



## Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

I am honored to present the 2024/25 Education and Early Childhood Learning Supplement to the Estimates of Expenditure. As Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, I am responsible for the formulation of this Supplement and for the realization of the objectives outlined herein.

It is a privilege to serve as Minister, supported by a dedicated team of experts committed to integrity, professionalism, fiscal responsibility and fostering a promising future for all Manitobans. The results of the plans outlined in this document will be detailed in the department's forthcoming Annual Report for this year, underscoring our commitment to accountability.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning continues to make strides toward our vision that from every part of Manitoba, from every background, all children and youth matter, belong, are respected, successful, and safe. In the education system, we believe, investing in Manitoba kids is an investment in our future, we will support students at every step of their education journey from the earliest years.

In 2024/25, the department will advance our commitment to a universally accessible nutrition program in every public school which will have a profound impact on the next generation, improving educational outcomes, and helping families who are experiencing food insecurity. The Manitoba government's historic investment in school nutrition makes our province a leader in Canada. For the 2024/25 school year, the Manitoba government will invest a record \$30 million to ensure all children and youth have barrier-free access to nutritious food.

In 2024/25, we are investing \$3 million to lower early-years class sizes. Parents and educators know class sizes are too large. The department will work with educators to lower class sizes for the youngest learners, so they get more one-on-one time with their teachers and educational assistants. Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning is committed to increasing engagement in Science, Technology, Education, Arts and Math (STEAM) learning, and to strengthening the K-12 curriculum with a focus on math and reading as well as citizenship.

The department continues to prioritize an Indigenous-inclusive education system that supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and ensures that Indigenous youth have equitable access to resources, opportunities and outcomes. In the spirit of fulfilling the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's call to action to establish senior-level positions dedicated to Indigenous content in education, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning created a new assistant deputy minister position. This newly created position will help the department on a variety of Indigenous and equity-based policies and research related to Indigenous education, training, equity, and inclusion. The position will also further the priority to expand treaty education across the province through *Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With - An Indigenous Education Policy Framework*, which supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners by helping Manitoba educators incorporate Indigenous languages, cultures and identities into their teaching and practices.