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**MINISTER  
OF EDUCATION**

Room 168  
Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  
R3C 0V8

January 14, 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

I am so pleased to be serving as the Minister of Education for the Manitoba Government. I began in this critical role on January 5, 2021.

First and foremost, I want to thank all Manitoba students, parents/caregivers, teachers, staff, and administrators for all that you do each and every day to ensure safety in our schools. This includes staying home when sick, ensuring all public health measures in the Restoring Safe Schools plan are followed, tireless efforts to ensure learning continues for all throughout the pandemic, and most importantly, supporting the well-being of our students and all members of the school community. Actions taken by every person involved in the education system has contributed to our success to date.

Schools play an essential role in our children's education, well-being, and mental health, and it is important that they remain open. The health and safety measures in schools have been effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in schools. It is important to continue to follow the fundamentals and adhere to the public health guidelines. Sacrifices made in the broader community will also ensure that schools continue to be safe places, open for learning and offering supports.

On January 18, 2021, we welcome all Kindergarten to Grade 12 students back to in-class learning. All public health measures under the Restricted level (Orange), see [https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/response-management-K-12-restricted.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/response-management-K-12-restricted.pdf) are in place for all Manitoba schools. I would encourage you to visit our parent-focused website at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/covid/index.html), which includes updated Frequently Asked Questions on topics such as public health measures, school operations, and student achievement and learning. You can also visit your local school website for up-to-date student programming information.

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It has and continues to be a challenging time in our world with COVID-19. I remain hopeful that, with the COVID-19 vaccine and our unified efforts to continue to stop the spread of COVID-19 by following public health guidance, 2021 will be a better year. Thank you all once again for the tremendous efforts made to work together for the safety and success of our children this school year and well into the future.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Cliff Cullen  
Minister  
Education