



# Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

June 2023

Message from  
the Minister

Department  
Announcements

Early Learning  
and Child Care  
Update

K to 12  
Education  
Update

## Message from the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, Wayne Ewasko

With summer fast approaching and the end of another school year, this is a great opportunity for us to look back on the year that was and think about our plans for the one to come. There are so many positive changes happening in Manitoba for our schools, as well as within our education and early learning and child care system.

Manitoba families are seeing a significant reduction in child care fees, as well as over 5000 new early learning and child care spaces as part of the long-term commitment to create 23,000 spaces by 2026. We have invested in strategies to strengthen the early learning and child care workforce and the operations of early learning and child care centres and homes. This includes operating grants for increased wages, close to 1000 more training seats, \$10 million for tuition reimbursement, and \$60 million in quality enhancement grants.

Key highlights for Manitoba schools include the following:

- \$100 million invested in education as part of Budget 2023, as well as the conversion of one-time funding to permanent funding, for a total investment of more than \$200 million
- following through on a commitment to update the K to 12 funding model, which is currently based on an inequitable 20-year-old legacy system
- providing access to assessment tools for educators across the province
- the launch of a first-of-its-kind Indigenous education policy framework, *Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With*
- the release of the final report of the Poverty and Education Task Force, which brought forward actionable strategies to reduce the impact of poverty on education
- passing Bill 35 to enhance student safety and address misconduct
- taking steps to ensure a provincial student information system, bringing Manitoba in line with most other provinces and territories

To learn more about the key initiatives within Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, you can read the [2023/24 Department Plan](#), which was released April 1, 2023. This plan outlines our path toward achieving our vision to have all Manitoba children and students succeed, no matter where they live, their backgrounds, or their individual circumstances.

Our success to date has been because of the significant efforts, dedication, and commitment of our stakeholders, Indigenous Rights-Holders, and partners. All of these initiatives and efforts link back to Manitoba's commitment to improving literacy and numeracy, strengthening Indigenous education, and supporting mental health and well-being across the K to 12 system and for our youngest learners in early learning and child care.

We are not alone in this journey. As I learned in Japan while participating in the G7 education meetings in May, there is a great deal of alignment across our education systems and partners, both globally and locally. I want to thank everyone for your continued efforts and collective work to ensure that all Manitoba children succeed. Please reach out with any questions or comments. I wish you all an enjoyable end to the 2022/23 school year and a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,  
Wayne Ewasko

### Manitoba Participates in G7 Education Ministers Meeting in Japan

Minister Ewasko and Deputy Minister Rudy had the honour and privilege of representing the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) at the G7 Education Ministers meeting in Toyama and Kanazawa, Japan, in May. There is much alignment with the issues and priorities for education in Canada as compared to our G7 partners, including Japan, The United States, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the European Union. The meetings and bilateral discussions focused on workforce challenges and opportunities, learning in the post-pandemic context, and student engagement, to name a few. The Ministers passed a declaration that, at its core, upholds the universal value of education as a foundation of democracy, freedom, the rule of law, and peace. The declaration also reinforced the need to work towards building more resilient educational systems to meet the needs of the post-pandemic world and to recover learning losses.

To read the full declaration, please visit [www.g8.utoronto.ca/education/2023-education.html](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/education/2023-education.html).

### CMEC Representative for Learning Mission in France

We are pleased to announce that Kassy Assié, Executive Director of the Bureau de l'éducation française, is representing the CMEC on a learning mission to France in June 2023. As a national representative, Kassy will participate in international discussions regarding France's ideas for co-operation with Canada in education and will gain a better understanding of France's education system. Félicitations, Kassy!

### International Visitor Leadership Program Project—Closing the Skills Gap: Indigenous Education and Skills Training

We are proud to share that Helen Robinson-Settee, Indigenous Inclusion Directorate, was nominated for an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) exchange. For the month of June, Helen is travelling to multiple cities in the United States during her exchange. This project will focus on closing the skills gap through Indigenous education and skills training, and discussing with American counterparts issues related to higher education among Indigenous and underserved populations. We look forward to her sharing experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in overcoming cultural, geographical, and educational obstacles to higher education among Indigenous and underserved populations.

### Manitoba Government and Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Sign MOU

The Manitoba government and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the national government of the Red River Métis, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on education. The MOU commits both governments to developing a shared, long-term, distinctions-based education strategy to improve the educational outcomes of Red River Métis students in Manitoba. The Red River Métis Education Working Group will consist of individuals appointed by Ministers Ledoux and Ewasko. The working group invites participation of key education stakeholders, including the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate and its advisory council, Manitoba School Boards Association, Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, and the Manitoba Teachers' Society. The strategy will also include educational and other supports for cultural learning, overall academic success, transitioning into the workforce or post-secondary education, data analysis, best practices, and policy development, along with additional research to improve outcomes for Red River Métis learners.

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## National Indigenous History Month – June 2023

On June 21, 2023, education stakeholders and partners commemorated **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. This is a day to celebrate the past and present contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples to Canada. It is important for us, as Canadians, to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day and to continue to teach about the contributions, true histories, and future visions of Indigenous Peoples. This will build bridges of understanding and respect based on healing, truth, and reconciliation.



The Indigenous Inclusion Directorate has launched an [Indigenous Educators Profile](#), which showcases Indigenous educators throughout Manitoba. This project also serves to address the need to continue to establish mechanisms to recruit and train more educators who are Indigenous and to promote education as a future career choice for students and youth.

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## Hold the Date – Mamàhtawisiwin Symposium

Please save the date for Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning’s upcoming symposium exploring *Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With—An Indigenous Education Policy Framework*.

- When: Tuesday November 14, 2023, and Wednesday November 15, 2023
- Where: Victoria Inn and Conference Centre: 1808 Wellington Ave, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- Who: Superintendents, School Division Senior Leadership, Principals/Vice-Principals, School Division Indigenous Education Leads, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Trustees, School Support Teams, Child Care Centre Directors, Child Care Home-Based Providers, Early Childhood Educators

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## Leadership Updates

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### Mario Gordon, Director of Workforce Development

Mario Gordon joined the Early Learning and Child Care Division in April 2023 as the Director of Workforce Development. His first day with the division was Monday, April 24, 2023. Mario comes to us with extensive experience in workforce development. He worked in that area for the Manitoba Métis Federation and then joined the province in Manitoba Economic Development, Investment and Trade (and its previous iterations), where he has been for the last seven years.

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### Matthias Rust, Director, Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations

Matthias Rust joined Early Learning and Child Care in May 2023 as the new Director of Strategic Policy and Intergovernmental Relations. Matthias has been the manager of the Data and Evaluation Unit for Manitoba Economic Development, Investment and Trade for the past eight years. Matthias has been working with the province for a total of 11 years, and is experienced in working with federal and provincial/territorial (FPT) partners.

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## **Donna Smith Retires; Michelle Marchildon is Acting Coordinator of the Independent and International Education Unit**

Congratulations to Donna Smith, the coordinator of the Independent and International Education Unit, on her retirement last month. Donna has spent over three decades in the education sector, including roles teaching in Transcona, instructing at the University of Winnipeg, working as a principal at an affiliated school in Beijing, as well as many roles in the department. She has been a strong advocate for effective oversight of the independent and homeschooling areas.

Many thanks to Michelle Marchildon, who has agreed to serve as acting coordinator while a competition is underway. Michelle currently works in the unit as a liaison officer.

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## **Faisal Islam Appointed as Director of Education Administration Services**

In February, Faisal Islam was promoted to the role of Director of Education Administration Services (EAS) with the System Performance and Accountability Division. Faisal has been the manager of Policy and Field Services for the past two years, so he brings much knowledge to this leadership role. Faisal has held several positions in the Manitoba government and has worked with the Department of International Development in the UK and the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group in senior positions.

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## **Brenda McKinny Joins Corporate Strategic Services**

Brenda McKinny has joined the Corporate Strategic Services Unit as acting senior manager after Carolee Buckler's departure on April 3, 2023, when she accepted a promotional opportunity with Manitoba Agriculture. Brenda comes to us from the department's Project Management Office. Brenda was once chief operating officer of the Manitoba Learning Resource Centre and has a wealth of experience supervising staff and building good teams. Welcome to the unit, Brenda!

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## **Olu Olowoshile Appointed to Manager, Financial Analysis and Reporting, in Education Funding Branch**

After a successful competition, Olu Olowoshile was appointed to the role of Manager, Financial Analysis and Reporting, in Education Funding Branch (EFB). Olu comes to EFB from the Department of Environment, Climate and Parks / Department of Natural Resources and Northern Development, and has been with the Manitoba government for eight years. Olu earned his Higher National Diploma in Accountancy in Nigeria, and then moved to the UK where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Finance and a Master of Science in Accounting. Olu is also a Fellow of the UK Institute of Financial Accountants.

## **Early Learning and Child Care Update**

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### **\$10-a-Day Child Care**

On April 2, 2023, the Manitoba government accomplished an historic achievement by reducing regulated child care fees in our province to \$10 a day for children enrolled in infant, nursery, and pre-school programs for regular hours of care at licensed, funded child care facilities. Families will also pay \$10 a day for school-age children attending three periods per day (before school, during lunch, and after school). Under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, Manitoba committed to reaching a \$10-per-day average by 2026. This milestone comes three years ahead of schedule, as part of ongoing efforts to be a national leader in affordable, accessible, high-quality child care. For more information, please visit: [www.manitoba.ca/10aday](http://www.manitoba.ca/10aday). Increased operating grants to funded centres and homes came into effect on April 2, 2023.

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## Expanding Early Learning and Child Care Spaces across the Province

The department is building partnerships with many public sector and governmental organizations to grow the early learning and child care system across the province. The governments of [Manitoba and Canada approved 23 new child care centres](#) that are being built in partnership with municipalities and First Nations communities, for a total investment of \$94 million to create close to 1700 spaces across Manitoba. We have also invited proposals for child care space development from publicly funded schools, universities, and colleges. Results from these expressions of interest are expected to be announced by the end of July 2023 and will add another 2000 spaces. We also continue to engage with other public sector partners and Indigenous governing bodies on opportunities for child care expansion towards our goal of establishing 23,000 spaces.

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## Focusing on the Early Learning and Child Care Workforce

Early childhood educators and child care assistants are the foundation of quality early learning programs. To grow and strengthen the system, we need to focus on the workforce. Beginning July 1, 2023, an additional investment of \$56.1 million will support increased starting wages for the early learning and child care sector, as outlined in the [2023/24 Early Learning and Child Care Wage Grid](#). The department is also in the process of hiring a consultant to develop options for supporting child care wages into the future.

In February 2023, \$60 million in funding was allocated toward the [Quality Enhancement Grants](#) for licensed non-profit early learning and child care centres and family and group home-based providers. These one-time grants support the principles of quality, inclusivity, and sustainability, and include grant-funding streams for facilities to improve their infrastructure and safety, diversity and inclusion, and recruitment and retention of staff.

The governments of Canada and Manitoba are investing more than \$24 million to develop and expand early childhood educator (ECE) and child care assistant (CCA) training programs at Manitoba's post-secondary institutions. Over a three-year period, this expansion will support over 2000 total new student admissions. Another \$6 million will be allocated to continue the successful ECE tuition reimbursement initiative until 2026, for a total investment of \$10 million.

These significant investments, supported through provincial and federal funding, will continue to move early learning and child care forward in Manitoba. For more information about Manitoba's early learning and child care system, visit [Province of Manitoba | education - Child Care](#).

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## Renewal of the Manitoba-Canada Early Learning and Child Care Agreement

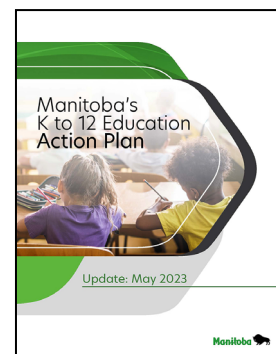
Manitoba continues to work with the Government of Canada to expand and enhance the early learning and child care system, ensuring that it is accessible, affordable, and high quality. As part of the agreements, Manitoba has committed to strengthening and supporting the child care workforce, creating 23,000 additional child care spaces, and reducing the average parent fee to \$10 per day. The department is building the proposals for the 2023/24 to 2025/26 action plans, leveraging the feedback received from the sector to date, as well as input from the Minister's Consultation Table (sector representatives) and Child Care Parent Advisory Committee (parents with children under 12). The final agreement will be shared once negotiations conclude.





### K to 12 Education Action Plan

Much progress has been made on the Manitoba K to 12 Education Action Plan that was launched on April 20, 2022, as a five-year road map to guide partnerships with education stakeholders. The first annual [Update Report](#) describes accomplishments to date and outlines priorities for the year ahead, including strengthening literacy and Early Years assessment, advancing French language and Indigenous education, resuming the Funding Model Review, and reviewing requirements and processes to streamline certification for teachers educated outside of Manitoba. Please visit the [K to 12 Education Action Plan](#) website for information on the progress made to date.



### Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With —Tools for Reflection, Planning, and Reporting

*Mamàhtawisiwin* is a provincial policy framework that supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners. A new resource, entitled [Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With—Tools for Reflection, Planning, and Reporting](#), provides school divisions with a framework to identify priority areas for funding and policy development, as well as professional learning for educators and school staff. It also provides a structure for planning and reporting on progress towards building Indigenous-inclusive school communities. For more information about next steps and reports associated with the policy framework, visit the [Mamàhtawisiwin Action Plan](#) website.

### French Immersion Policy and Implementation

On Thursday, May 3, 2023, the Bureau de l'éducation française hosted an engaging, full-day conference for school and system leaders focused on the past, present, and future of the French Immersion Program in public schools across Manitoba. This included the release of the renewed French Immersion Program Policy in Manitoba. Both the conference and policy were the culmination of months of hard work by department staff and education stakeholders. Over 200 education partners spent the day engaged in dynamic, meaningful, and inspiring facilitated discussions regarding their roles as leaders in French immersion. Congratulations to staff at the Bureau de l'éducation française on a successful conference and policy launch. Bon travail et félicitations! For more information, please visit [The French Immersion Policy in Manitoba \(May 2023\) | Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning \(gov.mb.ca\)](#) (English): [La politique d'immersion française au Manitoba \(mai 2023\) | Éducation et Apprentissage de la petite enfance Manitoba \(gov.mb.ca\)](#) (French).

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## Provincial Student Information System

Manitoba is moving forward with establishing a provincial student information system (SIS), bringing Manitoba in line with other provinces and territories across Canada. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been posted on the public tendering system [MERX](#). The provincial SIS will provide timely access to student information to help inform Manitoba's education system as a foundational student, parent, teacher, and program management system. A provincial SIS will simplify reporting and information sharing, improve data collection, and support educational initiatives such as promoting student presence and engagement, as outlined in the recent document [Safe and Caring Schools: A Policy Directive and Action Plan to Enhance Student Presence and Engagement](#).

The SIS Steering Committee, composed of various stakeholder representatives, will guide our implementation planning, and we thank them for their expertise and feedback. For more information on the committee and the provincial SIS, visit [Manitoba's K to 12 Education Action Plan](#) website.

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## Expanded Access to Early Years Assessment and Clinical Assessment Tools

The province is investing more than \$1.6 million to expand access to Early Years evaluations and digital assessment tools in both in English and French for educators and clinicians across the province. This includes the Early Years evaluation for Kindergarten students, in partnership with the Learning Bar and Pearson Clinical Assessment's Digital Assessment Library. For more information, please visit [http://dev.eduinter.internal/dev\\_k12/action\\_plan/highquality/early\\_years\\_assessment.html](http://dev.eduinter.internal/dev_k12/action_plan/highquality/early_years_assessment.html).

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## Treaty Education

The department is working with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and a steering committee composed of education partners to spread Treaty Education further across the province. The Treaty Education for All plan will launch later this month. Stay tuned for details.

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## Framework for Learning

In April 2023, introductory implementation sessions for Manitoba's Framework for Learning were initiated across the province for school division liaisons. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many participants noting numerous connections between the Framework and their own division-level priorities, including emphasis on global competencies, the Good Life, and putting students at the centre. Follow-up sessions are planned for the 2023/2024 school year. Implementation sessions for the Framework for Learning will continue to respond to liaisons' feedback as the elements of the Framework for Learning continue to be explored and implementation supports/resources are developed. For more information, please visit our website at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action\\_plan/highquality/framework.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/action_plan/highquality/framework.html).

The *Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning Newsletter* aims to provide our education and early childhood learning partners with access to information about department initiatives and leadership updates, and to highlight some upcoming plans/important dates. The newsletter is published in fall, winter, and spring. The fall edition is expected in October 2023. To provide feedback on the newsletter or the material covered, please contact [dmedu@manitoba.ca](mailto:dmedu@manitoba.ca).

Thank you.

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### Contact Us

If you have questions or comments, please email [SRUnit@gov.mb.ca](mailto:SRUnit@gov.mb.ca).

For more information, visit [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/).

