



Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

NEWSLETTER

Winter
2026



Inside:

Department
Announcements



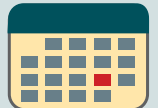
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Message from the Deputy Minister of Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

As we welcome the winter season and approach the end of another calendar year, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to everyone across Manitoba’s education and early childhood learning sectors. Your continued dedication—whether in classrooms, child care centres, community programs, or support roles—ensures that children and students across our province feel valued, included, and supported to reach their full potential.

In this edition of the newsletter, you’ll find updates that showcase our collective progress and celebrate the meaningful work happening across both the early learning and child care (ELCC) and Kindergarten to Grade 12 sectors. The launch of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Strategy, along with historic wage increases and the “recruit back” initiative that is aimed at welcoming former early childhood educators back to the profession, reflects our strong commitment to staffing the growing number of child care spaces. In addition, the recent Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence honoured outstanding educators for their contributions to child development and learning—recognizing the vital role they play in shaping young lives.

On the K to 12 side, the introduction of a new curriculum resource for Holocaust education, the development of a Grade 12 Treaty Education course, and new leadership training for school leaders in the French Immersion Program represent our shared commitment to inclusive, high-quality education. The passage of Bill 225, The Public Schools Amendment Act (Early Reading Screening), which is focused on improving literacy outcomes and classroom success, further reinforces our collective efforts toward fostering safe, respectful, and supportive learning environments for all students.

As I continue in my new role as Deputy Minister, I want to express my gratitude for the warm welcome I have received and for the continued support of colleagues throughout the department and from within the sectors. I look forward to building on the strong foundation laid by my predecessors as we move forward together into the new year, setting up children and students for success from early childhood through to graduation.

Warm regards,

Mona Pandey
Deputy Minister
Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

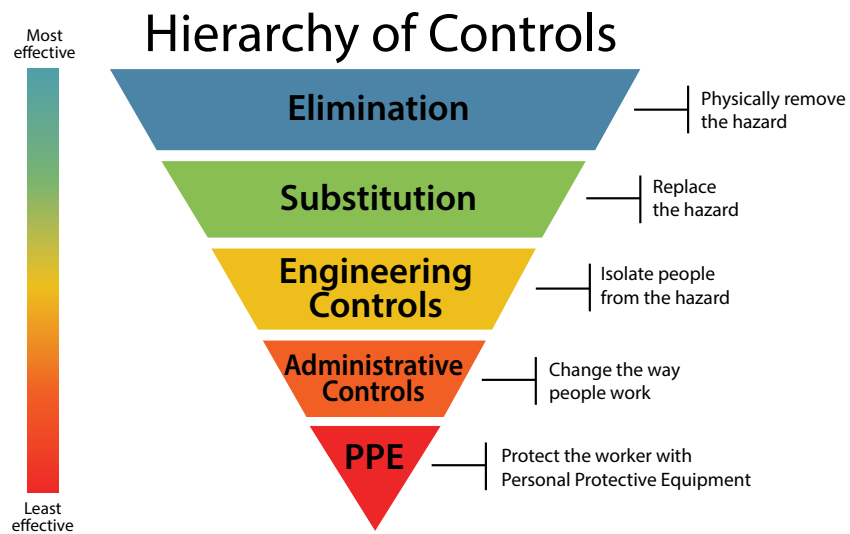




Infection Prevention in Child Care Facilities and Schools

It is important to implement healthy practices 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.

One of the principles outlined in the document is the **Hierarchy of Controls** (pages 9 to 11). It is a tiered approach of measures and interventions used to reduce the spread of illness, ranging from the most to the least effective controls.



- **Elimination:** This removes the risk of exposure to a germ at the source, such as by staying home when sick. It is the preferred solution to protect children, students, and staff.
- **Substitution:** When a source of infection cannot be eliminated, substitutions should be implemented to reduce or control the risk of exposure to an illness. If there is a suspected food-borne illness, use pre-packaged snacks instead of self-serve options.
- **Engineering Controls:** Reduce the risk of exposure to germs by applying building structure and ventilation strategies, such as the following:
 - design, renovation, and construction (handwashing sinks, room airflow, and physical barriers)
 - heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (increase air exchange and maintain appropriate humidity)
 - source control (cough etiquette, hand hygiene, staying home when ill policies)
- **Administrative Controls:** These are policies and procedures intended to prevent exposure to (and therefore the spread of) germs, such as the following:
 - education and training for staff on Routine Practices and other policies, practices, and procedures related to infection prevention and control (hand hygiene, cough etiquette)
 - environmental cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection schedules with individual responsibilities identified

(continued on next page)



Department Announcements *(continued)*

Infection Prevention in Child Care Facilities and Schools *(continued)*

- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Although the use of PPE is the most visible type of control, it is the weakest and should not be relied on as the only form of prevention. It should be used in combination with higher level controls. PPE provides a physical barrier between people, such as gloves, gowns, and facial protection (masks, face shields).

It is the role of a child care facility or school to assess the risk of infection on an ongoing basis and to determine which controls can be implemented to prevent the spread of germs. Please visit the [Routine Practices](#) web page on the department website to review the document and resources and to access the posters. This web page provides information to reduce the risk of spreading communicable diseases in child care facilities and schools.

New Parenting in Manitoba Website Supports Families and Caregivers

The Department of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care has launched [Parenting in Manitoba](#), a new online resource providing current, evidence-based information for parents across Manitoba, with a focus on pregnancy and on parenting of children up to age five.

Designed to support both families and professionals, [Parenting in Manitoba](#) aims to serve as an active, up-to-date hub that connects families to reliable health information as well as other government-funded supports and community resources. The site features over 120 articles developed in collaboration with clinical experts, covering topics such as safe sleep, childhood illnesses, nutrition, Indigenous families, and mental health and well-being. Content is updated regularly, print-friendly, and available in more than 200 languages through Google Translate.

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. Learn more by reading the Manitoba government [news release](#).



Early Learning and Child Care Update

Progress on Child Care: Building Connections – Communities and Schools

In recognition of Career and Workforce Development Month this past November, the department expanded outreach to promote careers in early childhood education. “Become an Educator” information sessions support service providers by giving them the resources they need to promote the profession and share with their clients the most up-to-date information about a career in early childhood education. View the upcoming information sessions and events listing [here](#).

New guidelines are now available for child care centres co-located with schools. Over the coming months, department representatives will engage directly by discussing these guidelines with school divisions across the province to help minimize challenges and advance collective efforts in the development and operation of new schools and co-located centres.



Launch of New Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Strategy

In addition to expanding child care spaces, Manitoba launched [Higher Wages, Good Jobs, More Child Care: Manitoba's Early Learning and Child Care Workforce Strategy](#). The strategy is organized around the following three pillars:

- Recruit more people into careers in early childhood education and diversify the workforce.
- Retain workers by promoting long-term careers in Manitoba's early learning and child care sector, with support for professional and leadership development.
- Recognize workers by elevating the early childhood educator (ECE) profession and transforming public perception.

The strategy includes a number of initiatives that are being undertaken in partnership with the Government of Canada, such as investing in fair wages (including the historic wage increases introduced in May 2025 that raised front-line ECE wages by up to \$5 per hour) and the newly launched [ECE Recruit-Back Incentive](#) (offering \$5,000 to eligible professionals who return to full-time roles in a Manitoba licensed non-profit early learning and child care centre or licensed home).

The strategy outlines many other initiatives to grow and support the workforce, including the Manitoba ECE Awards of Excellence, enhancing pathways to certification, and extending training and professional development supports.

To view the Manitoba ELCC Workforce Strategy, visit manitoba.ca/elccws.

Manitoba Incentivizes Recruitment of Former ECEs

On November 25, 2025, the department recently launched the [Early Childhood Educator Recruit-Back Incentive](#), providing eligible ECEs with a grant of \$5,000 to return to work full-time in a Manitoba licensed non-profit early learning and child care centre or licensed home.

The ECE Recruit-Back Incentive supports Manitoba's non-profit child care facilities in recruiting passionate and skilled ECEs, incentivizing individuals who have left Manitoba's licensed early learning and child care sector to return to full-time work. Funding for the ECE Recruit-Back Incentive is provided under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide ELCC Agreement.

For more information on the ECE Recruit-Back Incentive, visit manitoba.ca/ecerecruitback.



Improving Access to Child Care

As of November 2025, Manitoba is 50 per cent of the way toward meeting our shared goal of 23,000 new child care spaces for children under age seven. With over 5,400 spaces opened and more than 6,100 committed, a total of over 11,500 new spaces have been added for children aged 0 to 6, with thousands more on the way. With regard to school-age child care, Manitoba has invested in over 4,450 new spaces and has further committed to nearly 900 more spaces. In total, over 9,850 spaces have opened and more than 7,000 spaces committed for a total of over 16,850 spaces for children aged 12 and under throughout Manitoba.

With funding provided under the Early Learning and Child Care Infrastructure Fund Agreement and Action Plan, the governments of Canada and Manitoba will provide up to \$20.9 million as part of the Health and Child Care Infrastructure Project, for the creation of over 300 new child care spaces for children under the age of seven in three health facilities across two health regions where there is high demand. Included in these investments is the construction of a new child care centre at Riverview Health Centre announced in [October](#) that will offer 80 new child care spaces (16 infant and 64 pre-school) in south Winnipeg.

Learn more about child care space creation efforts across Manitoba by viewing the latest [news release](#) or by visiting www.manitoba.ca/childcare/spacecreation.



Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Awards of Excellence

The inaugural Manitoba ECE Awards of Excellence took place at the Manitoba Legislative Building on November 28, 2025.

Twelve ECEs were recognized for their outstanding achievements with certificates awarded by The Honourable Wab Kinew, Premier of Manitoba, and by the Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning.

The ECE Awards of Excellence honour ECEs who play a vital role in shaping the lives of children under the age of 12. The awards 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. This year we celebrate the following winners:

Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award

Zen Rio Quinsaat

Fort Rouge Co-op Day Nursery, Winnipeg

Elizabeth Dryden

Tuxedo Preschool Education Centre, Winnipeg

Laura Remillard

Souris Cooperative Daycare Centre, Souris



The Honourable Tracy Schmidt, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, and Tyler Blashko, MLA for Lagimodière, joined the award recipients as they proudly posed with their certificates during the ceremony.

(photo credit: Thomas Fricke)

Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award (Indigenous)

Amanda Johnson

Inspired by Wonder, Winnipeg

Outstanding Early Childhood Educator Award (Francophone)

Charlotte McPherson

La Garderie Arc-en-Ciel, Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes

Collaborative Early Learning Team Award

Amia Zenon Goldaraz, Kara Booth, and Marina Lisak

Tova Vicker Child Care Centre, Winnipeg

Leadership Excellence Award

Ioulia Berdnikova

University of Winnipeg Students' Association Day Care Centre, Winnipeg

Premier's Award for Early Childhood Education Excellence

Amanda Johnson

Inspired by Wonder, Winnipeg

Exemplary Home-Based Early Learning Environment Award

Jean Sangalang

Winnipeg

Shannon Trickett

Winnipeg

Ginette Simard

Winnipeg

Each recipient also received a cheque for \$500 in recognition of their achievements.

Congratulations to this year's winners and nominees for their exemplary dedication and care for Manitoba's children!

For more information, visit manitoba.ca/eceawards.



K–12 Education Update

Bill 225: The Public Schools Amendment Act (Early Reading Screening)

Early Reading Screening Legislative Requirement – Coming into Force on July 1, 2026

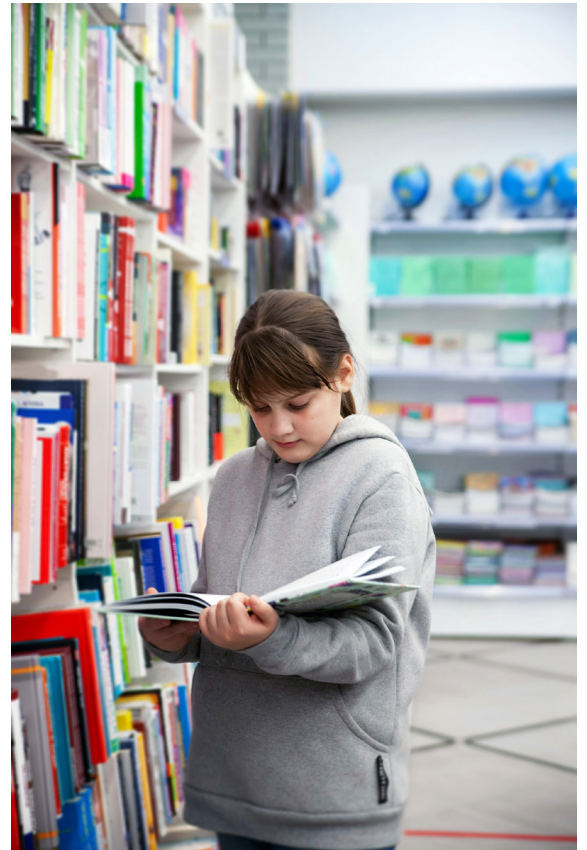
The Manitoba government has passed [Bill 225: The Public Schools Amendment Act](#) (Early Reading Screening). This bill requires every pupil in the province to receive early reading screening, which is meant to identify and address potential reading difficulties. Bill 225 was initially introduced as The Public Schools Amendment Act (Universal Screening for Learning Disabilities) and was renamed during the legislative process.

Bill 225 legislates a universal early reading screening framework for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 4, which requires

- universal early reading screening for students in Kindergarten through Grade 4 using standardized, evidence-based tools that meet criteria established by the Minister
- two screenings per year in at least three of the five early school years to identify students at risk of future reading difficulties, including dyslexia
- parent communication through report cards, ensuring families receive regular updates on their child's progress
- ongoing supports and progress monitoring for students identified as needing additional help

School divisions are either fully implementing and/or have begun piloting evidence-based early reading screening tools, with full implementation planned across all divisions for the 2026/2027 school year. Thank you to the sector and partners for working with the Manitoba government to improve literacy outcomes and classroom success for students across our province.

For more information, see the [news release](#).





Bill 40: An Act respecting “O Canada” and Other Observances and Land and Treaty Acknowledgements in Schools (Education Administration Act and Public Schools Act Amended)

All provisions of [Bill 40](#) came into force on Royal Assent, except section 7 regarding policies on land and treaty acknowledgements, which will come into force on September 1, 2026.

- Modernization and Streamlining of Acts – came into force on Royal Assent (November 6, 2025)
- Land and treaty acknowledgement policy – comes into force on September 1, 2026

This legislation modernizes and streamlines The Education Administration Act and The Public Schools Act, and it furthers reconciliation in Manitoba’s K to 12 education system by introducing a requirement for land acknowledgements and treaty acknowledgements in public schools across the province.

The changes made by this bill to The Education Administration Act

- dissolve the Advisory Board, which has been inactive for many years
- repeal the Religious Exercises in Schools Regulation and the Schools Patriotic Observances Regulation, removing the requirement for “God Save the King” to be sung each school day

The changes made by this bill to The Public Schools Act

- create a requirement for school boards to establish and implement a written policy respecting land acknowledgements and treaty acknowledgements
- remove provisions for religious exercises, which have been found to be unconstitutional
- insert requirements in the Act for “O Canada” to be sung, for citizenship exercises to be held, and for schools to hold a Remembrance Day observance each year on a school day of their choice between November 4 and November 10





Launch of the New Grade 12 Treaty Education Course

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, in partnership with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM), is excited to announce the launch of the new course Grade 12 Land and Treaties: Rights and Responsibilities, which is available as a one-credit offering beginning in September 2025. Originally developed by the TRCM as a school-initiated course, it was restructured to align with provincial curricula. The course was officially celebrated at the Agowiidwinan Centre at The Forks on October 8, marking a significant milestone in treaty education in Manitoba. Through this course, students explore the historical and contemporary significance of treaties in Manitoba, emphasizing shared responsibilities and respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Learners develop critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and citizenship skills—all key outcomes that support Truth and Reconciliation, sustainability, and human rights.



Back row, (left-right) Deputy Minister Mona Pandey; Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) Commissioner Loretta Ross; and Gail Flett, Treaty Coordinator, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC). Front row, (left-right) Elder Harry Bone, Chair of TRCM and AMC Council of Elders; Elder Florence Paynter, member of TRCM and AMC Council of Elders.



Rise Up: Youth Leadership Program

On September 25 and 26, 2025, Indigenous Excellence launched the Rise Up: Youth Leadership Program, providing opportunities for youth to be hired as junior leadership staff at 13 community-based organizations across urban, rural, and northern Manitoba communities in the 2025/2026 school year. The program is designed to help build youth confidence and job readiness, and to support school re-engagement.

The fun and interactive Leadership Days brought together a cohort of youth and partnering organizations to get to know each other. Over the two days, youth participated in a series of activities, including a meet and greet with the Premier and Minister Schmidt at the Manitoba Legislature, a hands-on learning experience with Peaceful Village’s African hand-drumming group, and an introduction to hip-hop dance moves with Graffiti Art Gallery. Students also heard from motivational speakers from the community and from the business sector representing youth leadership.

Upon successful completion of the youths’ paid placements, a graduation event will take place in June 2026.



Rise Up youth meet and greet with the Premier at the Manitoba Legislature on September 25, 2025



Rise Up: Youth Leadership Program Launch Day, September 25, 2025. Rise Up youth, mentors, and organization representatives at the Manitoba Legislature in the Premier’s office.

New Curriculum Resource for Holocaust Education

To support educators and youth in combatting all forms of hate, and to deepen understandings of history, inclusivity, and human rights, the department has developed [Holocaust Education: A Guide for Educators](#). Together with enhanced curricular learning outcomes in Grades 6, 9, and 11 Social Studies, the resource will help educators guide learners through a critical examination of the causes and consequences of the Holocaust, with a focus on the lessons they may apply to making today’s world a better place.

For more information, see the [news release](#).



Empowering Media Literacy in Schools

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning is pleased to announce the launch of a [free media literacy resource](#) developed in partnership with the Winnipeg Free Press and the Winnipeg School Division.

This first release includes a [student journalism starter kit](#), [school newspaper creator](#), and [newsstand for student work](#), as well as an area where [news may be searched according to school subject area](#). Supplemental learning materials may also be found in the Free Press 101 area of the site, where students can learn about and demonstrate standards of good journalism and authentic storytelling.

Further expansion of this resource will include learning experiences and videos about specific media literacy concepts such as online safety, misinformation, and bias in the media. More information can be found [here](#).

Work on a French-language version of the site is well underway. The Free Press has removed the paywall from dozens of French- and English-language articles most applicable for use in school, and they are adding to this free library of resources every day.

For more information and/or if you would like to schedule a presentation for your school division, please contact us at curr_impl@gov.mb.ca.

Piloting of New Curricula for English Language Arts (Grade 1 to Grade 8) and Français Arts Langagiers (Kindergarten to Grade 8) in the French Immersion Program

The Bureau de l'éducation française (BEF) is renewing the curricula for the English language arts (ELA) course (Grades 1 to 8) and the Français arts langagiers (FAL) course (Kindergarten to Grade 8) within the French Immersion Program. The renewed curricula will introduce new learning outcomes and behavioural progressions that meet the needs of each student; harmonize learning outcomes across both courses; capitalize on language transfers that occur among English, French, and other languages that students bring with them; and support teachers in the planning, teaching, and assessment of language and literacy across grade levels and developmental stages.

The revised curricula will reflect contemporary understandings and modern approaches to language and literacy instruction, and it will align with key department policies and guidelines, including *The Guiding Principles for a Comprehensive Approach to Reading Instruction in Manitoba* (2023) and *The French Immersion Policy in Manitoba* (2023).

Piloting of the revised curricula began in fall of 2025, with departmental implementation support to take place throughout the 2025/2026 school year.



Update on Leadership Training in the French Immersion Program

The French Language Education Review (2013–2018), as well as consultations in 2019/2020 with French immersion leaders across Manitoba, indicated a need for professional support specific to leaders in the French Immersion Program. To address this need, BEF began offering professional learning for French immersion principals and vice-principals who were new to the program in 2022/2023.

The professional learning cohort for new French immersion school leaders supports principals, vice-principals, and other school leaders to reflect on the inquiry question: *Who am I as a French immersion leader and what is my role in supporting the French Immersion Program?* The goal of this two-year professional learning cohort is to develop participants' knowledge, abilities, and confidence to fully implement the French Immersion Program in their schools, aligned with *The French Immersion Policy in Manitoba* (2023).

The professional learning cohort has successfully increased school leaders' confidence in implementing the French Immersion Program in their schools. From 2022/2023 to 2024/2025, the number of program participants who rated their confidence as a French immersion leader as "high" increased from 24% to 84%. Sixty-four leaders from 18 of Manitoba's 23 divisions that offer the French Immersion Program have participated.

For more information or to find out about upcoming sessions, [see here](#) or contact Sandra Drzystek at Sandra.Drzystek@gov.mb.ca.

Launch of French Language Resources for 2SLGBTQ+ Youth

On November 14, 2025, the Université de Saint-Boniface, in partnership with community stakeholders, launched new resources created by and for francophone 2SLGBTQ+ youth. This work was supported by and will be available through the Direction des ressources éducatives françaises (DREF) branch of BEF.

The new resources, developed by the Université de Saint-Boniface, the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, the Centre de santé Saint-Boniface, and BEF, are aligned with Manitoba's arts and health education curricula and will address the long-standing gap in resources to support the well-being of young francophone 2SLGBTQ+ people and their peers.



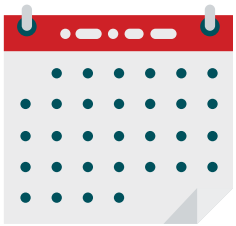
K–12 Education Update *(continued)*

Coming in Early 2026: Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey

The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) survey will be implemented in Manitoba in 2026. The department is once again partnering with Queen’s University to offer the survey in this school year, at no charge to Manitoba school divisions.

The HBSC is an international school-based questionnaire developed to monitor the health and well-being of 11- to 15-year-old students in Grades 6 to 10. It is conducted in 51 countries every four years and provides data that is reflective of current trends in adolescent health and risk behaviours over time. It helps examine the role of schools, families, peers, and digital environments in shaping health outcomes and school engagement.

Details on the 2026 implementation of the survey will soon be sent to school divisions. Please visit www.queensu.ca/hbsc/ for more information about the survey, and contact the Inclusion Support Branch at isbinfo@gov.mb.ca if you have any questions regarding the 2026 implementation.



Leadership Updates and Reminders

Leadership Updates

Minister’s Office Welcomes a New Executive to the Minister

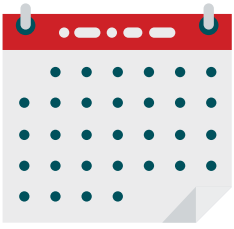
Debbie Gault joined the department as the new Executive to the Minister on September 22, 2025. Debbie comes from the Department of Advanced Education and Training (AET), where she was the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Minister. Debbie was with AET for the last six years, after returning home to Winnipeg from living in Alberta for 20 years.

Deputy Minister’s Office Welcomes a New Interim Senior Advisor

Mallory Light joined the Deputy Minister’s Office as the interim Senior Advisor on November 18, 2025. Previously, Mallory served as the manager of policy and planning in the Learning and Outcomes Branch in the Executive Director’s office. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience from across government and has been an integral member of the Student Achievement and Inclusion Division leadership team over the past two years.

Early Learning and Child Care Division Welcomes a New Acting Director

Shelly Marques has taken on the role of Acting Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Strategic Policy, on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, in the Early Learning and Child Care Division. Shelly is an ECE III with over 25 years of experience in Manitoba’s child care sector and has been with ELCC since 2016 in a variety of roles, including quality enhancement specialist, senior policy analyst, and workforce curriculum consultant. Shelly has a diploma in early childhood education from Red River College Polytechnic, a Bachelor of Arts in developmental studies from the University of Winnipeg, and is currently enrolled in the Master of Education in Early Childhood Education program at the University of British Columbia.



Leadership Updates and Reminders *(continued)*

Indigenous Excellence in Education Division Welcomes a New Assistant Director to the Community and School Relationship Unit

Kate McNeil joined the Indigenous Excellence in Education Division on October 27, 2025, as the new Assistant Director, leading the Community and School Relationships Unit. Prior to this, Kate served as the Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. We are excited for her to continue her leadership journey with the department.

Indigenous Excellence in Education Division Welcomes a New Director

Jordan Bighorn joined the Indigenous Excellence Division as Director on November 3, 2025. Born in Seattle, Jordan is of Lakota heritage, hailing from the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes located in eastern Montana. He spent most of his childhood on the lands of his maternal grandparents' ranch in Walla Walla, Washington. There, he learned from his grandfather, Philip Lane, Sr., on how to listen, observe, and relate to the land, how to respect the balance of relationships through horses, and how to distill the essence of traditional cultural practices to be handed down along generational lines.

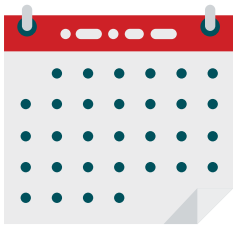
In 2006, Jordan was called to Treaty 1 territory to play his part in creating a home as husband to his wife, Meleyna. He first found work at Southeast Collegiate, where serving Indigenous youth of northern Manitoba filled his life with new spirit and purpose. He then served the Bahá'í Community of Canada, supporting a Sharing Circle program in a local elementary school. In 2014 he was hired by the Community Education Development Association (CEDA) as the Pathways Program Manager and as CEDA's Executive Director in 2023. Jordan brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to Indigenous youth and community.

Upcoming Events

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

- Christmas Day: Thursday, December 25, 2025
- Boxing Day: Friday, December 26, 2025
- New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1, 2026

Licensed child care facilities *may* observe these dates as holidays, as per ELCC's posted [2025 Closure Days schedule](#). To verify closure dates for a specific child care facility, please contact the facility directly.



Leadership Updates and Reminders *(continued)*

Recent and Upcoming Proclamations

Black History Month – February 2026

Black History Month highlights the richness of Black culture and the ongoing struggles for equality and justice. It is a time to reflect on the local/global contributions and achievements of Black individuals and communities.

Inclusive Education Month – February 2026

Inclusive Education Month highlights Manitoba's commitment to the Philosophy of Inclusion, where every child and student is afforded the right to education with respect and integrity. The education community is encouraged to celebrate this important occasion by continuing to cultivate and nourish a culture of respect, inclusion, empathy, and understanding for all learners.

I Love to Read Month – February 2026

The month of February is I Love to Read Month, acknowledging the importance of reading and literacy and celebrating reading in the classroom and beyond. I Love to Read Month brings public attention to the joys and benefits of reading, and it highlights the importance of literacy learning at all stages of life.

International Development Week – February 1 to 7, 2026

International Development Week puts citizenship in action in Manitoba. The proclamation is intended to inspire school communities to work collaboratively to address and alleviate social, political, and environmental inequities, and to commit to supporting the United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week – February 8 to 14, 2026

Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week celebrates the hard work and contributions of Manitoba teachers and staff to the well-being and success of Manitoba students. Parent(s)/caregivers(s) and community members are encouraged to reflect on the importance of teachers and staff to the well-being of students, and to thank and honour the teachers and staff in their communities for their continued dedication.

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. Please email questions and feedback on the newsletter or the material covered to SRUnit@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you.

