



Education, Citizenship and Youth

Program and Student Services Branch
Robert Fletcher Building
203–1181 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3G 0T3
T 204-945-7907 F 204-948-2291
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12

April 9, 2008

TO: Superintendents of Eligible School Divisions

Dear Superintendent:

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (MECY) is pleased to be able to provide you with additional information about the recently announced Rural and Northern Clinician Bursary. The bursary is available to rural and northern school divisions, which for the purposes of the grant are, those divisions that are not located in the cities of Brandon or Winnipeg and that are outside a 90 kilometre radius of the City of Winnipeg.

The grant available to your division is up to a maximum of \$25,000 per year. This grant can be used to support existing divisional employees who wish to acquire additional training in one of the identified difficult to fill positions, or to support a current post-secondary student who is accepted or enrolled in a course of studies that will lead to eligibility to work in Manitoba schools. Both arrangements will need to include a signed service agreement that will be administered by your division.

We encourage each division to be creative in identifying a plan to support training, recruitment and retention for these hard to fill positions. Some ideas include: using the grant as incentive to graduating clinicians or using local resources to supplement this grant to make it more appealing to existing division staff.

Upon submission of documentation (see attached Application and Information Sheet for Applicants) MECY will release the funding to your division. The deadline for submitting this information is June 1, 2008 for 2008-09 academic year or February 28, 2009 for the 2009-10 academic year. As this is a new initiative we are offering two dates to accommodate individuals who will be seeking acceptance to a post secondary program over the next few months.

.../2

To assist your division in contacting training programs and interviewing potential candidates the Program and Student Services Branch has developed a list of universities that typically train Manitoba clinicians (see attached).

This is a very exciting opportunity for divisions and MECY to work in partnership to recruit and retain professionals in difficult to fill areas. We wish you every success in finding candidates who meet your staffing requirements. If you have further questions you can contact me at (204) 945-7911 or <joanna.blais@gov.mb.ca>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Blais', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joanna Blais
Director

JB/pk

Attachments

- c. Student Services Administrators
Secretary-Treasurers
Gerald Farthing
Jean-Vianney Auclair
Anne Longston