The Honourable Peter Liba,
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba
Room 235 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

May It Please Your Honour:

I have the privilege of presenting for the information of Your Honour the Annual Report of the Department of Education, Citizenship and Youth for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Honourable Peter Bjornson
Dear Minister:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth for the period April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004.

In November 2003, the Department enhanced its mandate by adding “citizenship” to the MB4Youth Division. This change acknowledges the need to assist youth in understanding their history and role as citizens, and to engage them in becoming fully participatory members of our democratic society.

Throughout 2003-04, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth made significant progress on implementing its Education Agenda for Student Success. Many intended activities were completed with new ones added. Collaboration with Manitoba Advanced Education and Training resulted in the development of the Aboriginal Education Action Plan, creation of the newly announced Technical Vocational Education Initiative, increased use of dual credits, and expanded application of prior learning assessment and recognition.

The groundwork for renewed Arts programming was developed with the intent to enhance both the scope and quality of the education offered to Manitoba children and youth. Significant steps to improve career opportunities for students in Manitoba have been undertaken. Increased funding to improve technical vocational education programming will strengthen existing programs, facilitate development of new programs and upgrade technical vocational equipment in Manitoba high schools. Students will be provided with improved technical programming that will lead to rewarding careers and increased opportunities for future post-secondary education.

Collaboration with parents, educators and community members across the province led to many project-based partnerships throughout 2003-04. These partnerships were critical to the accomplishments attained, and the work continuing to be conducted. The collegiality and respect established between our partners and department staff exemplify the commitment Manitobans have for learning and the role education plays to enhance social and economic prosperity.

I repeat what I wrote last year when submitting the 2002-03 annual report. Expectations for education have never been higher and the benefits have never been greater. This report for 2003-04 presents a picture of an education system that is meeting the needs of Manitobans today and preparing to meet the needs of Manitobans in the future. The future for our children and youth is optimistic and exciting. I am proud to work with the people of Manitoba who make it so.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Rowantree
Deputy Minister