

IX. EPILOGUE

For the past sixteen months members and staff of the Boundaries Review Commission have been listening, absorbing, studying and evaluating reams of information and opinions in attempting to design the most appropriate governance structure and school division boundaries for delivering education to the students of Manitoba. Evaluation of research and systems from around the world has caused the Commission to conclude that the most appropriate solutions must be designed right here at home. While it is beneficial that we evaluate other areas for options, it is especially important that we avoid repeating the mistakes of others. It is very evident that the best remedies to our problems can be found by recognition of our own circumstances and designing appropriate responses. Direct application of the approaches followed by others will not necessarily work in Manitoba.

The Commission has carefully avoided recommending change for change sake only. All of the recommendations are the result of thousands of hours of deliberation, advice and evaluation and they are made in the belief that those changes are necessary if our children are to reap the benefits of the best possible system. The Commission is aware that some of its recommendations may not be immediately popular. However, the Commission is equally confident that, upon reflection and evaluation of the data and background utilized to formulate the recommendations, most Manitobans will eventually reach similar conclusions.

Fear of change is a natural response. We can not, however, allow that fear to prevent us from making improvements to our systems. We must be bold enough to display strong leadership at a time when ambivalence and stationary inertia are preventing progress. Improvements are necessary and the Commission is confident that its recommendations will achieve many of those improvements. Manitobans have frequently displayed their adaptability and resourcefulness in the past and when given an opportunity to participate in the management of changes recommended here, the results will be positive for our students.

The Commission is grateful to the thousands of Manitobans and others who assisted us throughout this process. We are optimistic that their efforts have been positively reflected in this report. Manitoba will benefit from the collective work of many when the recommendations have been implemented.