



# Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

## Fall 2025



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## Message from the Deputy Minister of Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

**A**s we welcome the fall season, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone across Manitoba who supports the learning and development of our children and students. Whether you work in child care settings, classrooms, school divisions, community programs, or in support-based roles, your dedication continues to shape a stronger, more inclusive future for our province.

Manitoba has recently experienced the worst wildfire season on record. The scope of the evacuations and displacements required a significant response from many within our department, the provincial government, and numerous partners in the early learning and child care and K to 12 sectors. I want to recognize those who stepped forward to support evacuation efforts, adapt programming, and provide essential services to children, youth, and families during a time of great uncertainty. Your commitment and compassion made a real difference.

As September arrives, there is also a sense of renewal. The start of the school year brings fresh opportunities for learning, growth, and collaboration. Our government remains focused on ensuring every child succeeds—no matter where they live, their background, or their learning needs. We are advancing a vision rooted in equity, inclusion, and excellence, supporting children from their earliest years through to graduation and beyond.

September is also a time for reflection and for honouring the experiences and resilience of residential school survivors and their families and communities. With September 30th recognized as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we are reminded of the responsibility we share to advance reconciliation in meaningful ways. Through initiatives such as Bill 20, The Community Child Care Standards Amendment and Education Administration Act, we are working to create culturally safe and inclusive early learning and school environments that celebrate and support First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children and families. This work goes hand in hand with the development of a comprehensive Indigenous languages strategy, which will guide efforts to revitalize, retain, and promote the seven Indigenous languages of Manitoba, ensuring that these languages thrive in the very places where they were once silenced.

In this edition of the newsletter, you'll also find articles about the new Inclusion Support Program online resources for the early learning and child care sector, Kindergarten to Grade 12 English language arts curriculum implementation, Literacy with Information and Communication Technology (LwICT) renewal project, and a Routine Practices reminder for the upcoming respiratory illnesses season.

To all who work across Manitoba's education and early childhood learning sectors, may you have a safe, inspiring, and productive fall season, whether you are starting a new school year, settling back into routines, or enjoying the changing colours of our beautiful province.

Mona Pandey  
Deputy Minister  
Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning





## Department Announcements

### Department's Role in Manitoba's Historic 2025 Wildfire Season

This past summer, Manitoba faced its most severe wildfire season in over three decades, with more than 1.5 million hectares burned across the province. The government of Manitoba declared provincial states of emergency under The Emergency Measures Act on [May 28](#) and again on [July 10](#), as wildfires forced over 31,000 Manitobans from their homes. Many communities, including several First Nations and provincial parks, remained displaced for months.

Throughout this crisis, our department played a vital role in the province's coordinated wildfire response. A formal incident command structure (ICS) was activated on July 17, bringing together staff from all divisions to organize people, resources, and communications. Teams were redeployed to assist evacuees, adapt programming, and ensure children and youth continued to receive essential supports.



**Manitoba water bombers were busy dowsing forest fires this summer.**

Our department's efforts included the following highlights:

- Establishing and staffing child-friendly spaces in congregate shelters
- Coordinating youth programming with schools, First Nations, Métis organizations, and community partners
- Providing mental health resources and hosting virtual debriefing sessions for redeployed public service staff
- Partnering with other departments and sector organizations to maintain essential services for evacuated children and youth
- Initiating contingency plans to support students if evacuations extended into the fall

Multiple congregate shelters and more than 2,500 hotel rooms were used to accommodate evacuees during the height of the crisis. Staff worked closely with emergency management partners to ensure safety, programming, and support for those affected. This wildfire season tested the resilience, adaptability, and compassion of our sector. We are proud of the dedication shown by everyone involved, and we extend our thanks to all partners, communities, and staff who contributed to these unprecedented efforts.

### Impact on the Emergency Management Program

Given the unprecedented wildfire season and the ongoing need for sector partners to support the emergency response, the launch of the department's Emergency Management Program has been delayed. The wildfires, which displaced thousands and resulted in two provincial states of emergency, required the redirection of resources and focus. Once the wildfire situation eases, planning for the program's development will be rescheduled, with new timelines to be shared in the months ahead.



### Prevention of Infection within Child Care Facilities and Schools

Infection prevention and control measures are important to prevent the spread of infection in child care facilities and schools. [\*Routine Practices: Guide to Creating a Healthy Environment and Preventing Infections within Child Care Facilities and Schools\*](#) was developed to outline fundamental infection prevention and control measures in these environments.

Three key principles outlined in the document are hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and staying home when sick.

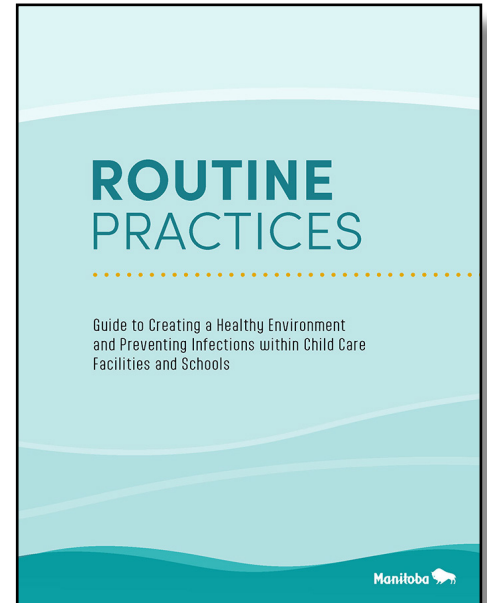
- In schools and child care facilities, germs are most commonly spread by the hands of children, staff, students, parents, and others. Hand hygiene is the single most important way to prevent the spread of germs and includes cleaning hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand hygiene is highlighted in the following posters:

[Adult Handwashing Procedure](#)

[Child Handwashing Procedure](#)

[Using Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer](#)

- Stay home when sick if you have a respiratory (coughing, sneezing, rash) or a gastrointestinal (vomiting, diarrhea) infection. This prevents germs from spreading.
- Practising cough etiquette (respiratory hygiene) helps prevent respiratory germs from spreading. This is highlighted in the poster [What Do You Do When You Go Achoo?](#).
- An additional resource for prevention of the spread of respiratory germs is the poster [You Can Help Prevent the Spread of Respiratory Illness](#).



Please visit the [Routine Practices webpage](#) on the department's website to review the document and resources and to access the posters. This webpage can provide information to reduce the risk of spreading communicable diseases in child care facilities and schools.

### Bill 20 Receives Royal Assent

On June 3, 2025, the Manitoba Legislative Assembly passed [Bill 20 – The Community Child Care Standards Amendment and Education Administration Amendment Act](#). This Bill will require the Minister to establish a policy framework for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis education in licensed early learning and child care environments and the public school system.

The framework aims to create culturally safe, inclusive, and supportive early learning environments for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children and families. Its purpose is to ensure Indigenous children have meaningful opportunities to explore and celebrate their identity and culture, while also supporting the professional development and cultural competency of educators and early learning and child care providers across the sector.

Recognizing the importance of sector input, the department will be consulting with stakeholders before finalizing and rolling out the new policy framework.



## Early Learning and Child Care Update

### Governments of Canada and Manitoba Renew Action Plan to Affirm Child-Care Priorities

This August, the governments of Canada and Manitoba signed a new action plan under the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement, detailing how Manitoba will invest close to \$21.8 million this year to continue building and strengthening regulated child care services for children under seven.

The 2025–2026 Action Plan, under the Canada-Manitoba ELCC Agreement, continues to support initiatives that can be implemented quickly and have a meaningful impact. These initiatives were built through consultation and sector feedback with two main priorities: training and workforce development, and diversity and inclusion.

Many of the initiatives outlined in the plan are already in motion, such as post-secondary program infrastructure development, workforce recognition, along with expansion of the ECE II Assessment Program, the creation of a Manitoba-specific Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework, and curriculum redevelopment, among others.

The Canada-Manitoba ELCC Agreement, originally established in 2017, remains complementary to the priorities established under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement. Together, these agreements support the creation of quality early learning and child care spaces and programming so that families can access the quality, inclusive child care they need.

For more information about the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement 2025/2026 Action Plan, visit: [Province of Manitoba | education - A Plan for Action](#)

### Launch of New Annual Awards Program: Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence

#### Nomination Deadline (Extended) : September 26, 2025

Early childhood educators (ECEs) lay the critical foundation for lifelong learning during the most formative years of a child's development. What better way to honour our incredible child care professionals than to take the opportunity each year to spotlight the innovative approaches, dedication, and transformative impact these exceptional educators bring to our Manitoba communities.

Launched in June, the first annual [Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence](#) honours ECEs across the province who play a vital role in shaping the lives of children under the age of 12. The awards also celebrate early learning and child care professionals who exhibit standards of excellence in early childhood education and recognize home-based providers for their contributions to enhancing children's growth and development.

The original deadline has been extended to Friday, September 26, 2025, so there's still time to submit a nomination. Thank you to all the nominators and nominees who have already done so! A reception honouring selected recipients will be hosted at the Manitoba Legislature this fall. Each award recipient will be presented with a certificate of recognition and a cheque for \$500.

For more information, visit [Manitoba.ca/eceawards](https://manitoba.ca/eceawards).



### New Inclusion Support Program Online Resources for Early Learning and Child Care

To better serve licensed child care facilities and families of children with additional support needs, the department has redeveloped the Inclusion Support Program section of the Early Learning and Child Care website.

Since 2009, all licensed child care facilities in Manitoba are required to provide inclusive programming, to have an inclusion policy, and to put in place individual program plans for children with additional support needs.

Early Learning and Child Care's Inclusion Support Program assists eligible child care facilities in removing barriers, thereby allowing a child with additional support needs to meaningfully participate in programming and activities with their peers, and enabling parents to work, attend education and training, or seek employment. Under this program, various services and supports are provided to licensed child care facilities, including the following:

- **Child Development Services:** Includes short-term interventions, programming recommendations, behavioural strategies, resourcing and training in inclusive practices, and self-regulation for early learning child care professionals. These services focus on inclusivity, environment, programming, and staff-child interactions.
- **Case Management Services** (application-based service for licensed and funded facilities only): If a child care facility requires additional assistance in order to meet the needs of a child with additional support needs, Case Management Services offers intake, assessment, and service planning, which may include grants specific to the Inclusion Support Program.

The Inclusion Support Program also provides funding to organizations to deliver training to child care providers on topics such as the characteristics of autism, strategies for understanding and managing challenging behaviours, teaching communication and social skills, and building positive relationships to promote quality care for children.

The new Inclusion Support Program online resource provides valuable information about the program, including guidance on the benefits of inclusion, inclusive practices and roles in child care, enrolment requirements and policies, program eligibility, and access to supports and services.

Learn more at [manitoba.ca/childcareinclusion](https://manitoba.ca/childcareinclusion).



## K–12 Education Update

### Indigenous Languages Update: Indigenous Excellence in Education

In June 2025, Cameron Adams joined the Indigenous Excellence in Education team as an Indigenous languages consultant. Cameron is leading the development of a comprehensive Indigenous languages strategy for Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. This strategy will focus on key areas, including immersion programming, resource development, recruitment and retention of Indigenous language teachers, post-secondary programming, and teacher certification pathways.

Additionally, consultants Wade Houle and Tania Munroe are leading the creation of a curriculum framework for Indigenous languages in Manitoba. A dedicated curriculum development team has been established and will begin collaborative work in fall 2026.

This initiative reflects the commitment made in the Throne Speech: *“In the very places where language was once silenced, today with the help of elders and language speakers, we are bringing Indigenous languages back to the classroom.”* Once developed, the Indigenous languages strategy will serve as a guiding framework to fulfill this important mandate.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning remains a lead signatory to the partnership agreement of the Manitoba Aboriginal Languages Strategy (MALS), which aims to revitalize, retain, and promote the seven Indigenous languages of Manitoba. Indigenous Excellence in Education represents the department in this partnership.

For questions related to Indigenous languages work, please contact Cameron Adams at [Cameron.Adams@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Cameron.Adams@gov.mb.ca).

### Manitoba Signs Renewed Bilateral Agreement with Canada for Minority Language Education and Second Official Language Instruction for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028

In July 2025, the Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, and the Honourable Renée Cable, Minister of Advanced Education and Training, signed a renewed agreement with the Government of Canada on minority language education and second official language instruction for 2024/2025 to 2027/2028.

This agreement will enable the implementation of Manitoba’s multi-year action plan, which is estimated to cost \$198 million. Canada will contribute \$72 million, and Manitoba will contribute \$126 million.

The Canada-Manitoba agreement provides important support for French language education in Manitoba, whether through the Français or French Immersion programs, or through French courses in the English Program. This agreement provides specific funding for programs such as [the program for the enrichment of French in education](#), the [French Second Language Revitalization Program](#), and [various bursaries](#) to support students and teachers.

The new agreement also provides specific support for [Manitoba’s Recruitment and Retention Strategy for French Language Teachers](#), which has been extended to 2028.

Manitoba is proud to continue partnering with Canada in support of official language education in the province.





### The Bureau de l'éducation française Division Celebrates 50 Years

The Bureau de l'éducation française (BEF) Division marked a significant milestone on June 11 with a celebration of its 50th anniversary, held at the Centre culturel franco-manitobain. The event welcomed approximately 180 attendees, including educational partners, government officials and personnel, as well as former BEF employees.

The evening featured a series of heartfelt greetings from six distinguished speakers:

- Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning
- Honourable Glen Simard, Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs
- Raymond Théberge, Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada (pre-recorded)
- Honourable Raymonde Gagné, Speaker of the Senate (pre-recorded)
- Léo Robert, Former President of the Société de la francophonie manitobaine, and Former Superintendent of the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine
- The Honourable Wab Kinew, Premier of Manitoba (pre-recorded)

Speakers reflected on BEF's journey and its transformative impact on French language education, both locally and nationally. A prevailing sentiment throughout the evening was that BEF's success has been—and continues to be—driven by the steadfast collaboration among community, partners, and government.

Adding a joyful and artistic touch to the celebration were musical performances by students from two local schools, École South Pointe School and École Précieux-Sang.

The event was sponsored in part by the Société de la francophonie manitobaine, the Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba, and the Centre culturel franco-manitobain.



From left to right: Léo Robert; Julius Chester; Honourable Glen Simard; Robert Loiselle, MLA for St. Boniface; Honourable Tracy Schmidt; and Rylan Ramnarace



Crowd shot at the BEF 50 event.



Students of École South Pointe School.



### 2025 EIS Collection Application: Key Updates and Enhancements

The 2025 release of the Education Information System (EIS) Collection application introduces several improvements designed to enhance data accuracy and simplify the submission process for school divisions and independent schools.

- **Expanded Resident Division Codes:** Additional codes provide a more accurate reflection of student residency details, supporting improved data reporting.
- **New Text Field:** A dedicated field has been added to allow the capture of information as a result of changes to the definition of resident pupil (for additional information on reporting enrolment, refer to the *Public Schools Enrolment and Categorical Grants Reporting* booklet located at [Finance and Statistics | Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning](#)).
- **Revised Enrolment Reporting Date:** System changes were made due to the amendment to The Public Schools Act to move the enrolment count date from September 30 to the first Wednesday in October. Note the due date for reporting is still October 15.

Just a reminder on the help desk process: all EIS Collection support requests should now be sent directly to [AppSupportEISCOLL@gov.mb.ca](mailto:AppSupportEISCOLL@gov.mb.ca) to ensure prompt assistance.

### Climate Education

The department has started work to strengthen climate education within the Framework for Learning. This initiative will focus on increasing climate literacy and climate action in Manitoba schools through strengthened learning outcomes and new implementation resources.

### Kindergarten to Grade 12 English Language Arts Curriculum Implementation

Information sessions for the 2025/2026 voluntary pilot/implementation of the refined draft Kindergarten to Grade 12 English language arts curriculum will be held in early fall. The refined draft curriculum will support greater provincial consistency in literacy instruction with clear learning outcomes at every grade, along with new Kindergarten to Grade 5 reading, writing, and oral language progressions. The department is providing implementation support to participating schools and will host focus groups to provide an overview and to obtain feedback to inform further refinements. The refined draft curriculum is available on Manitoba's Framework for Learning website at [Framework for Learning | Education and Early Childhood Learning](#).





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### New Guiding Principles for Evaluation and Communication of Student Learning

The department has developed new guiding principles for evaluation and communication of student learning to support Kindergarten to Grade 12 educators in classroom-based assessment, evaluation, and communication practices that enhance student learning. The guiding principles include clarification of relevant language to enhance clarity and shared understandings related to assessment and evaluation. The guiding principles will be released in the fall of 2025 and will be available on Manitoba's Framework for Learning website at [Framework for Learning | Education and Early Childhood Learning](#).

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### Literacy with Information and Communication Technology (LwlCT) Renewal Project

Literacy with Information and Communication Technology (LwlCT) is Manitoba's current model for supporting students in developing information technology and multimedia literacy skills across curricular areas. With the rapid development of new technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), the department is strengthening the focus and inclusion of digital literacy skills within the Framework for Learning to emphasize the development of critical thinking skills and the learner competencies required to engage with digital tools safely, responsibly, and ethically. The LwlCT renewal is scheduled to be released in the 2025/2026 school year.

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### AI in Education Summit

To support school divisions and schools in responding to the emergence of AI and using AI technology to enhance student learning, the department is planning to host an AI in education summit in the 2025/2026 school year. A "save the date" notification and registration details will be shared soon.

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### Manitoba School Leadership Framework 2025/2026 – Implementation Update

The department is continuing to support the implementation of the Manitoba School Leadership Framework. The Framework supports current and aspiring school leaders in fostering inclusive, student-centred environments. Overview sessions will be offered throughout 2025/2026.

In alignment with the renewal of the K to 12 Framework for Continuous Improvement school division planning and reporting guidelines, new continuous improvement guidelines for schools are being co-developed with a working group of Manitoba school leaders.

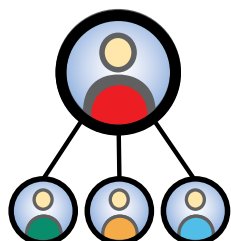
Please visit the [Manitoba School Leadership Framework](#) for updates related to professional learning opportunities, as well as Stories of Practice that highlight Manitoba school leaders in action.



## K–12 Education Update *(continued)*

### Renewal of *Addressing the Needs of Students with Learning Disabilities*

Originally published in 2015, the renewed document, which is expected to be released in 2025/26, will provide schools and school divisions with updated guidance on how to best support students with learning disabilities within Kindergarten to Grade 12 classrooms.



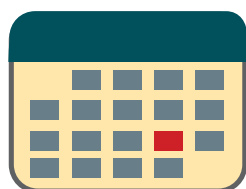
### Leadership Updates

#### System Performance and Accountability Division Welcomes a New Strategic Lead in the Assistant Deputy Minister's Office.

**Claire Gumieny** joined System Performance and Accountability Division as the strategic lead in the ADM's office on May 6, 2025. Prior to her most recent role as the bilingual manager in Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Policy with the Department of Families, Claire had previous roles in the department, including in Bureau de l'éducation française and the Legislation Office. Claire's extensive background in the public service (almost 25 years!) provides her with a wealth of knowledge of government processes, as well as education and early childhood learning issues and stakeholders.

#### Early Learning and Child Care Division Welcomes a New Senior Project Manager in the Capital and Space Expansion Branch

**Halle Rempel** joined the Capital and Space Expansion Branch, Space Expansion Unit, as senior project manager in the Early Learning and Child Care Division on June 2, 2025. Halle has previously worked at the University of Manitoba and with Manitoba Justice, and comes to the division with experience in community healthcare, women's health and reproductive rights, policy development, and family law.



### Upcoming Events/Reminders

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning offices will be closed on the following dates:

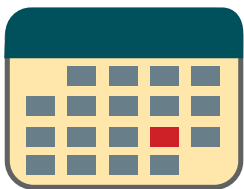
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Tuesday, September 30
- Thanksgiving Day: Monday, October 13
- Remembrance Day: Tuesday, November 11

Licensed child care facilities *may* also choose to be closed, as per [ELCC's 2025 Closure Days schedule](#). To verify closure dates for a specific child care facility, please contact the facility directly.

### Recent and Upcoming Proclamations

#### Peace Days in Manitoba – September 12 to 28, 2025

Peace Days is a year-round initiative that culminates in the International Day of Democracy on September 15 and the International Day of Peace on September 21. Grounded in education and community connection, Peace Days brings people together to empower students and communities to help shape a kinder, more just, diverse, and democratic society.



## Upcoming Events/Reminders *(continued)*

### School Support Staff Recognition Week – September 29 to October 4, 2025

School Support Staff Recognition Week honours the outstanding dedication and contributions of support staff throughout Manitoba schools. From administrative professionals and custodians to educational assistants and information technology teams, support staff are the backbone of Manitoba's education system—ensuring schools run smoothly and students feel supported every day.

### Dyslexia Awareness Month – October 2025

Dyslexia Awareness Month demonstrates the department's commitment to strengthen the literacy achievement of Manitoba students by building educators' awareness and skills in meeting the needs of students who struggle, including those with dyslexia.

### Manitoba School Library Day – October 27, 2025

Manitoba School Library Day recognizes the important role of school libraries as safe, inclusive, and accessible spaces for students to explore and learn. The wide range of resources available to students reflects the diversity of school communities, supports curriculum implementation, and creates a lifelong love of learning.

### Media Literacy Week – October 27 to 31, 2025

Media Literacy Week is held each October to champion the importance of digital media literacy across Canada. The week highlights the importance of equipping students, educators, and families with the skills needed to navigate today's complex digital landscape with confidence and care.

### Financial Literacy Month – November 2025

November is Financial Literacy Month, highlighting the importance of teaching students how to budget, save, invest, and manage credit. Schools and communities are encouraged to engage learners in real-world financial education, helping to prepare learners to make confident and informed decisions.

### Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 9 to 15, 2025

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week recognizes the role that schools, families, and communities all play in preventing bullying through the promotion of safe and caring environments for children, youth, and adults. By working together, we continue to strengthen our capacity to create school communities where all students are safe, respected, and valued, and where they all feel they belong.

The *Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning Newsletter* aims to provide our education and early childhood learning partners with access to information about departmental initiatives and leadership updates, and to highlight some upcoming plans/important dates. More detailed information can be found by visiting [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/).

The newsletter is published in fall, winter, spring, and summer. Please email questions and feedback on the newsletter or the material covered to [SRUnit@gov.mb.ca](mailto:SRUnit@gov.mb.ca).

Thank you.

