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 Advanced Education and Training for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Honourable Diane McGifford
Dear Minister:

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

The past year has been active and productive as the Department moved forward on our plan to create an accessible, high quality post-secondary education and training system. Over the past year we have strengthened linkages across programs to create a learning continuum designed to accommodate a broad range of learner needs. Dual credit courses, which are important to the linked system, have been steadily increasing and our Prior Learning and Recognition Initiative (PLAR) is being recognized across Canada for its integrated approach.

The provincial Northern Development Strategy has been advanced through two key departmental initiatives: the Hydro Northern Training Initiative and the University College of the North. Both of these initiatives established important partnerships with First Nations communities and contribute to community-based delivery of education and training. The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Program is believed to be the first of its kind in Canada’s apprenticeship system and has gained very favourable attention over the past year. It will increase training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal Manitobans. As well, the Aboriginal Education Action Plan outlines our work across both education departments in this important area.

The Department has continued to support the creation of relevant learning opportunities for Manitoba’s youth and adults. Early estimates indicate over 9,500 learners enrolled in adult learning centres, with over 27,000 course registrations. This year, through the College Expansion Initiative (CEI), 13 new and expanded course offerings in emerging areas have been created. Along with tuition fees among the lowest in Canada, programs such as these contribute to the goal of encouraging youth to remain in Manitoba. In addition, the Department’s comprehensive range of training options has expanded with the addition of an innovative program to which both departments are committed, the Technical Vocational Initiative. This program will provide a continuum of technical vocational education pathways that is accessible, seamless across education levels, and synchronized with labour market needs.

We have made great progress over the year. New challenges lie ahead and I am confident that departmental staff will meet them as always with professionalism, dedication and commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Rowantree
Deputy Minister