to work on labs. More work on theory will be done next year." may not seem posi-

tive, it shows an honest evaluation of progress and helps the homeschool family keep track of their progress as well as meeting the NS Education Act requirements.

Over the last year, government officials have been reviewing homeschool forms and studying alternatives to public school. By meeting the standard and spirit of the law, homeschoolers prove themselves in uprightness and accountability and move to protect the ongoing right to homeschool in Nova Scotia.

For more information...

Department of Education
<http://homeschooling.ednet.ns.ca>

Department of Education Registrations and Reports
http://homeschooling.ednet.ns.ca/documents_forms.shtml

Department of Education Learning Outcomes
<http://homeschooling.ednet.ns.ca/resources.shtml>

Education Act of Nova Scotia
www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/statures/educn.htm

Education Act Regulations
www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/edgic.htm#TOC1_41

Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) <http://www.hslda.ca>

NSHEA
www.nshea.webcentre.ca

HEMS
www.hems-ns.ca

HBLNS
<http://morticia.cs.da.ca/HBLNS/index/php>