# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

# Who are we?



We are a team of educators, students, and community members who are passionate about designing and launching a dynamic Community of Practice for Universal Design for Learning in Newfoundland and Labrador.

#### **Our Mission**

Our Mission is to increase inclusive learning environments for students in Newfoundland and Labrador by promoting the implementation of universal design for learning principles and guidelines in educational settings.

Through collaboration and knowledge-sharing opportunities, we empower our members to lead pedagogical innovation and create accessible learning environments that recognize the diverse needs of all learners, fostering growth and academic success.

#### **Our Vision**

Our vision is to grow and sustain a vibrant community of practice (CoP) consisting of educators, students, community members, and stakeholders united by a shared commitment to advancing universal design for learning (UDL) in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Our CoP is a dynamic hub where members engage in transformative learning experiences, share valuable insights, and co-create innovative solutions to advance UDL implementation throughout the province.

Guided by our shared vision, we aspire to take the lead in fostering an educational landscape that is inclusive and accessible, empowering every learner to realize their full potential.

## What is a Community of Practice?



A community of practice is a group of people who share a common interest, passion, or goal and come together to share expertise and experiences and to learn from each other.

CoPs are valuable because they connect people, provide a shared context for communication, enable dialogue, stimulate learning, capture and share existing knowledge, and generate new knowledge.

## What is Universal Design for Learning?

Universal Design for Learning is a framework that encompasses specific principles and guidelines intended to increase access and opportunities for learning.

This framework aims to eliminate unnecessary barriers in teaching and learning while maintaining high standards of academic rigor.

UDL promotes a shift away from individual interventions based on deficit learning models to holistic learning models that are student-centred, accessible, collaborative, and inclusive.

Representation

Engagement

Action and Expression

Integrating UDL guidelines and principles in educational settings, from schools to the community, creates more inclusive and accessible learning environments that can better meet the diverse needs of all learners.

This UDL Community of Practice will connect educators, students, community members, and others who share a common interest in UDL in Newfoundland and Labrador to promote best practices and create new knowledge to advance the implementation of UDL in the province.



