

## **Advanced Education and Training**

Annual Report  
2004-2005

The Honourable John Harvard,  
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba  
Room 235 Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the privilege of presenting for the information of Your Honour the Annual Report of the Department of Advanced Education and Training for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Honourable Diane McGifford



Honourable Diane McGifford  
Minister of Advanced Education and Training  
Room 162 Legislative Building  
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training for the period April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

Over the past year, the Department continued to focus on accessibility and affordability of post-secondary education and training through the advancement of several initiatives. The Hydro Northern Training Initiative and the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program offer community-based program delivery, allowing students to pursue their studies and/or training while remaining in or near their communities. Establishment of the University College of the North ensures accessible post-secondary education to northern Manitobans. Ongoing work under these initiatives continues to strengthen our partnerships with First Nations communities and increase training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal Manitobans. As well, these initiatives have contributed to the goals of the Northern Development Strategy to help achieve economic and social wellness for northern Manitoba.

Over \$11 million was allocated for post-secondary bursaries and over \$2.3 million provided for access bursaries. In 2004/05 funding was also identified for a new graduate scholarship fund designed to support research-based graduate studies to help attract and retain high quality students from both within and outside of the Province.

In its efforts to strengthen and improve a seamless learning continuum, the Department increased the capacity of Prior Learning and Recognition (PLAR) services at adult learning centres, employment centres and post-secondary institutions. Increased use of Essential Skills into branch activity was also a focus. These strategies play an important role in removing barriers and providing opportunities for adults.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the commitment and dedication of department staff. Through their efforts, innovative solutions to challenges and demands are met as we continue to strive to provide a high quality, responsive and flexible education and training system for all Manitobans.

Respectfully submitted,

Dwight Botting  
Acting Deputy Minister

