

5. PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

Public education is financed primarily by a combination of property tax and general provincial revenues. Property tax is collected via municipal tax bills and consists of two portions:

- (1) Education Support Levy (ESL) - A general province-wide mill rate assessed on all taxable property excluding farmland. It is specified on each property tax bill issued by a municipality, collected by the municipality and paid to the Province.
- (2) Special Levy (SL) - A school division/district specific levy determined by the local school board after considering its primary sources of revenue (provincial grants) compared to its approved budget. It is assessed on all taxable property including farmland, detailed on the municipal tax bill, collected by the municipality and paid directly to the school division/district.

The following figure details the sources of revenue for the 1993/94 school year:

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS		
1993/94 SCHOOL YEAR OPERATING EXPENDITURES		
Property taxes		%
Prov. Education Support Levy	<u>\$188,700,000</u>	
Local Special Levy	<u>\$309,200,000</u>	
Subtotal from property taxation	<u>\$497,900,000</u>	45%
Provincial government general revenue	<u>\$486,800,000</u>	44%
Use of school division surpluses	<u>\$11,700,000</u>	1%
Other provincial revenue	<u>\$44,700,000</u>	4%
Other non-provincial revenue	<u>\$58,600,000</u>	6%
		<hr/>
FUNDING FOR 1993/94 SCHOOL YEAR*	<u>\$1,099,700,000</u>	100%

Figure 29

*Note: Excludes capital support of \$60.6 million. Figures have been rounded.
Source: 1993/94 preliminary school division financial statements

SPECIAL REVENUE DISTRICTS

There are three districts remaining where operation and funding reflect unique circumstances. In each case it is due to the existence of a company or utility which funds education rather than the traditional assessment base and taxation structure. For example, in Pine Falls School District No. 2155 funding came from Abitibi-Price Inc. as the major employer in the community. With the sale of the mill to local interests there may be an opportunity to entertain new options in this area. In Pinawa, the primary employer is Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and the town site forms the base of the Whiteshell Special Revenue District No. 2408. Winnipeg Hydro owns and operates a dam site at Pointe du Bois and is responsible for education of local children. While the school is no longer operated, Winnipeg Hydro provides transportation via its own bus to Lac du Bonnet in neighbouring Agassiz School Division No. 13. A residual fee charge, calculated by the Agassiz School Division is paid directly by Winnipeg Hydro. Agassiz School Division receives regular grants from the province on behalf of all students. In the cases of Pine Falls and Pinawa, the Schools' Finance Branch of the Department of Education and Training computes modified grants based on the special financial arrangements with the major employers.

OTHER SPECIAL FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

There are specially negotiated agreements with mining companies in some northern communities where regular school divisions or districts exist.

Examples of these include:

- International Nickel Company in Thompson
- Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting in Flin Flon and Snow Lake.

Any changes to the delivery system for education must be sensitive to these existing agreements and it will be necessary to review them if such changes implicate financial matters.

TOTAL ASSESSMENT PER DIVISION/DISTRICT

The smallest divisions or districts with very low assessment have extreme difficulty raising sufficient funds to establish a budget if they want to provide a reasonable range of education services.

Portioned assessment* totals range from just over \$2 million in Lynn Lake to over \$4 billion in Winnipeg School Division No. 1. The local special levy mill rates range from a low of 9.84 to a

* Portioned assessment is the fraction of total market value assessment of property used for taxation purposes, established by the Provincial Government as a method of buffering the effects of implementing the market value based assessment system.

high of 90.80. Obviously, absolute comparisons are difficult and a more appropriate system is needed to evaluate this issue.

Some knowledgeable people in the field of education finance argued that a school division with less than \$100 million in available portioned assessment is not in a position to provide a full range of education services. In Manitoba, 12 regular divisions/districts have less than \$100 million in assessment. (see Figure 30) Additionally, the Francophone School Division does not have its own assessment - it depends on the assessment of contributing home divisions; Pine Falls and Pointe du Bois have no assessment; Whiteshell (Pinawa) Special Revenue District has \$20,994,280.

<u>DIVISIONS/DISTRICTS WITH 1994 ASSESSMENT UNDER \$100 MILLION</u> (portioned and including farmland)			
<u>DIVISION/DISTRICT</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>DIVISION/DISTRICT</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT</u>
Boundary No. 16	\$84,224,450	Frontier No. 48	\$46,865,830
Pembina Valley No. 27	\$84,399,000	Churchill No. 2264	\$17,022,870
Mountain No. 28	\$88,231,690	Snow Lake No. 2309	\$6,035,400
Turtle River No. 32	\$72,308,930	Lynn Lake No. 2312	\$2,198,010
Duck Mountain No. 34	\$40,241,300	Sprague No. 2439	\$10,667,010
Flin Flon No. 46	\$75,569,210	Leaf Rapids No. 2460	\$15,485,020

Figure 30

ASSESSMENT PER PUPIL

As long as property tax is used as a basis for a part of education funding, a system is needed to compare and contrast the ability of divisions/districts to pay education taxes. One of the better methods is to use a factor of available market value assessment per pupil. At least this gives an indication of the relative wealth of each area, measured against the number of students they are educating. However, it has its faults too, since one can be asset rich and cash poor. A highly assessed property that does not generate cash flow does not help the owner pay taxes. This underlines one of the detriments of property tax as a source of education funding. Nonetheless, the following Figure 31 shows the available (portioned) market value assessment per pupil listed by existing school division/district in descending order. It ranges from a low of \$8,496 to a high of \$157,872. It is very easy to see why school divisions at the low end of the scale would have difficulty competing with any of its neighbours at the high end of the scale. Because of pressure to keep mill rates 'in line', the majority are in the 10 to 20 range but the ability to raise revenue and the widely varying amounts that can be raised by each mill in different areas makes it very difficult for equity to be achieved.

1994 PORTIONED ASSESSMENT PER PUPIL
(Sorted in descending order of assessment per pupil)

DIVISION/DISTRICT	1994 PORTIONED ASSESSMENT	1993/94 ELIGIBLE STUDENT ENROLLMENT*	ASSESSMENT PER PUPIL
Fort Garry No. 5	\$1,070,609,990	6,781.5	\$157,872
St. James - Assiniboia No. 2	1,479,992,370	9,390.1	157,612
Norwood No. 8	193,514,840	1,238.1	156,300
Evergreen No. 22	258,893,970	1,742.2	148,602
Winnipeg No. 1	4,183,491,940	30,582.5	136,794
Antler River No. 43	125,156,270	931.0	134,432
Assiniboine South No. 3	859,796,470	6,591.9	130,432
Fort la Bosse No. 41	207,979,920	1,727.6	120,387
Agassiz No. 13	327,339,290	2,728.4	119,975
Morris-Macdonald No. 19	190,218,180	1,585.7	119,958
Lord Selkirk No. 11	538,077,970	4,506.8	119,392
Boundary No. 16	84,224,450	715.4	117,731
White Horse Plain No. 20	120,328,060	1,044.2	115,235
St. Boniface No. 4	665,687,250	5,782.5	115,121
Portage la Prairie No. 24	379,496,670	3,578.1	106,061
Red River No. 17	120,895,900	1,140.8	105,975
Birdtail River No. 38	144,339,030	1,366.7	105,611
Souris Valley No. 42	119,170,970	1,132.5	105,228
Midland No. 25	162,893,240	1,587.4	102,616
Beautiful Plains No. 31	168,765,220	1,666.4	101,275
Pelly Trail No. 37	103,140,440	1,023.1	100,812
Brandon No. 40	747,026,840	7,424.2	100,621
Rolling River No. 39	209,523,670	2,119.0	98,879
St. Vital No. 6	932,044,010	9,710.6	95,982
Tiger Hills No. 29	114,797,850	1,203.7	95,371
Pembina Valley No. 27	84,399,000	886.1	95,248
Transcona-Springfield No. 12	764,682,830	8,093.5	94,481
Seven Oaks No. 10	838,793,070	9,033.1	92,858
Interlake No. 21	306,318,680	3,345.6	91,559
River East No. 9	1,167,385,960	12,792.7	91,254
Intermountain No. 36	115,309,170	1,268.5	90,902
Turtle Mountain No. 44	111,174,180	1,244.2	89,354
Rhineland No. 18	123,221,580	1,382.5	89,130
Western No. 47	114,980,950	1,353.2	84,970
Pine Creek No. 30	119,505,090	1,408.5	84,846
Dauphin-Ochre Area No. 1	171,255,090	2,083.8	82,184
Mountain No. 28	88,231,690	1,148.0	76,857
Churchill No. 2264	17,022,870	221.5	76,853
Kelsey No. 45	137,785,790	1,884.3	73,123
Swan Valley No. 35	140,971,580	1,940.8	72,636
Sprague Consolidated No. 2439	10,667,010	147.0	72,565
Lakeshore No. 23	103,862,080	1,456.6	71,304
Seine River No. 14	347,376,780	4,921.0	70,591
Garden Valley No. 26	189,192,980	2,714.4	69,700
Hanover No. 15	368,343,910	5,386.7	68,380
Turtle River No. 32	72,308,930	1,134.9	63,714
Mystery Lake No. 2355	176,636,150	3,476.5	50,809
Flin Flon No. 46	75,569,210	1,582.0	47,768
Duck Mountain No. 34	40,241,300	847.5	47,482
Leaf Rapids No. 2460	15,485,020	394.2	39,282
Snow Lake No. 2309	6,035,400	252.6	23,893
Frontier No. 48	46,865,830	2,467.2	18,996
Lynn Lake No. 2312	2,198,010	258.7	8,496
PROVINCIAL TOTAL	19,263,224,950	180,426.0	106,765

Figure 31

*Note: 1993/94 Eligible Enrollment is actual at September 30, 1993; Eligible Enrollment excludes special revenue districts, nursery students, federally funded students and counts kindergarten as 0.5.

Source: Schools' Finance Branch

1994 PORTIONED ASSESSMENT BY SCHOOL DIVISION

DIVISION/DISTRICT	RESIDENTIAL	FARM	OTHER	TOTAL
Winnipeg No. 1	\$2,098,157,430	\$1,811,360	\$2,083,523,150	\$4,183,491,940
St. James - Assiniboia No. 2	840,094,860	6,544,110	633,353,400	1,479,992,370
Assiniboine South No. 3	759,095,410	7,090,720	93,610,340	859,796,470
St. Boniface No. 4	448,319,800	3,956,800	213,410,650	665,687,250
Fort Garry No. 5	642,600,220	3,224,310	424,785,460	1,070,609,990
St. Vital No. 6	774,614,700	8,511,100	148,918,210	932,044,010
Norwood No. 8	126,158,920	0	67,355,920	193,514,840
River East No. 9	1,017,245,660	8,315,730	141,824,570	1,167,385,960
Seven Oaks No. 10	686,716,450	8,878,580	143,198,040	838,793,070
Lord Selkirk No. 11	411,963,970	33,389,620	92,724,380	538,077,970
Transcona-Springfield No. 12	487,088,160	42,944,310	234,650,360	764,682,830
Agassiz No. 13	207,058,390	51,027,210	69,253,690	327,339,290
Seine River No. 14	246,779,470	44,728,680	55,868,630	347,376,780
Hanover No. 15	210,913,120	62,292,920	95,137,870	368,343,910
Boundary No. 16	27,973,680	42,073,740	14,177,030	84,224,450
Red River No. 17	44,453,840	53,530,170	22,911,890	120,895,900
Rhineland No. 18	49,330,510	43,914,540	29,976,530	123,221,580
Morris-Macdonald No. 19	64,922,750	77,926,920	47,368,510	190,218,180
White Horse Plain No. 20	57,041,000	41,003,100	22,283,960	120,328,060
Interlake No. 21	164,362,130	77,438,300	64,518,250	306,318,680
Evergreen No. 22	174,760,470	32,420,130	51,713,370	258,893,970
Lakeshore No. 23	49,161,480	39,814,980	14,885,620	103,862,080
Portage la Prairie No. 24	180,466,740	70,818,050	128,211,880	379,496,670
Midland No. 25	56,448,050	89,268,930	17,176,260	162,893,240
Garden Valley No. 26	92,069,080	48,499,800	48,624,100	189,192,980
Pembina Valley No. 27	23,406,620	48,354,930	12,637,450	84,399,000
Mountain No. 28	25,435,850	44,803,380	17,992,460	88,231,690
Tiger Hills No. 29	35,465,540	57,445,590	21,886,720	114,797,850
Pine Creek No. 30	37,541,170	48,274,320	22,689,600	119,505,090
Beautiful Plains No. 31	62,347,860	51,336,150	55,081,210	168,765,220
Turtle River No. 32	29,770,170	33,521,910	9,016,850	72,308,930
Dauphin-Ochre Area No. 1	99,931,110	27,269,430	44,054,550	171,255,090
Duck Mountain No. 34	18,553,470	18,857,280	2,830,550	40,241,300
Swan Valley No. 35	67,528,510	45,713,250	27,729,820	140,971,580
Intermountain No. 36	44,190,820	53,348,010	17,770,340	115,309,170
Pelly Trail No. 37	37,582,220	45,487,980	20,070,240	103,140,440
Birdtail River No. 38	35,831,110	61,309,710	47,198,210	144,339,030
Rolling River No. 39	89,069,340	60,748,690	59,705,640	209,523,670
Brandon No. 40	439,638,020	20,577,300	286,811,520	747,026,840
Fort la Bosse No. 41	54,109,400	64,016,950	89,853,570	207,979,920
Souris Valley No. 42	33,088,060	54,220,920	31,861,990	119,170,970
Antler River No. 43	30,537,800	66,324,420	28,294,050	125,156,270
Turtle Mountain No. 44	45,482,530	48,447,420	17,244,230	111,174,180
Kelsey No. 45	77,042,930	7,901,820	52,841,040	137,785,790
Flin Flon No. 46	54,977,600	0	20,591,610	75,569,210
Western No. 47	66,119,470	20,235,360	28,626,120	114,980,950
Frontier No. 48	26,958,770	5,224,560	14,682,500	46,865,830
Churchill No. 2264	7,101,700	4,020	9,917,150	17,022,870
Snow Lake No. 2309	4,609,490	3,900	1,422,010	6,035,400
Lynn Lake No. 2312	1,168,170	0	1,029,840	2,198,010
Mystery Lake No. 2355	123,945,770	0	52,690,380	176,636,150
Sprague Consolidated No. 2439	4,553,760	2,621,970	3,491,280	10,667,010
Leaf Rapids No. 2460	6,591,990	8,550	8,884,480	15,485,020
PROVINCIAL TOTAL	11,500,375,540	1,785,481,930	5,977,367,480	19,263,224,950
NL - L.G.D. of Pinawa	19,283,660	222,750	1,487,870	20,994,280
NL - Not in any division	4,423,030	6,821,850	19,956,000	31,200,880
Including L.G.D. of Pinawa	11,524,082,230	1,792,526,530	5,998,811,350	19,315,420,110
Excluding L.G.D. of Pinawa	11,504,798,570	1,792,303,780	5,997,323,480	19,294,425,830

Figure 32

Source: Schools' Finance Branch

1994 EDUCATION SUPPORT LEVY BY SCHOOL DIVISION

DIVISION/DISTRICT	RESIDENTIAL 7.920 MILLS	FARM 0.00 MILLS	OTHER 18.060 MILLS	TOTAL
Winnipeg No. 1	\$16,617,407	0	\$37,628,428	\$54,245,835
St. James - Assiniboia No. 2	6,653,551	0	11,438,362	18,091,914
Assiniboine South No. 3	6,012,036	0	1,690,603	7,702,638
St. Boniface No. 4	3,550,693	0	3,854,196	7,404,889
Fort Garry No. 5	5,089,394	0	7,671,625	12,761,019
St. Vital No. 6	6,134,948	0	2,689,463	8,824,411
Norwood No. 8	999,179	0	1,216,448	2,215,627
River East No. 9	8,056,586	0	2,561,352	10,617,937
Seven Oaks No. 10	5,438,794	0	2,586,157	8,024,951
Lord Selkirk No. 11	3,262,755	0	1,674,602	4,937,357
Transcona-Springfield No. 12	3,857,738	0	4,237,786	8,095,524
Agassiz No. 13	1,639,902	0	1,250,722	2,890,624
Seine River No. 14	1,954,493	0	1,008,987	2,963,481
Hanover No. 15	1,670,432	0	1,718,190	3,388,622
Boundary No. 16	221,552	0	256,037	477,589
Red River No. 17	352,074	0	413,789	765,863
Rhineland No. 18	390,698	0	541,376	932,074
Morris-Macdonald No. 19	514,188	0	855,475	1,369,663
White Horse Plain No. 20	451,765	0	402,448	854,213
Interlake No. 21	1,301,748	0	1,165,200	2,466,948
Evergreen No. 22	1,384,103	0	933,943	2,318,046
Lakeshore No. 23	389,359	0	268,834	658,193
Portage la Prairie No. 24	1,429,297	0	2,315,507	3,744,803
Midland No. 25	447,069	0	310,203	757,272
Garden Valley No. 26	729,187	0	878,151	1,607,338
Pembina Valley No. 27	185,380	0	228,232	413,613
Mountain No. 28	201,452	0	324,944	526,396
Tiger Hills No. 29	280,887	0	395,274	676,161
Pine Creek No. 30	297,326	0	608,434	905,760
Beautiful Plains No. 31	493,795	0	994,767	1,488,562
Turtle River No. 32	235,780	0	162,844	398,624
Dauphin-Ochre Area No. 1	791,454	0	795,625	1,587,080
Duck Mountain No. 34	146,943	0	51,120	198,063
Swan Valley No. 35	534,826	0	500,801	1,035,626
Intermountain No. 36	349,991	0	320,932	670,924
Pelly Trail No. 37	297,651	0	362,469	660,120
Birdtail River No. 38	283,782	0	852,400	1,136,182
Rolling River No. 39	705,429	0	1,078,284	1,783,713
Brandon No. 40	3,481,933	0	5,179,816	8,661,749
Fort la Bosse No. 41	428,546	0	1,622,755	2,051,302
Souris Valley No. 42	262,057	0	575,428	837,485
Antler River No. 43	241,859	0	510,991	752,850
Turtle Mountain No. 44	360,222	0	311,431	671,652
Kelsey No. 45	610,180	0	954,309	1,564,489
Flin Flon No. 46	435,423	0	371,884	807,307
Western No. 47	523,666	0	516,988	1,040,654
Frontier No. 48	213,513	0	265,166	478,679
Churchill No. 2264	56,245	0	179,104	235,349
Snow Lake No. 2309	36,507	0	25,682	62,189
Lynn Lake No. 2312	9,252	0	18,599	27,851
Mystery Lake No. 2355	981,650	0	951,588	1,933,239
Sprague Consolidated No. 2439	36,066	0	63,053	99,118
Leaf Rapids No. 2460	52,209	0	160,454	212,662
PROVINCIAL TOTAL	91,082,974	0	107,951,257	*199,034,231
NL - L.G.D. of Pinawa	0	0	0	0
NL - Not in any division	35,030	0	360,405	395,436
Including L.G.D. of Pinawa	91,118,001	0	108,311,660	199,429,661
Excluding L.G.D. of Pinawa	91,118,001	0	108,311,660	199,429,661

Figure 33

*Note: This represents calendar year 1994. A school year bridges 2 calendar years and mill rates.
Source: Schools' Finance Branch

1994 PORTIONED ASSESSMENT, SPECIAL LEVY, AND MILL RATES
(includes assessment for farm land and outbuildings)

DIVISION/DISTRICT	ASSESSMENT	SPECIAL LEVY	MILL RATE
Winnipeg No. 1	\$4,183,491,940	\$84,964,600	20.31
St. James - Assiniboia No. 2	1,479,992,370	19,995,261	13.51
Assiniboine South No. 3	859,796,470	14,389,055	16.74
St. Boniface No. 4	665,687,250	10,001,431	15.02
Fort Garry No. 5	1,070,609,990	17,520,444	16.36
St. Vital No. 6	932,044,010	14,940,991	16.03
Norwood No. 8	193,514,840	2,841,095	14.68
River East No. 9	1,167,385,960	18,483,867	15.83
Seven Oaks No. 10	838,793,070	14,686,847	17.51
Lord Selkirk No. 11	538,077,970	5,851,001	10.87
Transcona-Springfield No. 12	764,682,830	11,010,997	14.40
Agassiz No. 13	327,339,290	3,903,957	11.93
Seine River No. 14	347,376,780	5,113,850	14.72
Hanover No. 15	368,343,910	3,625,484	9.84
Boundary No. 16	84,224,450	1,354,758	16.09
Red River No. 17	120,895,900	1,463,285	12.10
Rhineland No. 18	123,221,580	1,342,872	10.90
Morris-Macdonald No. 19	190,218,180	2,335,893	12.28
White Horse Plain No. 20	120,328,060	1,759,574	14.62
Interlake No. 21	306,318,680	3,342,801	10.91
Evergreen No. 22	258,893,970	3,182,401	12.29
Lakeshore No. 23	103,862,080	1,252,317	12.06
Portage la Prairie No. 24	379,496,670	4,838,679	12.75
Midland No. 25	162,893,240	2,496,300	15.32
Garden Valley No. 26	189,192,980	2,312,583	12.22
Pembina Valley No. 27	84,399,000	1,700,399	20.15
Mountain No. 28	88,231,690	1,676,402	19.00
Tiger Hills No. 29	114,797,850	2,177,315	18.97
Pine Creek No. 30	119,505,090	1,683,000	14.08
Beautiful Plains No. 31	168,765,220	2,302,585	13.64
Turtle River No. 32	72,308,930	1,078,126	14.91
Dauphin-Ochre Area No. 1	171,255,090	2,405,147	14.04
Duck Mountain No. 34	40,241,300	814,151	20.23
Swan Valley No. 35	140,971,580	2,529,203	17.94
Intermountain No. 36	115,309,170	1,640,849	14.23
Pelly Trail No. 37	103,140,440	1,863,855	18.07
Birdtail River No. 38	144,339,030	2,318,523	16.06
Rolling River No. 39	209,523,670	3,205,019	15.30
Brandon No. 40	747,026,840	8,795,300	11.77
Fort la Bosse No. 41	207,979,920	3,430,322	16.49
Souris Valley No. 42	119,170,970	2,010,031	16.87
Antler River No. 43	125,156,270	2,225,539	17.78
Turtle Mountain No. 44	111,174,180	2,542,576	22.87
Kelsey No. 45	137,785,790	2,095,574	15.21
Flin Flon No. 46	75,569,210	2,298,707	30.42
Western No. 47	114,980,950	2,015,900	17.53
Frontier No. 48	46,865,830	692,646	14.78
Churchill No. 2264	17,022,870	375,000	22.03
Snow Lake No. 2309	6,035,400	548,010	90.80
Lynn Lake No. 2312	2,198,010	87,259	39.70
Mystery Lake No. 2355	176,636,150	3,560,796	20.16
Sprague Consolidated No. 2439	10,667,010	178,772	16.76
Leaf Rapids No. 2460	15,485,020	795,713	51.39
SCHOOL DIVISION TOTAL	19,263,224,950	310,057,062	16.10
NL - Not in any school division	31,200,880	-	-
PROVINCIAL TOTAL	19,294,425,830	-	-

Figure 34

Source: Schools' Finance Branch

OBSERVATIONS ON PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

- For the 1993/94 school year, 45% of funding for school divisions and districts was raised by property taxes with 44% of funding emanating from consolidated provincial revenue. The remaining 11% came from other provincial, non-provincial sources and school division surpluses.
- The Education Support Levy, applicable to all but farm property, is collected uniformly at a rate of 7.920 mills on residential, 18.060 mills on other (commercial) and raised \$199.4 million in calendar 1994.
- The Special Levy is applied to all assessment including farmland. It is division/district specific, ranging from 9.84 to 90.80 mills and raised \$310.0 million in calendar 1994. The majority of rates fall between 10 and 20 mills.
- There is \$31,200,880 worth of assessed property that is not in any school division at the present time and no special levy is collected on those properties (although the provincial education support levy is collected). At the average mill rate of 16.10 in 1994 this translates to over \$502,000 in potential revenue for school divisions and is an inequity in taxation.
- Residents and owners of property within parks do not pay education taxes on an equal basis with other property owners. This anomaly is particularly troublesome to residents in a municipality paying full education taxes with neighbours paying only a rental or park fee.

CONCLUSIONS ON PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

- If property tax continues to be a basis for partial education funding then application should be made more uniform i.e., all property should be allocated to school divisions and property within parks should be assessed and taxed on a similar basis.
- At least 12 existing school divisions and districts have low assessments (under \$100 million) and pupil counts (8 with under 1,000) that make it very difficult to provide a full range of education services economically unless there is a disproportionate infusion of provincial funds or a very high special levy.
- Contemplation of any change of division/district groupings or boundaries must respect the unique financial arrangements found in locations where major employers have local arrangements e.g., Pinawa, Pine Falls, Pointe du Bois, Thompson, Snow Lake, Flin Flon.
- Any attempts to rationalize school divisions and districts should contemplate narrowing the present wide disparity in available assessment per pupil, assuming property tax remains as a funding source.
- Property assessment as a source for education funding has been questioned on the basis of a general social service being financed by property taxes. The replacement of property tax as a source for education funding would require a sales tax increase of more than 5%, a personal income tax rate increase of over 16% or some other combination. The Commission respects the difficult dilemma this creates for any government in determining its taxation policy.