

POVERTY AND EDUCATION TASK FORCE TERMS OF REFERENCE

MANDATE

The Manitoba Commission for Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education recommended many key action items for an improved education system to support student success and well-being. The Government of Manitoba has committed to implementing many of these recommendations, including the establishment of the Poverty and Education Task Force, launched September 2021.

The Poverty and Education Task Force, in connection with the Poverty Reduction Strategy, will examine the linkages between poverty and education, and will support the implementation of strategies to improve social inclusion, educational, and well-being outcomes for all students, particularly those who are living with low income. The task force brings together intersectoral partners to form joint solutions.

MEMBERSHIP

The Deputy Minister and a member of the Poverty Reduction Committee will co-chair the task force. The task force will be composed of up to 25 members.

Selected through a targeted direct outreach, members will include key stakeholders who have expertise on issues related to poverty and/or education and who can develop recommendations that address the impact of poverty on student outcomes and success.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

The key responsibilities of this task force are

- to identify and acknowledge the relationship that exists between poverty and education in Manitoba
- to put forth actionable and informed recommendations at the classroom, school, divisional, and community level to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning to be shared with the Committee of Cabinet, that will improve the educational experiences, outcomes and well-being of students in Manitoba

The task force will focus on the needs of children, youth, and community, and the recommendations will focus on the impacts of poverty on learning and well-being. Larger systemic issues impacting community will be noted as part of the findings.

Areas of initial focus identified from the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education for the task force include the following:

- food access and security
- access to technology, transportation, and other socio-economic barriers that impact participation
- outcomes and continuity of education for children in care

MEETINGS

The task force will operate for approximately 18 months, at which point its activities will be reviewed to determine whether it will conclude, be extended, or renewed.

The task force shall hold meetings at the call of the co-chairs. It is anticipated that virtual meetings will be held bi-monthly. The schedule may change from time to time in order to meet the work plan and accomplish the tasks as outlined.
