

Preface

Report Structure

This Annual Report is organized in accordance with the Department's appropriation structure, as set out in the Main Estimates of Expenditure of the Province of Manitoba for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006. The report includes information at the main and sub-appropriation levels relating to the Department's objectives and actual results achieved. Financial performance information is provided with expenditure and revenue variance explanations, and a five-year adjusted historical table of staffing and expenditures.

Mandate

Manitoba Advanced Education and Training (MAET) is charged with the responsibility of setting priorities and allocating funds for the government's investment in the Province's post-secondary institutions, skills development, and training initiatives.

The Department works in collaboration with school divisions, colleges, a university college, universities, other provincial/territorial governments, the federal government, and other private and public education and training bodies to deliver a high quality education and training system that meets the needs of all Manitobans.

A component of the Department's mandate relates to labour market matters that includes the delivery of employment benefits, employment support measures and the National Employment Services in Manitoba, under the authority of the Canada-Manitoba Labour Market Development Agreement. In November 2005, the Department also entered into the Canada-Manitoba Labour Market Partnership Agreement, which is planned for implementation in 2006/07.

In addition to identifying broad educational and skills development goals, the Department is responsible for the overall legislative and regulatory structure governing the education and training system.

The Department is also responsible for providing policy direction on administrative matters of the education and training system under authority of the following Acts of the Consolidated Statutes of Manitoba:

- The Adult Learning Centres Act
- The Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Act
- The Brandon University Act
- The Colleges Act
- Le Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface Act
- The Council on Post-Secondary Education Act
- The Education Administration Act
 - (clause 3(1)(h), as it relates to advanced education and training)
- The Department of Labour and Immigration Act
 - (as it applies to certain training programs)
- The Private Vocational Institutions Act
- The Student Aid Act
- The University College of the North Act
- The University of Manitoba Act
- The University of Winnipeg Act

Mission

The mission of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training is to provide access to relevant education and training that is of high quality, affordable, accessible, and responsive. An educated citizenry and a skilled and adaptable workforce are considered Manitoba's most important assets in a knowledge-intensive society. All citizens should have the opportunity to develop their individual potential and contribute to the economic, social, and cultural life of Manitoba in a global context.

Manitoba Advanced Education and Training is committed to focusing on five primary goals to achieve its mission. These goals are:

- to improve success rates in all programs and institutions;
- to expand the range of people served;
- to better integrate and support knowledge and skills development within economic and social priorities;
- to build the capacity of institutions and the community to support learning; and
- to build partnerships within and across sectors.

In carrying out its mission, the Department is guided by the following principles:

- Excellence
- Equity
- Openness
- Responsiveness
- Choice and individual responsibility
- Relevance
- Integration
- Accountability

Responsibilities

The primary responsibility of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training is to facilitate the improvement of learning at the post-secondary and skills training levels. Emphasis is placed upon enhancing learner performance, delineating roles and responsibilities across the education and training systems, and facilitating the development and sharing of new knowledge.

The overall responsibilities of the Minister include:

- setting strategic direction for post-secondary education and skills development, and articulating appropriate legislative and regulatory structures;
- setting priorities for, and allocating funds to post-secondary education and to skills development and training initiatives;
- providing leadership to, and working in co-operation with education and training organizations and institutions to bring about education reform;
- providing leadership in labour force development in partnership with Manitoba business and industry and other relevant provincial departments;
- working in co-operation with school divisions, colleges, a university college, universities, and other educational and training institutions and organizations to ensure that all Manitobans have access to high quality education and training; and
- representing the Province in negotiations with the federal and other governments, and participating in meetings related to education and training with a variety of public and private sector organizations.

Programs and Services Overview

For the year ending March 31, 2006, the programs and services of the Department were budgeted under six main appropriations: Administration and Finance, Support for Universities and Colleges, Manitoba Student Aid, Training and Continuing Education, Capital Grants, and Costs Related to Capital Assets.

Manitoba's commitment to advanced education and training includes funding two community colleges and École technique et professionnelle, one university college, three universities and Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface as well as skills development and training initiatives.

I Corporate Initiatives

In 2005/06, the Department continued to focus on accessibility and affordability to post-secondary education and training. The community-based approach to program delivery, designed to increase learner success and improve retention, supports accessibility. Community-based apprenticeship training provides northern and rural First Nations and Métis apprentices the opportunity to complete the technical component of their apprenticeship in or near their home communities. In 2005/06, three sections of Carpenter apprenticeship training were delivered to 29 apprentices in two communities (Lake Manitoba and Pinaymootang).

The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program Advisory Committee (AAPAC) is charged with the stewardship of Apprenticeship community-based training programs and initiatives. The AAPAC was appointed, by the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Board in November 2002, to promote training and employment opportunities in the skilled trades for Aboriginal peoples

The University College of the North Act came into force on July 1, 2004. The final governance model will have a learning council and a governing council as defined in the legislation, as well as an elders' council that will function in an advisory capacity. The establishment of the University College of the North has made post-secondary education more accessible and viable by serving northerners closer to home.

In addition to maintaining low university tuition fees, another department highlight was the expansion of Manitoba's first provincially funded graduate scholarship program, which is designed to support research-based graduate studies that will help attract and retain highest quality students from within and outside of Manitoba. As well, the Campus Manitoba program offers over 50 courses through 16 centres so rural Manitobans can take university and college level courses without leaving their communities.

The Technical Vocational Initiative (TVI) was implemented in April 2004 as a three-year joint initiative with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth to revitalize technical vocational education in Manitoba and subsequently address the growing skilled labour shortage. TVI has initiated activities related to each of the Action Pillars, awarded a total of \$1,850.0 to 40 schools across Manitoba for equipment upgrades and \$250.0 for associated professional learning, awarded \$800.0 to 38 demonstration projects throughout Manitoba. TVI is revising twelve vocational programs for currency and relevance, and is developing a standardized program articulation process across different educational levels. In March 2006, TVI held a successful Manitoba Technical Vocational Education Conference.

II Post-Secondary Education

Post-secondary education is a significant priority for the Government of Manitoba, as evidenced by the creation of Advanced Education and Training.

In 2005/06, enrolment at the universities and the Collège was comprised of 29,783 full-time students and 24,088 part-time students.

Community college full-time enrolments for 2005/06 were estimated at 13,481 and part-time enrolments were estimated at 6,963.

For additional information on Post-Secondary Education, please refer to the 2005/06 Annual Report of the Council on Post-Secondary Education.

III Manitoba Student Aid

Manitoba Student Aid provides supplemental financial assistance to those students whose finances limit their educational choices and who might otherwise be unable to obtain a post-secondary education. In 2005/06, approximately \$45.7 million was budgeted for this program including: \$3.2 million for loans and bursaries; \$5.0 million for the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursaries Initiative; \$3.7 million for Canada Study Grants; \$6.7 million for the Manitoba Bursary Fund; \$10.6 million for the Canada Millennium Scholarship Fund; \$13.6 million for Tuition Rebate Grants; and \$2.9 million for the Medical Student/Resident Financial Assistance Program, which is cost recoverable from the Department of Health. Approximately 14,000 applications for Student Aid will be processed in the 2005/06 program year.

Manitoba Student Aid also administers the Private Vocational Institutions Act and Regulations.

Manitoba Student Aid also manages the Manitoba Student Loan Portfolio, which includes the disbursement and collection of direct-financed loans. Student Aid has contracted with Credit Union Central of Manitoba (CUCM) for the use of their loan administration system to facilitate the provision and collection of programs. The Loan Services Unit also manages the administration of effective debt management programs (ex: Interest Relief, Debt Reduction in Repayment and Revision of Terms). Student Aid continues to manage the portfolio of Manitoba Student loans issued prior to August 1, 2004, including the administration of interest subsidy, provision for loss and risk premium payments. In 2005/06, approximately \$6.2 was budgeted for this program, including \$4.8 million for Provision for Loss, Interest Subsidy, and previous Risk Premiums with national banks, and \$1.4 million for Interest Relief and Debt Reduction Programs.

IV Skills Development and Employment Services

Training and Continuing Education undertakes and administers activities aimed at providing opportunities for people to acquire the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to meet current and evolving labour market demands in support of economic and social development in Manitoba.

Training and Continuing Education collaborates with learning providers and funding partners to:

- provide access to a continuum of learning and skill development opportunities that lead to employment and continuing education
- enable citizens to find and sustain employment
- assist business and industries by developing a human resource capacity that is productive and competitive
- develop a workforce that is representative of the population

These goals are achieved within Training and Continuing Education through the following areas: Adult Learning and Literacy, the Hydro Northern Training Initiative, Industry Training Partnerships, Apprenticeship, and Employment and Training Services (ETS).

ETS provided access to services through a provincial network of 16 Employment and Training Services Centres. ETS manages funds provided under the Canada-Manitoba Labour Market Development Agreement. In 2005/06, 9,177 Employment Insurance (EI) clients were assisted in returning to work, which resulted in savings (unpaid benefits) of \$33.5 million to the EI Account.

V Sustainable Development

For Manitoba to be economically and socially sustainable, its citizens must be highly educated, trained, and employed. The Department continues to work to ensure that youth and adults are provided with accessible life-long learning and employment opportunities. One of the Department's objectives is to assist Manitobans to prepare for, gain and maintain sustainable employment through direct service and partnerships with community, industry and employer groups, thus contributing to sustainable development in a fundamental way by providing a continuum of education, training, and employment programs and services within provincial social and economic priorities. As part of the Department's commitment to sustainable development, partnerships with industry, business, labour, and government are encouraged to reduce duplication of activity and costs and encourage joint planning, information sharing, and decision making. Efforts continue to increase staff knowledge of the principles and guidelines of sustainable development and how these can continue to be integrated and strengthened within the programs and services of the Department.

A Sustainable Development Co-ordinator provides support, leadership and co-ordination of departmental sustainable development initiatives. An interdepartmental SD Team assists with the co-ordination of sustainable development initiatives. MAET promotes sustainable development principles and guidelines in departmental activities on a continuous basis so that the inclusion of such principles and guidelines becomes an instinctive element in the conduct of departmental activities.

MAET carried out management procedures in line with sustainable development including decision-making, planning, budgeting and procurement processes and attempted to incorporate principles of sustainable development into its policies and programs.

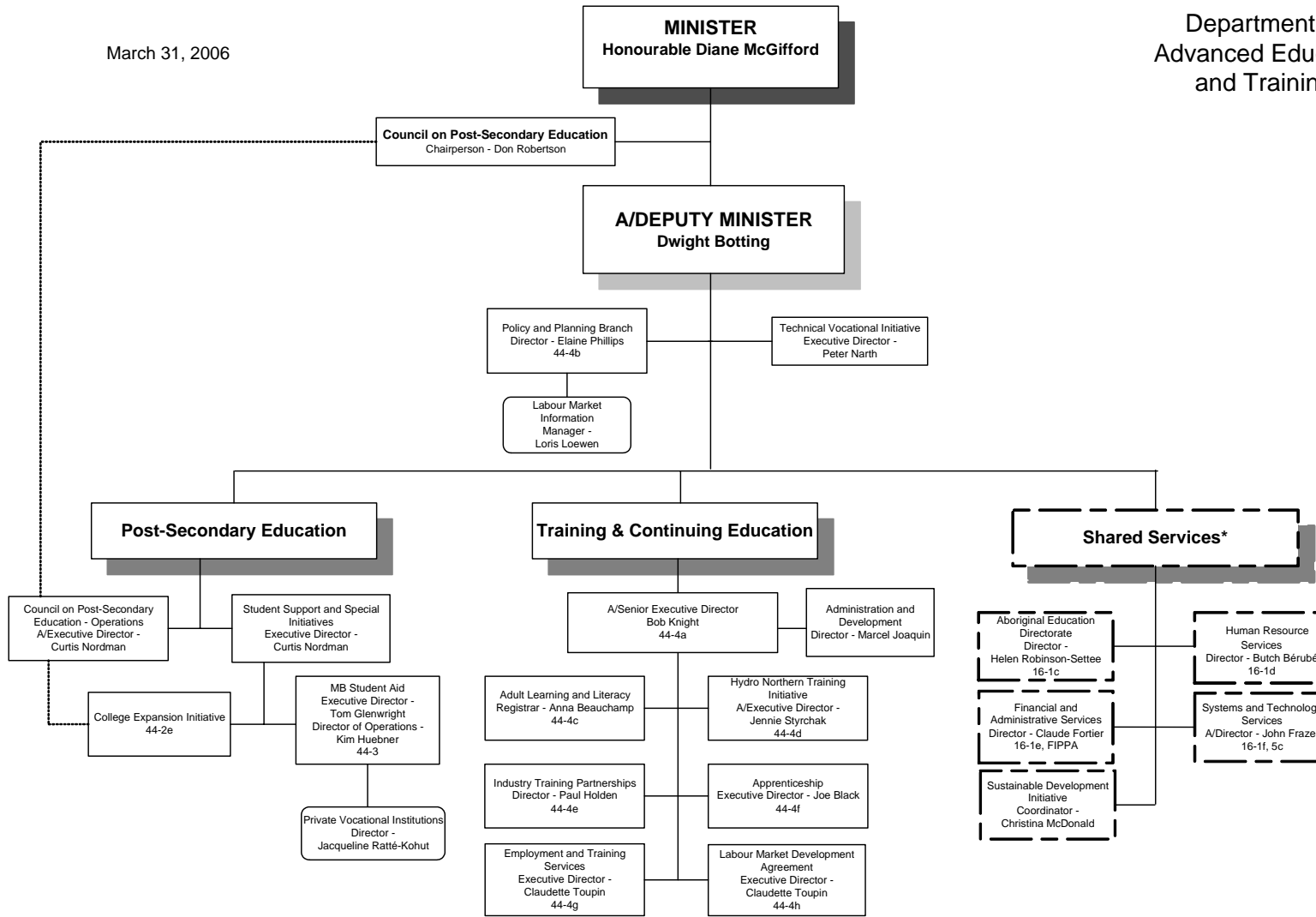
The Department supported and participated in government-wide sustainable development-focused/climate change initiatives such as the Winnipeg Commuter Challenge. MAET staff participated on the interdepartmental SD Team (Education Departments) and in numerous government-wide sustainable development committees/working groups.

In 2005/06, MAET supported the implementation of the Education for Sustainable Development Action Plan. Technical Vocational programming focused on sustainable development integration. MAET, together with Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, Environment Canada, and Learning for a Sustainable Future worked together to establish a Manitoba Education for Sustainable Development Working Group (MESDWG) aimed at building ESD into the activities of the formal (curriculum/programs), non-formal, and informal education, training, and employment sectors in Manitoba.

All branches within MAET implemented sustainable development procurement action plans that included activities that resulted in the reduction of solid waste generation (recycling paper purchases remained stable at 100%; remanufactured toner cartridge purchases increased by 56%) and fossil fuel emissions (ethanol fuel purchases increased from 18% to 32%), and increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples in providing for goods and services (Aboriginal procurement increased from \$666.0 to \$5,122.0). The Department implemented waste reduction activities in co-operation with Waste Stream Services. MAET also saw an increase in education and awareness of sustainable development activities among department staff. Specific Division/Branch sustainable development activities are presented within branch reports.

March 31, 2006

Department of Advanced Education and Training



* Provides services to both the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth and the Department of Advanced Education and Training