

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

NEWSLETTER

Spring and
Summer
2026



Inside:

Department
Announcements



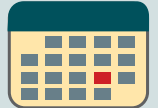
Early Learning
and Child Care
Update



K to 12
Education
Update



Leadership
Updates and
Reminders



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

As we move toward the end of another school year and look ahead to the summer months, I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone working to support children, youth, and families across Manitoba. Whether you are an educator, a leader in early childhood learning or K–12 education, or a community or educational partner, your dedication continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Manitobans. This time of year is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements, growth, and resilience shown across our sectors, while also celebrating students as they prepare for graduation and the next stage of their journeys.

This edition of the newsletter highlights important updates and initiatives underway across both the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) and Kindergarten to Grade 12 (K–12) sectors. In ELCC, the updates reflect our ongoing work to strengthen access, quality, wages, and workforce capacity, while supporting families and communities through responsive, evidence-based approaches. Within the K–12 sector, you will find updates focused on curriculum development and renewal, as well as on inclusive learning environments. There is also information on increased operating funding in both the ELCC and K–12 sectors for the 2026/27 school year. These initiatives demonstrate our shared commitment to preparing students for future success, promoting innovation in teaching and learning, and ensuring our spaces remain welcoming and safe for all learners.

This newsletter also includes departmental updates about initiatives that promote the well-being of children, students, and families throughout the province, particularly the introduction of the *Parenting in Manitoba* website, which is an evidence-based resource hub for parents and caregivers of children from pregnancy to age five.

As the school year draws to a close, these updates reflect a continuum of learning from early childhood through graduation. I am proud of the progress being made and grateful for the leadership, collaboration, and professionalism shown across our sectors. To all students celebrating milestones and graduations this year, congratulations on your accomplishments and best wishes for the opportunities ahead. I hope everyone has a safe, restful, and rewarding summer season.

Warm regards,

Mona Pandey
Deputy Minister
Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning





Department Announcements

New Parenting in Manitoba Website Supports Families and Caregivers

Families, caregivers, and service providers across Manitoba now have access to a new, trusted online resource with the launch of the [Parenting in Manitoba](#) website.

Developed by the Public Health Division of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care, *Parenting in Manitoba* provides current, evidence-based information for parents across the province, with a focus on pregnancy and parenting of children from birth to age five. The website is intended to assist families during the early years and to serve as a practical resource for conversations between parents and their health care providers.

Designed as an active and evolving resource hub, the site brings together reliable health information and links to community supports and programs that are available or funded through government. Additional content and resources will continue to be added over time to ensure the site remains up to date and responsive to the needs of Manitoba families.

Key Features

- over 120 articles covering a wide range of topics relevant to families in Manitoba
- content developed in collaboration with clinical experts and updated regularly to reflect current guidance and public need
- accessible in more than 200 languages using Google Translate
- print-friendly and easily shareable articles for use by families and service providers

Included Topics

- safe sleep and infant feeding
- growth and development
- common childhood illnesses and immunization
- well-being and mental health
- nutrition and physical activity
- breastfeeding and chestfeeding
- substance use and safety
- midwifery care and community supports
- resources for newcomer families, Indigenous families, and 2SLGBTQIA+ families

The launch of *Parenting in Manitoba* aligns with provincial priorities to strengthen early childhood health and well-being, and responds to recommendations aimed at improving access to clear, credible information for families. The website complements the work of public health nurses and community partners who support families through programs such as Families First and Healthy Baby.

Staff and sector partners are encouraged to visit the site, share it with colleagues and families, and explore the wide range of information available to help strengthen early learning, health, and well-being across our communities. To learn more, visit www.parentinginmanitoba.ca.



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.

Pet and Animal Handling

Pet and animal interactions carry health risks, including disease transmission and injury.

Infectious diseases in animals can be passed through the environment, contaminated food, animal feces, bites, scratches, or simply by touching the animal and not performing hand hygiene afterwards. Animals can also pass germs onto the inside surfaces of their cages and the contents inside (e.g., pet foods, bedding, droppings, cage equipment). These germs can then spread to people who touch contaminated surfaces or animals without proper hand hygiene afterward.

Guidelines to reduce the risk of transmission of infection from pet and animal handling are captured in Appendix J (pages 69 to 72) in *Routine Practices*. Highlighted measures include the following:

- Pet allergies should be considered before bringing an animal into the child care facility or school.
- The animal/pet is the responsibility of the staff person bringing the animal/pet into the child care facility or school.
- Staff should receive prior approval from the director/administrator/principal.
- Children must always be supervised by an adult when interacting with animals and pets.
- **Proper hand hygiene is important.** Hand hygiene should be performed
 - before handling any animals
 - after handling any animals
 - after handling animal feed and pet treats
 - after contact with animal environment (e.g., cages, litter boxes, and aquariums)
- Animal and pet health must be assessed by the pet owner and discussed with the child care facility director or school leader prior to visiting the building.
- Deceased pets must be disposed of in a safe manner, which is outlined in *Routine Practices*.
- Additional information is included in Appendix J of *Routine Practices* for the following:
 - permitted animals in child care facilities and schools
 - animal habitat
 - feeding and cleaning
 - storage of products for animals
 - veterinary care
 - animal bites and scratches
 - petting zoos and open farms

Please visit the [Routine Practices](#) webpage on the department website to review the document and resources, and to access communications materials.



Manitoba Co-chairs Fourth Meeting of Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Ministers Most Responsible for Early Learning and Child Care

On January 30, federal, provincial, and territorial ministers responsible for early learning and child care met in Ottawa to review progress and discuss opportunities to maintain momentum on shared priorities as the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement enters its next phase. The meeting was co-chaired by the Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Manitoba’s Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, and the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Canada’s Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario.

“High-quality, affordable child care is essential to families across Canada and our economy. By working collaboratively, we are continuing to create thousands of new affordable child care spaces and strengthen the supports that help children and families thrive.”

**The Honourable Tracy Schmidt,
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning**

Ministers emphasized the importance of long-term sustainability and system resilience, reaffirming their commitment to maintaining stability for families and providers, while acknowledging the diverse circumstances across jurisdictions. They also underscored the need for equitable funding for the territories to address the unique challenges facing Northern communities. In addition, ministers explored opportunities to reduce administrative burden, including streamlining reporting requirements to enable the effective and efficient monitoring of progress.

Since 2021, all provinces and territories, including Manitoba, have reduced parent fees by at least 50 percent, improving affordability and supporting higher labour force participation among families, especially women. Ministers also highlighted continued growth in regulated spaces nationwide. As of January 2026, nearly 155,000 new Canada-wide spaces have been created, with close to 210,000 more announced.

Since 2022, the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Forum of Ministers Most Responsible for Early Learning and Child Care has served as a venue for collaboration on shared priorities, including quality of care, workforce supports, and stronger data. At this latest meeting, ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promoting a stable, affordable, high-quality system for families and for the sector’s workforce.

Child Care in Manitoba – Key Accomplishments

Agreements in Place

Manitoba and the federal government extended the Canada–Manitoba and Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreements, securing a \$1.9 billion investment over the next five years, through to March 31, 2031. This commitment will strengthen continued efforts to expand access to affordable, inclusive, high-quality child care and strengthen the child care workforce.

A New Way Forward

Manitoba’s new ELCC workforce strategy, [Higher Wages, Good Jobs, More Child Care](#), lays out a roadmap to recruit and support the child care workforce.

Lower Fees

As of December 2024, \$10-a-day parent fees were extended to include school-age children on non-school days, including in-service days and school holidays.

Higher Wages

Over the past two years, wage grid funding increases, introduced in May 2025 and April 2026, respectively, have raised frontline child care professional wages by up to \$7 an hour.

New Spaces

As of November 2025, 9,850 spaces opened and 7,000 spaces committed through federal and provincial funding, for a total of 16,850 new spaces for children 12 and under throughout Manitoba.



Supporting Manitoba's Growing Early Learning and Child Care Workforce

This March, the governments of Canada and Manitoba launched a new province-wide, multimedia advertising campaign, *Higher Wages, Good Jobs, More Child Care*, highlighting early childhood education as a meaningful and rewarding career choice.

With increased wages, pensions, tuition reimbursement, expanded pathways to certification, and other workforce supports, there has never been a better time to become an early childhood educator (ECE) in Manitoba!

The campaign showcases photos, videos, and first-hand testimonials from Manitoba's own child care professionals working in licensed facilities across the province. These first-hand stories reflect the dedication, diversity, and impact of the early learning and child care workforce and the vital role educators play in advancing children's growth and development.

The Manitoba.ca/morechildcare landing page serves as a central hub for information on Manitoba's child care priorities, pathways to becoming an ECE, and available workforce supports, including tuition reimbursement and recruit-back incentives.

This province-wide initiative builds on previous Become an ECE campaigns and is informed by input from the Minister's Consultation Table and sector stakeholders. It reflects significant multi-year investments made through [Manitoba's early learning and child care agreements with Canada](#). These investments address key priorities, including lowering the cost of licensed child care for families, expanding access to high-quality and inclusive child care, and strengthening recruitment and retention across the child care workforce.

This recruitment campaign is a key component of [Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Strategy](#), launched in the fall. The strategy focuses on building a strong, stable workforce so more families can access affordable, high-quality child care, and so children and educators across the province can thrive.

The campaign will run across multiple platforms, including radio, print, billboards, transit, movie theatres, digital, web, and social media, ensuring broad reach across Manitoba communities.



**Higher wages.
Good jobs.
More child care spaces.**

Manitoba.ca/morechildcare



Increase to Child Care Wages and Operational Funding – Effective April 1, 2026

On March 24, Manitoba released Budget 2026, which included an increase to wages and operating funding for the early childhood education sector. This includes a two percent increase to the wage grid supplement and a one percent increase to base operating funding.

A key pillar of Manitoba’s early learning and child care workforce strategy, the wage grid increase builds on previous rounds of wage enhancements aimed at addressing longstanding compensation gaps in the early learning and child care sector. The base operating increase provides child care facilities with additional resources to support day-to-day operations, alongside staff compensation.



The wage increase applies to licensed and funded home-based providers and to ECEs and child care assistants (CCAs) working in licensed and funded child care facilities. With Manitoba’s largest historic wage increase last spring, early childhood education professionals may have received wage increases totalling up to \$7.06 an hour since April 2024, depending on certification level and the size of the child care facility.

The governments of Canada and Manitoba will provide a two percent increase to the wage grid operating supplement for licensed and funded child care facilities—a \$14.3 million increase (\$13.4 million from Canada and nearly \$1 million from Manitoba). Base operating grants will also increase by one percent for an increase of \$4.7 million (\$2.5 million from Canada and \$2.2 million from Manitoba) in operating funding for all licensed and funded early learning and child care facilities.

View the [2026/2027 wage grid](#), the [circular for centres](#), and the [circular for homes](#) for access to implementation resources for your facility.



K–12 Education Update

Funding of Schools, 2026/27 School Year

This year, the Manitoba government is addressing student needs by increasing operating funding for K–12 public schools by 3.5 percent or \$51 million.

The total funding increase in 2026/27 for all Manitoba schools is \$79.8 million, which includes

- \$51.0 million increase in operating costs for public schools
- \$15.2 million increase for capital support, which includes principal and interest costs related to building schools
- \$16.6 million increase to independent schools as per their funding agreement

This brings the total investment in the 2026/27 school year to \$2.0 billion, which addresses growing enrolment and classroom needs.

For the 2026/27 school year, the province is also investing in a new harmonization grant to assist school divisions with salary harmonization costs related to the province-wide teachers' collective agreement.

The [Funding of Schools 2026/2027 School Year](#) document provides details on how this year's funding has been allocated for school divisions.

New Schools Capital and Playgrounds

Budget 2026 invests \$118 million in capital funding for construction of the first four schools located in the Winnipeg neighbourhoods of Prairie Pointe and Devonshire, in the Meadowlands of West St. Paul, and Brookwood South in Brandon. These four schools currently under construction are scheduled to open in 2027.

The province is also beginning design of four new schools: Brandon School (Division scolaire franco-manitobaine), Ste. Anne Regional High School (Seine River School Division), Bridgwater Lakes School (Pembina Trails School Division), and Neepawa High School (Beautiful Plains School Division). Manitoba has made investments to open a new Division scolaire franco-manitobaine Middle Years school in the St. Boniface neighbourhood. Located at 261 Youville Street, the school will have an opening capacity of approximately 375 students, with classes scheduled to begin in September 2026.

Budget 2026 also introduces a new policy to include playgrounds in new school builds, alongside a \$3 million *Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities* fund to support the development of play structures at existing schools.



Minister Celebrates Excellence in Education Awards 2026

On April 17, 2026, the Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, was proud to recognize the recipients of the 2026 Manitoba Excellence in Education Awards. Since 2006, Manitoba has recognized exceptional educators who have a special connection to students and whose work has a deep and lasting impact on student achievement, engagement, and well-being.

This year's awards recognized 14 Manitobans for their exceptional commitment to students at the Excellence in Education Awards, including the new Nello Altomare Award for Excellence in School Nutrition.

This year's recipients of Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards are as follows:

- **Premier's Award for Excellence in Education**
 - **Karla Grobb, Douglas Hemmerling, and Laurie-Anne Regula**
Gonzaga Middle School, Manitoba Catholic Schools
- **Teaching Excellence Awards**
 - **Leanne Chornoby**
Stevenson Island School, Frontier School Division
 - **Kurt Hangle**
Exchange Met School, Seven Oaks School Division
 - **Dawn Knight**
Pembina Trails Collegiate, Pembina Trails School Division
- **Outstanding New Teacher Award**
 - **Riley Paull**
Stevenson School, St. James-Assiniboia School Division
- **Outstanding Team Collaboration Award**
 - **Danielle Iliffe, Rachel McKenzie, Ainsley Richardson, and Erin Weekes**
Sansome School, St. James-Assiniboia School Division
- **Outstanding School Leader Award**
 - **Barbara Reimer**
MITT Adult Learning Centres, Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
- **Nello Altomare Award for Excellence in School Nutrition**
 - **Paul Augst and Joshua Hogan**
Ruth Hooker School and Robert Smith Elementary, Lord Selkirk School Division

Congratulations to all the recipients. For more information about the 2026 recipients, see [Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards page](#).

(See more photos on next page)



Minister Celebrates Excellence in Education Awards 2026 (continued)



Recipients holding their Excellence in Education Awards with the Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning



The Excellence in Education Awards ceremony with attendees in the Manitoba Legislative Building



The Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, speaking at the Excellence in Education Awards ceremony



Recipients holding their Excellence in Education Awards



Curriculum Development

Grade 9 Mathematics and Financial Literacy

Two new Grade 9 Mathematics courses focused on integrating financial literacy education will be released for pilot and voluntary implementation in the 2026/27 school year. The courses are designed to be offered in consecutive semesters, providing Grade 9 learners with full-year mathematics instruction. Full implementation of the courses is planned for 2027/28, when they will replace the existing compulsory Grade 9 Mathematics and optional Transitional Mathematics courses. Graduation requirements will be updated for learners entering Grade 9 in 2027/28 and beyond to reflect the additional compulsory mathematics credit.

Kindergarten to Grade 11 Social Studies Curriculum Renewal

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning is renewing the compulsory Kindergarten to Grade 11 Social Studies curriculum, with a focus on strengthening learners' abilities to understand and engage with diverse perspectives and issues of lasting global significance. In recognition of the high volume of curriculum implementation projects underway this school year and next, pilot implementation of the renewed social studies curriculum, initially planned for 2026/27, has been moved to 2027/28.

Renewed Kindergarten to Grade 10 Science Curriculum

Following completion of pilot implementation in the 2024/25 school year and voluntary implementation in 2025/26, the renewed Kindergarten to Grade 10 Science curriculum will move to full implementation in 2026/27. Guided by Manitoba's [Framework for Learning](#) and contemporary best practices in science education, the renewed curriculum is practical, equitable, and inclusive of Indigenous perspectives.

Strengthening STEAM Education

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) education is a global driver of innovation and equity, fostering learner competencies such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Building on the commitment to strengthen STEAM education throughout Manitoba, the department is collaborating with educators and experts to develop a shared understanding of STEAM as an approach to enhancing interdisciplinary learning. New resources to assist teachers in delivering more cohesive STEAM education will be released for the 2026/27 school year.

Please visit the [Manitoba Framework for Learning Curriculum Development and Implementation](#) page for more information on curriculum development and renewal projects.



Update on Land-Based Learning Curriculum Framework and Indigenous Languages Curriculum Framework

The land-based learning and Indigenous languages curriculum frameworks, led by Indigenous Excellence in Education, are well underway. Each framework has established a curriculum development committee and has had two engagement sessions with two more to go this spring and into the fall of 2026. The team has also engaged with multiple stakeholders, and first drafts of both frameworks are nearing completion.

Manitoba AI in Education Summit

On January 16, 2026, Manitoba hosted the province’s first [AI in Education Summit](#), bringing together almost 600 K–12 and post-secondary education leaders, along with industry and workforce partners, to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming teaching and learning. Participants engaged in a keynote address by Sinead Bovell, Architecting Education for an AI-First World, alongside breakout sessions and a panel discussion examining opportunities and considerations for AI in education.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning is working in partnership with education partners to develop provincial guidance to help educators integrate AI in ways that strengthen learning, align with curriculum, and promote responsible, transparent, and student-centred use.

Manitoba has engaged Tom D’Amico of AI Leadership Consulting to provide specialized advisory support, including an AI leadership webinar series and personalized coaching for school superintendents. This professional learning opportunity is intentionally designed to help system leaders navigate the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence in K–12 education.

University College of the North and University of Winnipeg launch Indigenous Language Degree Programs

Indigenous Excellence in Education, together with Advanced Education and Training, is pleased to announce the launch of the [Bachelor of Arts in Anishinaabemowin Immersion](#) program at the University of Winnipeg and the [Bachelor of Arts in Ininimowin](#) at University College of the North. Both programs will help proficient second language speakers and educators contribute to Indigenous language revitalization in Manitoba.

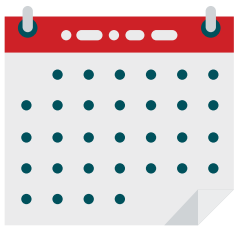


K–12 Education Update *(continued)*

Manitoba School Leadership Framework – Implementation Update

In alignment with the department’s priorities to promote continued implementation of the [Manitoba School Leadership Framework](#) and system-wide continuous improvement, the Continuous Improvement Branch conducted a province-wide survey to assess the implementation of the Framework and identify opportunities for enhanced implementation. The survey engaged current and aspiring school leaders, school division leaders, and education partners currently involved in its implementation.

The survey results will help identify how widely the Framework is being used and where additional supports may be needed. These insights will inform evidence-based improvements to ensure the Framework remains relevant, current, and practical for school leaders across Manitoba.



Leadership Updates and Reminders

Leadership Updates

School Space Planning Branch Welcomes a New Executive Director

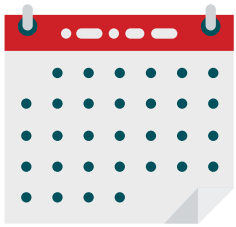
Paulette Monita joined the department as Executive Director of the newly established School Space Planning Branch on January 19, 2026. The School Space Planning Branch is responsible for the strategic planning for capital project prioritization relevant to the growth of instructional space across K–12 public schools in Manitoba. Paulette has over 25 years of experience in design and capital project management. More than 19 of those years were spent with the Province of Manitoba, focused on capital developments within the K–12 education and early learning and child care sectors. Paulette is a PMP-certified professional, holds a Master’s Certificate in Project Management, and is an Interior Design graduate of the University of Manitoba’s Faculty of Architecture.

Early Learning and Child Care Division “Permanently” Welcomes Signe Hanson

Signe Hanson was appointed as the permanent Executive Director of the Capital and Space Expansion Branch in the Early Learning and Child Care Division in December 2025. She has been the acting Executive Director since January 2024. During that time, she led the branch through a period of significant growth and transformation, carrying out capital projects and space expansion initiatives. Signe has been with the Manitoba government for over 15 years, having previously served as the Assistant Executive Director of Family Resolution Service in Manitoba Justice. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Religion and Culture, as well as a Master’s in Public Administration.

Early Learning and Child Care Division Welcomes a New Director

James Houston joined the Capital and Space Expansion Branch as Director of the Capital Development Unit on June 15th. The Capital Development Unit supports the delivery of Manitoba’s early learning and child care capital commitments, including the creation of new child care spaces, in partnership with stakeholders across the province. James brings over a decade of experience with the Manitoba government, most recently serving as Manager, Corporate Services and Intergovernmental Affairs, with Municipal and Northern Relations. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Studies and a Certificate of Public Sector Management, both from the University of Manitoba.



Leadership Updates and Reminders *(continued)*

Recent Proclamations

Canadian Agricultural Literacy Month in Manitoba – March 2026

The month focuses on raising awareness of Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) programming through hands-on activities and interactive experiences to help students learn, make connections, and become agriculturally literate and engaged citizens ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Celebrating Education Week – April 13 to 17, 2026

Education Week acknowledges the importance of K–12 education and educators' crucial role in ensuring all children and youth have a sense of belonging and are able to succeed in reaching their full potential.

Week of the Early Childhood Educator – April 26 to May 2, 2026

The week highlights the vital role that ECEs play in fostering foundational child development and learning, and in preparing our youngest citizens to reach their full potential. The week is also an opportunity to celebrate all the dedicated individuals who have chosen careers in the early learning and child care sector.

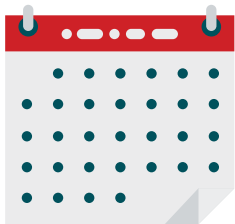
Celebrating Music in Manitoba Schools Month – May 2026

Music Month highlights the role of music in education and the fact that music plays a central role in the lives of Manitobans from early childhood to adulthood, enriching education on a personal, social, and creative level. During Music Month, the Manitoba Music Educators' Association will be hosting a series of concerts at the Manitoba Legislative Building.

Treaty Week in Manitoba – May 18 to 22, 2026

Treaty Week in Manitoba took place May 18 to 22, 2026, providing an opportunity to learn more about the Treaties that shape our shared history and present-day relationships. Treaties are foundational, nation-to-nation agreements between First Nations and the Crown, based on mutual respect, peace, and shared responsibilities, and they remain living agreements today. Treaty Week encourages reflection on the spirit and intent of Treaties—not only what was written, but the shared understandings and commitments envisioned by the Treaty partners.

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) was established in 2005 through an agreement between the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Canada. It continues to support education, dialogue, and public awareness to strengthen and rebuild Treaty relationships across Manitoba. Observing Treaty Week also promotes the broader goals of reconciliation, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, which emphasize education, understanding, and respect for Treaties and Treaty relationships. To learn more about Treaties and Treaty relationships in Manitoba, visit the [Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba](#).



Leadership Updates and Reminders *(continued)*

Pride Month – June 2026

The department's vision is to foster welcoming, safe, and respectful learning environments where all children and youth matter, belong, and are respected, successful, and safe. The department recognizes Pride Month in June, a month dedicated to celebrating and commemorating the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Documents that help create and foster safe and inclusive learning environments include [Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools](#) and [Safe and Caring Schools: A Resource for Equity and Inclusion in Manitoba Schools \(MB MYGSA\)](#). Both resources provide guidelines and valuable tools for educators, students, and parents to work together to create more equitable and inclusive schools, especially with respect to diversity of sexuality and gender identity and expression.

National Indigenous History Month – June National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21, 2026

June is National Indigenous History Month, when Manitobans are invited to deepen their understanding of the histories, cultures, and contemporary realities of First Nations, Inuit, and Red River Métis Peoples. June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day, offers a dedicated time to celebrate Indigenous cultures and communities through ceremonies, gatherings, and cultural events held throughout Manitoba. These occasions provide an opportunity for ongoing learning and reflection by engaging with trusted educational resources on Treaties and the impacts of colonialism. There are many ways to participate. Listen to Indigenous voices through books, film, art, and music! Engage in conversations with colleagues! Take part in local events led by Indigenous people and organizations! Supporting Indigenous-owned businesses is another meaningful way to build relationships and demonstrate respect for Indigenous communities throughout the province.

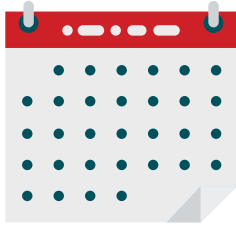
**National
Indigenous
History
Month**

#NIHM2026

A vibrant, colorful illustration featuring a stylized Indigenous figure in a blue and green outfit, holding a yellow and orange staff or instrument. The background is filled with various symbols including a crescent moon, stars, flowers, and abstract patterns in shades of green, yellow, and orange.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



Leadership Updates and Reminders *(continued)*

Reminders

Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence – Nomination Deadline Extension: July 31, 2026

Help honour and celebrate outstanding child care professionals by nominating child care professionals whose excellence, innovation, and dedication are making a meaningful difference for children, families, and communities.

Choose from five nomination categories currently open for the 2026 Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence, including two new awards added this season!

- Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award
- Outstanding ECE
- Outstanding Francophone ECE
- Outstanding Indigenous ECE
- NEW** ■ Outstanding Rural and Northern ECE
- Community Collaboration Award (up to five recipients)
- Leadership Excellence Award
- Exemplary Home-Based Early Learning Environment Award
- NEW** ■ Early Learning and Child Care Impact Award

One eligible category award recipient(s) will also be considered for the Premier’s Award for Early Childhood Education.

A reception honouring all recipients will be hosted this autumn. Each award recipient will be presented with a certificate of recognition and a cheque for \$500.

For more information on how to prepare and submit a nomination, as well as information about the nomination and selection process, visit manitoba.ca/eceawards.

MANITOBA EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

The Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence 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.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit a nomination package that includes the following completed documents no later than **July 31, 2026**. **Please, no handwritten submissions.**


- 1. Award nomination form** (next page)
The nominee and nominator(s) must complete and sign this fillable form. Signatures are required from the nominee and nominator(s).
- 2. A nomination description**
A nomination description is required from each nominator. Nominators must complete the award-specific questionnaire and use their responses to explain how the nominee demonstrates the criteria for the selected award category as outlined in the criteria and eligibility section. All text must be typed and include the name of nominee(s) and nominator.
See the section on the nomination questionnaire available at manitoba.ca/eceawards.

Only a complete nomination package, including complete and signed nomination form(s) and required nomination description(s), will be considered by the nomination review panel. Multimedia files (ex: DVD, CD, USB key) will not be considered.

Submit completed nomination package by mail or email to:
Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence
Early Learning and Child Care Division
210-114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1G1
Email: eceawards@gov.mb.ca

Nominators will be notified by email when their nomination package has been received. For more information about the Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence, visit: manitoba.ca/eceawards.

DEADLINE EXTENDED TO:
July 31, 2026



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/.

The newsletter is published in fall, winter, spring, and summer. The Fall Edition is expected in September 2026. Please email questions and feedback on the newsletter or the material covered to SRUnit@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you.

