

MANITOBA EDUCATION COUNCIL TERMS OF REFERENCE

DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION

CONTEXT

Manitoba's K to 12 Education Action Plan is the Manitoba government's response to the March 2020 Report of the Commission on K to 12 Education, *Our Children's Success: Manitoba's Future*. The action plan builds upon the strengths of the K to 12 education system and sets out the path to implementing the Commission's recommendations.

The action plan was also informed by extensive K to 12 improvement-focused consultations and engagement, including

- findings from the January 2018 Manitoba Summit on Literacy and Numeracy
- feedback from nearly 12 months of engagement on the actions put forth in the action plan, as outlined in the four pillars for student success
- learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic

The action plan, which will guide our work over the next five years,

- articulates the vision for student success and guiding principles for the education system
- maps out broad timelines for priority actions
- identifies a formalized approach for system-wide planning and continuous improvement across the education sector
- commits to the establishment of an **Education Council** to be initiated by April 2023

COUNCIL MANDATE

The Education Council (hereinafter referred to as *the Council*) brings intersectoral partners together to facilitate system level planning and collaboration.

The Education Council will

- create a forum to raise, discuss and plan for issues facing children and youth, families, teachers, school staff and early childhood educators
- advise how Manitoba can improve achievement and well-being for students across the province
- promote inter-sectoral engagement, collaboration and partnership

The work of the Council is informed by key education stakeholder organizations, Elders and Knowledge Keepers, academics, Francophone stakeholders, groups seeking equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), other government departments, and Education and Early Childhood Learning advisory groups/task forces.

GOVERNANCE AND DECISION MAKING

The Council, established by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning, reports directly to the Minister, providing written updates within two weeks of each Council meeting. The council is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning.

The Council is not a decision-making body, nor does it engage in operational matters. It provides strategic guidance, including recommendations brought forward to the Council by project leads and others involved in the implementation of the action plan.

The Council's strategic guidance will be arrived at by consensus (a mutually acceptable level of agreement to move forward) for any recommendations advanced to the Minister. In cases where consensus is not achieved, opinions will be recorded.

There will be a provincial implementation team comprising senior officials from Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, and representatives from all school divisions. Terms of reference will be developed separately and the co-chairs of the implementation team will also sit on the Council. This will be co-chaired by a Superintendent and an Assistant Deputy Minister of the department.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership for this formal planning table will

- reflect the diversity of the province
- recognize local needs across school divisions, teachers, school staff, parents, caregivers, and students
- ensure the presence and voice of Indigenous leaders, the Francophone community, education associations, other youth-serving organizations, and the community at large

The Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning appoints inaugural members for a term of two years. Follow-up recommendations for replacement members and term extensions will be staggered to support continuity. Members will

- review documentation provided in advance of meetings
- actively participate in meetings
- respect meeting norms (to be co-constructed at the first meeting)
- engage respectfully with other members
- share information within their organizations as determined by the Council and the Chair
- maintain confidentiality when requested

MEETINGS

- The Council will meet four times per year, with simultaneous English/French interpretation and ASL, if required.
- Meeting materials and official communications will be developed in both English and French as much as possible.
- Only appointed Council members may attend Council meetings. If a member is not able to attend, they may send a guest to attend as an observer by advising the Chair in advance of the meeting in writing.
- The Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning will provide the cost of meeting space and sustenance for meetings of the Council. Other costs of attendance incurred by members will be borne by the organization that member represents. Parent/ caregiver council members from outside Winnipeg will be reimbursed reasonable travel expenses as per the Province of Manitoba’s travel and accommodation policies.

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Orientation and Onboarding of the Council	February 2023
Finalize Terms of Reference	At the first meeting
Meetings of the Council	April 2023 June 2023 November 2023 February 2024

DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

The department will provide support to the Council by

- sharing agendas and meeting materials in advance of meetings
- providing summary bullets and key messages to members following meetings
- maintaining records and confidentiality of the Council’s work
- facilitating small-group engagement in between meetings to advance intersectoral work