



Deputy Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth

Room 162  
Legislative Building  
Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 0V8  
CANADA

December 2003

TO: 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: Executive Summary of Findings and Recommendations: An Action Plan for the Renewal of Kindergarten to Senior 4 ESL Programming in Manitoba (December 2003)***

In 2001-2002, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth launched a review of ESL programming as part of the implementation of the priorities identified in the *Manitoba K-S4 Education Agenda for Student Success, 2002-2006*. The intent was to focus attention on the needs of diverse learners and to re-energize efforts aimed at reducing educational disparities. The primary goal was to find ways to strengthen ESL programming in Manitoba's schools.

A team representing the departments of Education, Citizenship and Youth, Advanced Education and Training, and Labour and Immigration undertook the ESL Program Review. The review included a survey of the field in 2001-2002 and a series of consultations from March to November 2002. Written submissions were also received.

An Executive Summary of the resulting report, *Report on the English as a Second Language Program Review: The Renewal of Kindergarten to Senior 4 ESL Programming in Manitoba*, is enclosed. It summarizes the major findings and includes eleven recommendations intended to improve the accessibility and quality of ESL programming in Manitoba.

Over the next several months, Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth will consider the recommendations made by the ESL Program Review Team and will develop an implementation plan. During this period, we will be consulting with schools, partner organizations, and community groups to share the report, and to discuss the findings and recommendations. This consultation will guide the development of the departmental implementation plan and ensure that the proposed recommendations meet our needs.

Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth will be inviting school division teams to participate in a series of regional consultation sessions, which will occur between January 2004 and March 2004. Consultation sessions are also planned with partner groups and organizations that participated in the round-table sessions held during the review. We will also welcome written submissions. **The deadline for written submissions is February 28, 2004.**

We would appreciate the assistance of administrators in making teachers in their schools aware of the report, and providing them with the opportunity to provide feedback on the recommendations. The results of the surveys and a more detailed version of the ESL Program Review report may be found on the Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth website at the following address:  
<<http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/cur/diversity/esl/index.html>>

Written submissions may be sent to:  
W260-1970 Ness Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 0Y9  
Fax: (204) 945-3042  
Email: [ESL@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ESL@gov.mb.ca)

If you have any questions regarding the ESL Program Review, please contact:  
Tony Tavares  
Multicultural Education Consultant  
W260-1970 Ness Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 0Y9  
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We look forward to meeting with you and hearing your perspectives and concerns regarding the future of Kindergarten to Senior 4 ESL programming in Manitoba's schools and the *Report of the English as a Second Language Program Review*. 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 ESL policies and programs in Manitoba.

Sincerely,

Pat Rowantree  
Deputy Minister

Enclosures

- c. Jean-Vianney Auclair, Director, Bureau de l'éducation française Division
- Carol-Anne Browning, Director, Program and Student Services Branch
- Anne Longston, Director, Program Development Branch
- Diane Cooley, Coordinator, Curriculum Unit
- Gerald Farthing, Assistant Deputy Minister, School Programs Division
- Guy Roy, Assistant Deputy Minister, Bureau de l'éducation française Division