



## Education and Youth

October 2003

CHAIRS OF SCHOOL BOARDS  
SUPERINTENDENTS OF EDUCATION  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATORS  
PRINCIPALS OF SCHOOLS (KINDERGARTEN TO SENIOR 4)  
PRESIDENTS OF ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP /PARENT  
COUNCILS (KINDERGARTEN TO SENIOR 4)  
DIRECTORS OF FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION AUTHORITIES  
EDUCATIONAL PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Colleagues:

***Re: Diversity and Equity in Education: An Action Plan for Ethnocultural Equity (For Consultation, October 2003)***

The *Manitoba K-S4 Education Agenda for Student Success, 2002-2006* provides a set of priorities for education in Manitoba. Priority 1 of the Education Agenda is improving outcomes for all learners and especially those who are less successful. Manitoba Education and Youth recognizes that to achieve this goal we need to more effectively address the needs of our linguistically and culturally diverse students and communities.

For this reason, the Department has developed a consultation document, ***Diversity and Equity in Education: An Action Plan for Ethnocultural Equity***, to provide a basis for discussion on the Department's current and future directions concerning diversity and ethnocultural equity. This paper is composed of two parts: the first discusses some important concepts and provides other relevant information; the second proposes a multi-year action plan that would further ethnocultural equity in Manitoba.

Manitoba Education and Youth will be inviting partner groups to participate in a series of consultation sessions, scheduled between October 2003 and February 2004. The consultative process is intended to facilitate the input of a broad cross-section of educators, community groups, learners, and other interested stakeholders. Over the next few months, the following activities will provide opportunities for input.

- **Written Submissions:** We invite **all interested parties** to send written submissions to Manitoba Education and Youth. Written submissions provide an opportunity for focused and in-depth proposals/suggestions.  
**Deadline for submissions is December 31, 2003.**

- **Regional Consultation Sessions with Divisional/District Teams:** School divisions and districts will be invited to participate in regional consultation sessions. These sessions will be held between November 2003 and February 2004. Further information will be sent directly to School Boards.
- **Round-Table Sessions** with organizations and community groups. These will be smaller consultative sessions intended to provide opportunities for in-depth and focused dialogue with interested organizations and community groups. These invitational sessions will occur in October–December 2003.
- **Learner Circles:** A series of half-day sessions are planned with small groups of learners to provide an opportunity to address classroom and school level issues and concerns, and identify current constraints. These sessions will occur in March–May 2004.

We would appreciate the assistance of administrators in making teachers in their schools aware of the proposed Action Plan, and providing them with the opportunity to provide feedback on its direction.

Information on current policies and practices may be found at Manitoba Education and Youth's website at the following address:

<<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/cur/diversity/>>

We also welcome written submissions. Written submissions may be sent to:

W260-1970 Ness Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 0Y9

Fax: (204) 945-3042

Email: [equity@gov.mb.ca](mailto:equity@gov.mb.ca)

If you have any questions regarding *Diversity and Equity in Education: An Action Plan for Ethnocultural Equity*, please contact:

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We look forward to meeting with you and hearing your perspectives and concerns regarding diversity and equity in our schools and the proposed action plan. Your participation and interest in this consultative process and in the review will be appreciated and valued. Please feel free to share this information with others who are interested in diversity and equity policies and programs in Manitoba.

Sincerely,

Pat Rowantree

Deputy Minister

Enclosures

- c. Diane Cooley, Coordinator, Curriculum Unit  
Gerald Farthing, Assistant Deputy Minister, School Programs Division  
Anne Longston, Director, Program Development Branch  
Tony Tavares, Consultant, Curriculum Unit