

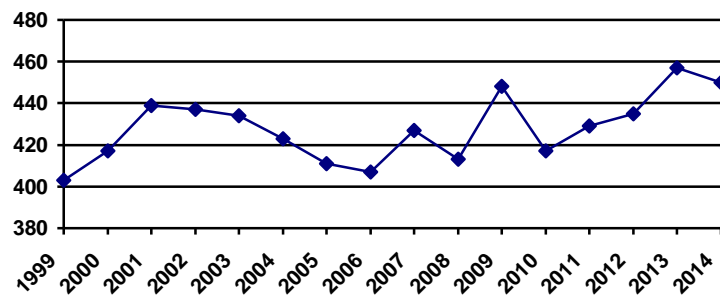
Dear Community, Government, and School Board Stakeholders,

As parents from Eliot River Home and School Association we believe that class sizes have gotten too large at our school and in an effort to support our teachers, administration and our children, we would like to express our concern over declining funding for our school.

[Eliot River Elementary](#) is located in the province's second largest town with an approximate population of 5162 people. While Eliot River is located in Cornwall, it also serves the surrounding communities resulting in a population of approximately 10,000 people being served by Eliot River Elementary. Current enrollment at Eliot River is around 460 students from grades four to six. Here are some socio-economic characteristics of this population:

- Eliot River's population base is the youngest out of the three biggest communities (28% of the population is under 20)*
- This young population has grown 6.4% since 2006 while much of the rest of the Atlantic Provinces saw populations decline.*
- Eliot River is the only school between Charlottetown and Summerside that offers Early French Immersion. This results in additional students per year attending the school.

The student population of the school has trended upwards in the last fifteen years with a notable increase since 2010. However, staffing levels for the school have declined during this period. This has resulted in an increase in class size and a decrease in the number of teachers in the classroom as well as in vital places such



Source: Department of Education, Early Learning and Culture, www.gov.pe.ca

as the library.

We invite you to visit our school to see firsthand how our teachers, staff and administration are rising to the challenge of reduced funding. An educated and healthy population is key to our economic and community growth. While we realize that, ultimately, the staffing distribution within a school is up to individual schools, we also know that our schools are being asked to continually do more with less. Please consider putting our children first and advocating for more support for our schools.

Sincerely,

Eliot River Home and School Association