

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW COMMISSION ON K-12 EDUCATION

January 25, 2018



The Manitoba government has established a new commission to undertake a comprehensive, independent review of the kindergarten to Grade 12 education system, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week.

“This is a long-overdue opportunity to build on strengths and identify challenges to create a better education system with high standards for educators, high expectations for student achievement, relevant curriculum, governance excellence and a sustainable fiscal framework,” said Goertzen. “Manitoba’s education system covers a vast geographical area and serves a wide range of communities, and we have selected a commission that reflects that reality.”

The minister noted the process will include extensive consultation across Manitoba and consider a wide range of topics such as student learning, teaching, accountability for student learning, governance and funding.

Manitoba’s Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education includes Ian Wishart, legislative assistant to the minister of education and training, who will lead public consultation and stakeholder engagement. The eight other commissioners are Dr. Janice MacKinnon (co-chair), Clayton Manness (co-chair), Terry Brown, Mark Frison, John Daniel (JD) Lees, Jill Quilty, Laurel Repski, and Denis Robert.

The commission will soon commence public consultation and seek input from students, parents, educators, school boards, academics, Indigenous organizations, la francophonie, municipal councils, professional organizations, the business community and all Manitobans. The minister expects the commission to submit a report with key findings and recommendations by February 2020.

Information about the kindergarten to Grade 12 review will be posted throughout the year at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/.

GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA SUPPORTS SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS

The province continues to support school capital projects through \$129.5 million in funding for school divisions across Manitoba, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week.

“We continue to make significant investments on new schools as well as major additions and renovations to existing schools,” said Goertzen. “Manitoba has more than 600 schools and this funding will help them remain safe and functional. Growing communities will also benefit from new school facilities to meet their needs.”

Provincial funding has been provided to school divisions for many projects such as new facilities, infrastructure renewal, major additions and renovations, modular classrooms and new child-care centres.

Details of these projects are available by visiting https://news.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/newslinks/2019/01/BG-PSFB_Projects-ET.pdf

GRAIN DRYER INSPECTIONS STREAMLINED

The Manitoba government is continuing to reduce red tape and improve services to producers by streamlining the process for inspection and approval of grain dryers, Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen and Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler announced this week.

Our government recognizes the importance of reducing red tape for our agricultural producers while ensuring Manitoba farms remain safe. For more details on this important announcement for Manitoba producers, visit <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=44955&posted=2019-01-22>

PROVINCE INCREASES EDUCATION FUNDING BY \$6.6 MILLION

Investing in our schools

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Provincial funding for public elementary and secondary education will increase by \$6.6 million for the 2019-20 school year to a total in excess of \$1.329 billion, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week.

“This is the highest level of funding in Manitoba history that shows our commitment to Manitoba students despite our current economic realities,” said Goertzen. “Since 2016, our government has increased funding to school divisions by more than \$26 million.”

School funding in Manitoba is calculated using the Funding of Schools Program formula, which guarantees divisions receive at least 98 per cent of the previous year’s total. Funding increases or decreases are based on several factors that include a change in enrolment numbers, capital costs, equalization payments and the phase-out of the Tax Incentive Grant.

School divisions receive funding from the province as well as through locally collected school board property taxes. The province is once again directing divisions to cap increases to their local education property tax at two per cent for the 2019-20 school year and will ask divisions to continue to reduce administrative costs.