

# Education for Sustainable Development in Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning

“Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning is considered to be a world leader in promoting ESD, and is committed to the “whole school” approach, in which not only does the curriculum address sustainable development, but the school itself serves as a model learning environment, demonstrating how sustainable development can be addressed in school policies, operations and management.”

## Vision-building and Leadership

### Sustainable Development in Manitoba Education’s Mission and Vision

The message that sustainable development is crucial to quality education and education is crucial for sustainable development:

- In 2004, the Ministry of Education and Advanced Learning declared Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as one of their top priorities and developed an Education for Sustainability Action Plan (2004-2008) for K-12 schooling.
- In 2009, the Ministry of Education and Advanced Learning embedded sustainability within its mission statement, the only Canadian province/territory to do so. The mission is:
 

*“To ensure that all Manitoba’s children and youth have access to an array of educational opportunities such that every learner experiences success through relevant, engaging and high quality education that prepares them for lifelong learning and citizenship in a democratic, socially just and sustainable society”.*
- Sustainability is also at the centre of the ‘overarching goals’ for education in Manitoba: *“To ensure education in Manitoba supports students experiencing and learning about what it means to live in a sustainable manner”*, ESD is also listed as one of six ‘priority action areas’.
- In 2012, [Tomorrow Now: Manitoba’s Green Plan](#) was released, and the role of education is outlined in achieving the goal that Manitoba becomes “one of the most sustainable places to live on earth”.

### Leadership for Education for Sustainable Development(ESD)

- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning was the first province in Canada to have a full time Sustainable Development Coordinator, to provide support and leadership towards enhancing a culture of ESD in school divisions and postsecondary institutions throughout Manitoba. There are 2 full time staff working on the implementation of ESD in Manitoba with the addition of an ESD Consultant in 2007 to work with schools, curriculum and provide professional development for educators .
- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning is the lead on the Council for Ministers of Education, Canada’s (CMEC) file on Education for Sustainable Development. ESD is a key activity area in Learn Canada 2020, CMEC’s framework to enhance Canada’s education.
- The CMEC ESD Working Group works with partners across the country to support and encourage ESD initiatives.
- Canada, through the Deputy Minister of Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, chairs the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe’s Education for Sustainable Development Committee (UNECE). Canada signed the Strategy and in 2011 assumed the Chair of the UNECE ESD Steering Committee. 56 member countries form the UNECE ESD Steering Committee. The UNECE ESD Steering Committee has identified the following priority action areas:
  - Incorporating ESD into teacher education;
  - Reorienting Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to be in support of sustainable development and transitioning to green economies; and
  - Encouraging an ESD school plan in every school by 2015.
- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning’s ESD priority is aligned with the UNECE priority action areas outlined above. It is anticipated these priority areas will continue for both Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning and the UNECE ESD beyond the end of the DESD.
- In 2012, Manitoba established an [ESD Leadership Council](#) comprising of senior-level representatives from various educational sector groups, faculties of education, and government departments, to assist with the development and implementation of new a three-year action plan on ESD (2013–2016). The new ESD Action Plan is intended to continue to guide the whole-school approach toward implementing ESD in K-12 schools The six goals of the action plan are:

- Goal 1: Ensure Quality Education for All
  - Goal 2: Infuse ESD Pedagogy into Teacher Education
  - Goal 3: Integrate ESD into Curricula and Learning (Pre-K-12 and Teacher Education)
  - Goal 4: Establish ESD School Plans
  - Goal 5: Strengthen ESD Capacity Building at All Levels through Training and Professional Learning Opportunities
  - Goal 6: Reorient Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Support of a Green Economy
- Education also plays a central role in instilling green skills, knowledge and values within the existing and future workforce in Manitoba and which, Technical Vocational Education (TVE) is afforded a central role in supporting this transition to a green economy. [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/pdfs/green\\_jobs.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/pdfs/green_jobs.pdf)
  - Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning signed an MOU in 2013 with Conservation and Water Stewardship in support of implementing the ESD actions found in the TomorrowNow – Manitoba’s Green Plan document.

## Partnership and Networks

### Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, Strengthening ESD as a Multi-stakeholder Process Involving NGOs, Other Government Departments, Educational Institutions and the Private Sector.

- In 2005, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning partnered with the NGO [Learning for a Sustainable Future \(LSF\)](#) and the federal Department of the Environment established a provincial ESD working group in Manitoba involving representatives from government, educational institutions, non-formal and informal learning organisations, NGOs, the private sector, teacher associations and other stakeholders. The pilot project in Manitoba helped to establish other ESD working groups in provinces and territories across Canada.  
The Manitoba Sustainable Development Working group remains active today and has recently completed a successful Celebrating Sustainability Month in Manitoba. Celebrating Sustainability Month aimed to inspire and empower Manitobans to accelerate the uptake of sustainable living through showcasing the sustainability efforts of individuals, NGOs, government, the private sector, communities, and educational institutions in the province.
- Partnership with Manitoba Hydro to offer ESD Grants to promote sustainability in classrooms. The grants provide up to \$2000 to cover expenses, such as teacher release time, professional development, and teaching/learning resources for sustainability action projects.
- In 2011, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning partnered with [FortWhyte Alive](#) (FWA) to increase student and educator awareness, understanding, and actions related to living sustainably in an urban setting. This partnership includes providing professional development opportunities for teachers on how they can take their classrooms outdoors, and how they can incorporate into their curriculum the importance of thriving ecosystems, reducing pollution, and protecting habitats. This partnership continues today and is making a difference in learning for sustainability for participating schools. Their newest program, Tots and Trees is a nature-based preschool program.
- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning is working with faculties of education to incorporate ESD in teacher education and training by providing pre-service ESD teacher workshops. In 2011-12, a committee of Faculty of Education representatives in partnership with Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning developed a, *“Suggested Actions for Reorienting Teacher Education in Faculties of Education in Manitoba to Address Sustainability.”* The committee wrote suggested ESD actions for capacity building, policy, curriculum, administration, research, and partnerships. [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/pdfs/actions\\_poster.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/pdfs/actions_poster.pdf)
- The partnership established with [Me to We](#) (Free the Children) has been supportive of ESD due to the enormous participation and uptake of schools to undertake one local and one global action in support of causes students care about. Educators have commented that the Me to We program has helped to transform student behavior and increase engagement.
- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning continue to partner with the [International Institute for Sustainable Development](#) (IISD). IISD provides research and advice in support of the Ministry’s commitment to ESD and the UN Decade.
- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning partners within and outside the education community to further ESD. Other partners include but not limited to the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, Ducks Unlimited, Oak Hammock Marsh, Active and Safe Routes to School, Assiniboine Park to name just a few. The government is interested in partnering with organizations who want to move the ESD agenda forward.
- Partnerships with postsecondary institutions in Manitoba that are actively engaged in ESD through the establishment

of institutional committees/task forces, SD policies, active student engagement, and activities in areas such as energy conservation/management, waste reduction, sustainable foods and sustainable purchasing.

## Capacity-building, Training and Resource Development

### Focussing on Teaching and Learning for Sustainability

- ESD is integrated throughout the K-12 curriculum including revisions in technical vocational education, starting from broad cross-curricular learning outcomes and translated into subject-specific learning outcomes. New curriculum that is being developed is being analysed to determine where sustainability concepts can be incorporated.
- ESD resources ,posted on the ESD website ,are developed to support educators implementing ESD [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd)
- In 2011, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning developed the new Gr 12 Global Issues Citizenship and Sustainability Course. [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/global\\_issues/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/global_issues/index.html) The course is unique as students conduct inquiry into the social, political, environmental, and economic impact of contemporary and emerging global issues. Through their inquiry, students focus on questions of quality of life locally, nationally and globally. This course is based on the principles of active democratic citizenship, ecological literacy, critical media literacy, and ethical decision-making, and consolidates learning across the disciplines to empower students as agents of change for a sustainable and equitable future. As a mandatory component of the course, students plan and implement a community-based action-research project.

### Focussing on Enhancing the ESD Capacity of Educators and School Administrators

- ESD pre-service and in-service training sessions have been conducted in schools and in faculties of education throughout the province by Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, and NGOs providing educators with information, resources, activities, and initiatives that they can adapt and use in the classroom.
- In 2007, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning partnered with the Sustainability and Education Academy (SEdA) to provide learning opportunities to senior level officials of schools and schools divisions on how to integrate sustainability into all aspects of the schools educational system (i.e. using a whole system approach). SEdA has had a significant impact in Manitoba, leading many of the school divisions to develop sustainable development action plans using this Whole System Domain Framework. [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/global\\_issues/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/socstud/global_issues/index.html)
- In support of Manitoba Education’s plan for every school to have a Sustainability Plan in place by 2015, Manitoba Education is offering professional development sessions for new and existing administrators on ESD school planning. There is an ESD school plan site on the ESD website [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd)
- In 2012, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning partnered with the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents on the Sustainability: Educating for ACTION Conference which brought together over 900 educators, students and senior educational leaders to support participants in developing strong ecological skills and perspectives.
- In November 2013, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning is hosting a workshop on *Taking Kindergarten into Nature* more than 250 educators in the province attended.
- In June ,2014 an ESD School Plan Seminar was held for educators and is posted on the Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning -Maple Site <http://www.mapleforem.ca>
- In November 2014 The MASS – Mental Health and Wellness, Educating for ACTION Conference will take place .

### Focussing on Enhancing the School Building and School Grounds as a Tool for Sustainability Learning

- Encouraging every school in Manitoba to have a Sustainability School Plan in place by 2015. Sustainability School Plans will ensure:
  - cost savings in the operation of schools (waste, water, energy, etc.) and reduction of their environmental impact on the planet
  - students’ understanding and commitment to sustainable living and citizenship

- improved health and well-being of the staff and students
- stronger sustainability connections with the community
- improved student academic achievement
- New schools are being built and retrofitting of schools is taking place using the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.
- Schools are engaging in naturalization initiatives and greening their operations, such as energy and water efficiency initiatives, waste reduction or offering more sustainable transport.
- Funding new school builds to create outdoor learning spaces and eco-friendly playgrounds.
- Educators are integrating sustainability into their classrooms and use their schools, communities and the outdoors as a teaching tool.

### Focussing on Developing ESD Materials and Resources including, ESD opportunities:

- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning has a Website focussed on ESD which is a hub for resources and information for educators. (<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/>)
- In 2008, the [Eco-Globe Schools](#) recognition program was established to celebrate the ESD journey of K-12 schools in Manitoba. It recognizes three levels of commitment and participation of whole schools at the Awareness, Action and Transformation levels.
- In 2007 Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning began to provide ESD grants for Manitoba schools and school divisions, specifically: Categorical grants with a funding formula of \$700.00 per school. [Education for Sustainable Development \(ESD\)](#)
- In 2011, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning released the [Guide for Sustainable Schools in Manitoba](#). This document was a result of a partnership between Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, the International Institute for Sustainable Development and school divisions in Manitoba, a partnership designed to help individual schools and communities become sustainable. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition will be on-line in the fall of 2014
- In 2011, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning released the [Kindergarten to Grade 12 Correlation Chart Template and Kindergarten Tool Kit](#). The tool kit is meant to help educators in the development of their own ESD activities by incorporating the ESD learning outcomes from the correlation charts or from curriculum documents.
- In 2012, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning published a brochure entitled, [Making a Living Sustainably: Green Jobs and Sustainability Careers](#) (2012) which is the first step toward establishing a broader web-resource Guide to Green Jobs and Sustainable Careers. Together, these two products will be used to improve education and career training supporting the transition to a green economy.
- Early Childhood Education is revising the kindergarten resource, *A Time for Learning, A Time for Joy* in which ESD will be infused.
- In 2014 Manitoba education and Advanced Learning released [Kindergarten to Grade 4 Poster Activities](#) to accompany the K-4 ESD poster
- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning is working on a Guide to Learning in the Outdoors.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Research

### Mapping and Monitoring of ESD Activities and Policies:

- Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning is working with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on a study to measure students' understanding, attitudes and behaviours concerning sustainable development and ESD. For the 2009-10 survey, over 1,500 students responded to the survey. The study suggested that Grade 10 students in Manitoba in 2010 demonstrated the following scores (on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest):
  - On knowledge of central sustainable development themes and concepts: 2.12.
  - On attitudes favourable to sustainable development: 2.14.
  - On behaviours supportive of sustainable development: 2.83.
- This study was conducted again in 2014 to determine whether ESD activities across the province have led to significant changes in the basic understanding and choices of Manitoba youth. The previous study can be found at [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/pdfs/leadership\\_council.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/pdfs/leadership_council.pdf) The 2014 study will be subject to peer review prior to being posted in late 2014
- In 2011, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, in partnership with the Council of Ministers of Education,

Canada (CMEC) Education for Sustainable Development Working Group (ESDWG), IISD and LSF develop the report, [Education for Sustainable Development in Canadian Faculties of Education](#). The study examines how Canadian faculties of education are incorporating Education for Sustainable Development into their pre-service programs, research, and other activities.

- In 2012-13, IISD in partnership Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning conducted a study titled, [Education for Sustainable Development at Manitoba Colleges and Universities: Results from an institution-wide survey and president interviews across Manitoba's 11 institutions of higher education](#). The study explored how ESD concepts and practices are being pursued within colleges and universities in Manitoba, in order to further ESD implementation at the K–12 level. The study explored whether Manitoba campuses reflect a “whole school” learning environment, in which course content is reflected in the daily operations of the campuses around them (as per the approaches now being taken in several K–12 school divisions across the province).
- In 2013, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning in partnership with CMEC, focussed on reporting on ESD progress on a National Scale. In particular, responding to UNESCO’s questionnaire(s) on Post 2014 Decade and the Final Report for the DESD. In order to enhance Manitoba’s response to the questionnaire, Manitoba Education in partnership with the MESDWG held a workshop in June with key stakeholders from different sectors to obtain input for the Final Report on the DESD.
- ESD data was collected in the provincial school plan survey in the fall of 2013 and the school plans submitted by the designated school divisions for 2013-14. The survey will be repeated in 2014-15 and the results compared to inform as to ESD implementation in schools throughout the province
- In accordance with the suggestion from UNESCO that ESD can contribute to and reinforce the delivery of quality education and led by the UNESCO Chair in Reorienting Teacher Education towards Sustainability at York University at Toronto, Canada Manitoba invited superintendents to participate in a survey regarding ESD and Quality Education. The report **Exploring the Relationships between Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the Delivery of Quality Education: A perspective from Manitoba, Canada** will be prepared for the UNESCO World Conference on ESD in Nagoya in November of 2014.



## Manitoba Education

### ***Mandate***

To provide direction and allocate resources in support of youth programming and kindergarten to grade 12 education in public and funded independent schools.

### ***Mission***

To ensure that all Manitoba’s children and youth have access to an array of educational opportunities such that every learner experiences success through relevant, engaging and high quality education that prepares them for lifelong learning and citizenship in a democratic, socially just and sustainable society.

### ***Vision***

That every learner will complete a high school education with a profound sense of accomplishment, hope and optimism.

### ***Overarching Goals***

1. To ensure education in Manitoba supports students experiencing and learning about what it means to live in a sustainable manner.

2. To ensure that education practice and policy in Manitoba is guided by the principle of inclusion.
3. To significantly increase achievement levels of those students who have been historically less successful.
4. To continue to increase the overall provincial graduation rate.

### ***Priority Action Areas***

1. Numeracy and Literacy
2. Education for Sustainable Development
3. Education in Low-income Communities
4. Aboriginal Education
5. Education in Rural Manitoba
6. Education in Northern Communities

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