



# Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

## Summer 2024

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## Message from the Deputy Minister

I want to express my appreciation and gratitude for everyone's extraordinary work and efforts in supporting children and students so they can flourish in life. Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning continues to make strides toward our vision that—from every part of Manitoba, from every background—all children and youth matter, belong, and are respected, successful, and safe. The investment we make in our children and students at every stage of their learning journey is an investment in the future.

The department is working on many priorities that aim to improve educational outcomes for all. Our commitment is to improve the educational development of Manitoba's children from the earliest years. We will continue to support child care professionals, increase child care spaces, and engage with stakeholders on a comprehensive child care workforce strategy for the province. For schools, the department is working with stakeholders on establishing a universally accessible nutrition program in every public school, investing in lowering class sizes in the Early Years, increasing student engagement, prioritizing better outcomes for Indigenous students, and supporting French-language programming.

I wish all our school and early learning communities a safe and enjoyable summer. May this summer bring lots of happiness and joyful memories.

To the class of 2024, I wish you every success on your life journey.

**Brian O'Leary**  
Deputy Minister  
Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning

## Two Bills Tabled This Legislative Session

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning currently has two bills in the Legislature. They were both tabled on March 13, 2024.

Bill 18, The Community Child Care Standards Amendment Act, enables the Minister to issue grants to support early childhood education training programs at Manitoba's public post-secondary institutions. The Community Child Care Standards Amendment Act received Royal Assent on June 4, 2024, and came into force on the day it received Royal Assent.

Bill 21, The Public Schools Amendment Act, will ensure that children can attend school in the division where they live with a responsible adult, even if there has not been a legal transfer of guardianship. The amendment would also clarify the right of temporary residents to send their children to their neighbourhood public school.

The proposed amendments will also reduce the compulsory school age from seven to six years old and the right-to-attend-school age from six to five so they are better aligned with divisional practices and the rest of Canada.

Bill 21 is awaiting Second Reading; however, as one of four Designated Bills, it will not progress until the fall. Designation is a procedural tactic that can be used by opposition parties to delay the progression of a bill.



### Child Care Commitments from Manitoba Budget 2024

On April 2, 2024, the Manitoba government announced [Budget 2024](#), which commits additional funding to support families and our early learning and child care sector. Specific commitments identified include the following:

- Supporting new child care spaces and associated operating costs, including one-time start-up grants for new school-age capital projects supporting 1,980 spaces
- Increasing base operating grants by five percent for all funded child care facilities, including both centres and homes
- Additional funding to support increasing wages for child care professionals
- Extending \$10-a-day child care to non-school days for school-age children

Budget 2024 further identifies support for healthy children, families, and communities, including the creation of more than 40 new child care centres to be located in schools and on post-secondary campuses, as well as support for expansion projects with community-based partners.

### Canadian Centre for Child Protection “Commit to Kids” Abuse Prevention Program

The department has partnered with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P) to deliver an online child sexual abuse prevention training program for all child care staff in Manitoba who work in licensed infant, preschool, nursery, school-age, and home-based programs. The program is intended to create a model for early childhood educators to help detect and prevent child abuse in Canada.

Beginning May 9, 2024, the training program will provide access to a suite of online course material, as well as supporting digital and print resources, to identify possible child abuse in children from infancy to 12 years old. Upon completion of this new, mandatory training, child care professionals in Manitoba will be better equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to proactively mitigate the risk of child abuse.

The program will include the “Commit to Kids” Child Sexual Abuse Prevention certificate program, delivered in eight online modules, as well as the “Commit to Kids” Foundational Information for Safeguarding Children from Sexual Abuse online course, and a variety of printed resources that will be distributed to child care facilities and home-based providers at no cost.

The Child Abuse Prevention Training has been developed in a partnership among the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, the Province of Manitoba, and the Government of Canada, with funding provided under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement.

Visit the [Province of Manitoba News Release](#) for more information on this announcement.



### ECE Workforce – Engagement, Recruitment, and Outreach

On May 3, 2024, Canada and Manitoba announced an increase in funding towards supporting early learning and child care operations and staff wages for all licensed and funded infant, preschool, school-age, and nursery school spaces. This includes a total funding contribution of \$8.97 million for a 5 percent increase to base operating grants, effective April 1, 2024, and another \$10.9 million in total funding to support an increase to the Wage Grid Supplement, effective July 1, 2024. This Wage Grid Supplement provides a 2.75 percent increase to the overall revenue a facility receives, and supports a 2.75 percent increase to the **Starting Point** and **Target** wages on the Early Learning and Child Care Wage Grid.

Under the Canada-Manitoba Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the department is currently conducting a comprehensive review of the wage and benefits framework for the early learning and child care workforce. This review aims to develop an approach that enhances recruitment and retention efforts, now and into the future.

For more information about this announcement, visit the [Province of Manitoba News Release](#).

### Manitoba's Space Expansion Update and Newest ELCC Facilities

Since February 2024, the department has supported the opening of two new child care facilities in Manitoba and more on the way:

#### February 26, 2024:

- RM of Tache – Lorette

#### February 28, 2024:

- RM of Ritchot – Saint Adolphe

Each facility was built as part of the Ready-to-Move Child Care Project, which offers a collaborative approach with municipalities and First Nations communities to construct high-quality child care centres under expedited timelines and in areas with a demonstrated child care need. Each facility will be licensed for 74 spaces.

For additional information about new early learning and child care facilities and space expansions, visit [www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/resources/spacecreation.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/education/childcare/resources/spacecreation.html).

#### From our team to yours....

In recognition of Manitoba Early Childhood Educator Week, proclaimed April 28th - May 4, 2024, thank you for your ongoing dedication to the care and education of Manitoba's youngest learners!



### Regional Consultations for Indigenous Education Policy Framework – Engaging the Early Learning and Child Care Sector

In 2023, in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) and Indigenous Excellence (IE) divisions are exploring ways to develop an Indigenous education policy framework for the early learning and child care sector.

In February 2024, engagement invitations were distributed to over 40 Indigenous-led/-owned/-operated licensed child care centres, homes, nursery schools, and school-age programs throughout Manitoba.

Between March and April 2024, three 2-day regional consultations were held in Winnipeg, Brandon, and The Pas, which included 26 centre directors and early childhood educators, six Elders and Knowledge Keepers, as well as Indigenous Excellence (IE) Assistant Deputy Minister Jackie Connell, IE Director Helen Robinson-Settee, IE Assistant Director Dawn Wood, Community Schools Coordinator Melissa Brown, and project team members Yvonne Kipling and Dina Ducharme.

Three additional virtual sessions were held with facilities in Churchill, Selkirk, and Ste. Anne for those who were unable to attend the in-person sessions.

Engagements focused on the following four guiding questions:

**Question #1:** What does Indigenous inclusion mean to you?

**Question #2:** What does an Indigenous-inclusive ELCC system look like?

**Question #3:** How do we make an Indigenous-inclusive system happen in ELCC?

**Question #4:** How will we know that we are on the right track?

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, starting our journey off in a good way included opening each engagement with a Pipe Ceremony, honour song, Smudge, opening prayers, and Talking Circles, and ending with a Sharing Circle and closing prayers.

**March 19 and 20, 2024, Brandon Regional Consultation:** A Talking Circle was held with

Indigenous-led child care centres, homes, the Aboriginal HeadStart director and ECEs, First Nations ELCC staff, as well as the following individuals: Helen Saunders, Elder; Kevin Tacan, Knowledge Keeper; Dina Ducharme, project lead; Jackie Connell, IE Assistant Deputy Minister; Dawn Wood, IE assistant director; and Yvonne Kipling, senior program analyst.

The following are some of the comments participants made when evaluating their experience from the engagement:

*“Hope for the future, for the generations to come.”* – participant from Winnipeg

*“I’ve been in child care for a long time; we’ve been waiting long to see this happen.”*  
– participant from The Pas

*“I’m excited for my grandchildren.”* – Elder from Brandon

Words used to describe their feelings about the framework within the child care sector included, “hope,” “excitement,” “a new vision,” “happiness,” and “trust.” Participants were visibly emotional as they talked about how they felt about the inclusion of Indigenous ways in child care: “We are being seen.”



**Indigenous Excellence (IE) Assistant Deputy Minister Jackie Connell, IE assistant director Dawn Wood, IE consultant Dina Ducharme, senior program analyst Yvonne Kipling, Elder Helen Saunders, and Knowledge Keeper Kevin Tacan in a Sharing Circle with Indigenous-led child care directors and providers at the regional consultation held in Brandon on March 19 and 20, 2024.**



## Early Learning and Child Care Update *(continued)*

**March 21 and 22, 2024, Winnipeg Regional Consultation:** A Talking Circle was held with Indigenous-led child care centres, homes, ECEs, child care centre board members, as well as the following individuals: Olga Rusnak, Elder; Mary Wilson, Elder/Knowledge Keeper; Dina Ducharme, project lead; and Yvonne Kipling, senior program analyst.



**Elder Mary Wilson, Indigenous Excellence consultant Dina Ducharme, and senior program analyst Yvonne Kipling in a Sharing Circle with Indigenous-led directors and FCCH providers during a regional consultation with Indigenous-led licensed child care facilities held in Winnipeg on March 21 and 22.**

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### Outreach in Manitoba Communities

The department is creating greater awareness of current and upcoming career opportunities in the early childhood education sector across rural Manitoba. Alongside a recent multimedia awareness campaign in various rural and northern communities across the province, staff have continued to attend local career fairs, including the Brandon Career Symposium on April 23 and 24, the Lord Selkirk Regional Career Fair on May 1, and Career Fair Canada at the RBC Convention Centre, June 12, 2024.



**Mario Gordon, director, Workforce Development; Monique Lubkiwski, child care coordinator; Robyn Frost, child care coordinator**

To request the attendance of department representatives at your upcoming career fair or event, email the Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Division at [cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cdcinfo@gov.mb.ca).

Learn more about a career in early learning and child care at the [Careers in Early Learning and Child Care page](#).

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### Ready-to-Move (RTM) Child Care Awarded Project of the Year by the Project Management Institute

On April 25, the RTM Child Care Project was named 2024 Project of the Year by the Project Management Institute of Manitoba. This initiative is the result of the creativity of public servants from across five government departments, building partnerships with industry and other levels of government, including the leadership and passion of the early learning and child care capital team: Pam Wever, Janelle Blaikie, Larissa Zacharuk, Kelly Punzalan, and Lily Mallard.

To accept this prestigious award for project management excellence, department staff and project partners gathered at The Leaf for the 30th annual Project Management Institute gala event on April 25, 2024.

As the winning project, a donation of \$1,000 was made on behalf of the Province of Manitoba to the United Way of Winnipeg. Read more about the award, or learn more about the RTM child care project and upcoming facility openings, by visiting the [RTM Child Care Project Page](#).



## K–12 Education Update

### Curriculum Renewal: Kindergarten to Grade 10 Science and Industrial Arts

The Learning and Outcomes Branch, in collaboration with the Bureau de l'éducation française, is renewing the Kindergarten to Grade 10 science curriculum and the industrial arts Middle and Senior Years curricula.

The renewed Kindergarten to Grade 10 science curriculum will be piloted in September 2024. The pilot phase will be followed by a year of voluntary implementation in school year 2025/2026, and full implementation in school year 2026/2027.



**Senior Years Technology Unit consultants engaging with teachers at a recent consultation meeting.**

The renewed science curriculum, guided by Manitoba's [Framework for Learning](#), will replace the current 20-year-old curriculum. The renewed curriculum

- is equitable, practical, relevant, and inclusive of Indigenous perspectives
- is focused on building Manitoba learners' global competencies
- is based on research and consultation into science pedagogy, teaching, learning, and curricula
- incorporates inputs from consultations held with numerous partners in the education system, including the Inclusion Support Branch and Indigenous Excellence within Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, as well as both the Curriculum Advisory and Development committees (Over 100 stakeholder and Indigenous Rights Holder engagements were completed.)

This spring, the Industrial Arts Curriculum Renewal Committee is continuing its exciting work to renew the 40-year-old Middle Years industrial arts curriculum and the 15-year-old Senior Years industrial arts curriculum. The committee is made up of teachers and partners from across Manitoba, as well as department staff from Indigenous Excellence and the Inclusion Support Branch. The renewed curricula will help to ensure Manitoba learners are prepared for the careers and challenges of the future.

The committee is researching and discussing structure, common learning outcomes, and name updates, including reflections on the word "industrial." This important work connects to the department's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Contact: [curr\\_dev@gov.mb.ca](mailto:curr_dev@gov.mb.ca)



### Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards

Six educators have received Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards, recognizing their significant positive impact on learning and development in Manitoba. The awards recognize teachers and school leaders whose outstanding educational practices have a deep and lasting impact on student achievement, engagement, and well-being.

Minister Nello Altomare hosted an awards reception at the Legislative Building on April 19, 2024, and presented awards to the following recipients:

- **Teaching Excellence Award:**
  - Saul Correia, Collège Churchill High School, Winnipeg School Division
  - Mirosława Demko, Ralph Brown School, Winnipeg School Division
  - Tara Tuchscherer, St. James Collegiate, St. James-Assiniboia School Division
- **Outstanding New Teacher Award:**
  - Rachel Robinson, Victor Mager School, Louis Riel School Division
- **Outstanding School Leader Award:**
  - Karen Duffield, Shamrock School, Louis Riel School Division
- **Premier's Award for Excellence in Education:**
  - Rebecca Okemow, Strathclair Community School, Park West School Division

For more information, please see the [Province of Manitoba News Release](#).

### Canadian Centre for Child Protection Resources Sent to Schools

In April, posters and wallet-sized information cards were distributed to schools with Grade 7 to 12 students on behalf of the Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P), sharing information about their [NeedHelpNow.ca](#) website. C3P is a national charity dedicated to reducing the sexual abuse and exploitation of children through programs, services, and resources for Canadian families, educators, child-serving organizations, law enforcement, and other parties.

In the past year, C3P has managed more than 4,200 requests for support from Canadian youth, families, and caregivers. Youth often reach out for help when an intimate image or video of them is being shared online. NeedHelpNow.ca is a portal for youth to access support services to help them navigate next steps if they are being sexually victimized online, as well as find resources and more information about online sexual violence. For more information about resources and support services, please visit C3P's website at <https://protectchildren.ca/en/>.

Contact: [ISBinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ISBinfo@gov.mb.ca)



### Alternate Formats Collection Provides Accessible Information for Manitoba Students

As the [Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation](#) came into effect for all Manitoba schools in May 2024, schools are reminded of the availability of alternate format materials through Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning.

Alternate format materials are available to students who are unable to access print material due to a perceptual disability, which is defined as

- a severe or total impairment of sight or hearing or the inability to focus or move one's eyes
- the inability to hold or manipulate a book (physical disability)
- an impairment relating to comprehension (learning disability)

The [Alternate Formats Collection](#) provides educational support for Manitoba students with perceptual disabilities by lending print materials produced in alternate formats, including Braille, large print, E-text (ePub, PDF, Word), audiobooks (mp3 download or CD), and a selection of video books in American Sign Language. These resources provide students with the appropriate and accessible alternate format necessary for them to access print information and participate in all educational programs.

The collection comprises school texts, with some supplemental reading material also available. When a requested item is not available from the on-site collection, a search is conducted to see if the title is available from another alternate format collection. If unavailable, in-house production of the resource will be considered. Materials are available in French and English.

Materials are sent to and from schools without charge; they are then loaned for the entire school year, and/or any portion thereof, to eligible students attending schools in Manitoba. Students must register with the Alternate Formats Collection, using either the [online registration form](#) (resource teacher login required) or the [print form](#). For more information, visit the Alternate Formats Collection website at <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/afs/>.

Contact:

Telephone: 204-945-7722

Toll-free in Manitoba: 1-800-282-8069, ext. 7722

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





### Reminder: Online Resources Available at Your Fingertips

#### Online Resources for Manitoba Educators

The Online Resources for Manitoba Educators (ORME) website features several online resources that are accessible to K–12 educators and students at school and at home, including the following:

- Britannica Online K–12 school edition (including ImageQuest & Science Launchpacks)
- Gale in Context: Canada
- National Film Board CAMPUS
- Criterion-on-Demand
- Can-Core K–12 school edition
- CBC Curio

These resources offer Manitoba K–12 curriculum-relevant articles, videos, images, audio clips, primary sources, and more, with an emphasis on Canadian content and Indigenous themes.

With various accessibility features and language options, content can be tailored to each student’s unique learning needs. This resource provides a safe option for students accessing online content while improving literacy, research, and digital citizenship skills.

French language content is available, and many of the resources offer the option to search a dedicated French language site. For more French language resources, please access <https://dref.mb.ca/>.

The ORME website can be found at <https://mbcsc.edu.gov.mb.ca/onlineresources/>.

All inquiries regarding online resources for Manitoba educators can be sent to [ORMEinfo@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ORMEinfo@gov.mb.ca).

#### Pearson Digital Assessment Library

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning has also committed to a three-year subscription (2023–2026) to [Pearson Clinical Assessment’s Digital Assessment Library](#) (DAL), which is available to all Manitoba school divisions and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre.



Access to the Digital Assessment Library supports the early identification of student learning needs across Manitoba. The resource includes an interactive assessment component and a scoring component, and offers more than 40 resources and assessment tools, from classroom to clinical settings, in both English and French. Training in the use of the tools is available.

Please contact your divisional student services administrator for access to the DAL.



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### The Canadian Adult Education Credential

We are excited to provide an update regarding Manitoba’s plan for transitioning from GED testing to the new Canadian Adult Education Credential (CAEC), as announced in a [Province of Manitoba News Release](#) in February 2024.

The CAEC test standard was validated through a norm-referencing study based on a representative sample of Grade 11 students, ages 16 to 17, reflecting diverse geographic, socio-economic, linguistic, academic, and gender populations in Canada. Students from several Manitoba school divisions participated in the study, thereby ensuring that Manitoba student experiences are captured in the score standards.

The CAEC assessment consists of subject tests in both official languages and features content that is culturally reflective of Canada’s diversity and Indigenous Peoples. CAEC maintains a similar structure to the GED with a focus on five key subjects (reading, writing, social studies, mathematics, and science). The CAEC [Test Outcomes and Evaluation Plan by Subject](#) as well as [practice tests](#) for each subject area can be found on the [Canadian Adult Education Credential](#) website.

Manitobans who have already completed some GED tests can apply to have those tests recognized towards CAEC until May 2027.

Test-takers who successfully complete all five CAEC tests may be eligible to receive a High School Equivalency certificate issued by Adult Learning and Literacy Branch of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training. The certificate is an employment credential that meets the educational requirements of many employers. Manitoba adults who wish to complete a high school diploma can visit an Adult Learning Centre.

For up-to-date information on CAEC in Manitoba, visit <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/all/ged/caec.html>.

Contact: [all@gov.mb.ca](mailto:all@gov.mb.ca)

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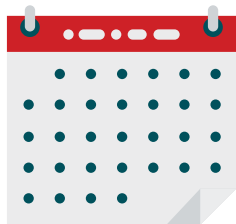
### Manitoba School Leadership Framework Conference

On May 28, 2024, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning hosted the Manitoba School Leadership Framework Conference, **School Leaders Really Matter: Leadership for Student Learning and Well-Being**. Over 235 participants explored the Framework to gain a deeper understanding of its components and pondered the question, “How might I, as a school leader, a school division leader, or education partner, use the Manitoba School Leadership Framework to guide my own professional learning and/or support others’ school leadership development?”

The conference included a keynote address from Dr. Steven Katz, a distinguished educational thought leader, and Evelyn Giannopoulos, associate director with the Upper Grand District School Board in Ontario. They spoke on the importance of school leaders leaning into their local context and reflecting on their impact on student learning and well-being.

A student voice video, *Leading Learning: Student Reflections on School Leadership*, was presented at the conference. The video highlights students’ reflections on the qualities of an effective school principal, what makes them feel safe, valued, and respected in the school, and what helps them learn best.

Manitoba School Leadership Framework Conference material and resources, including the student voice video, are now available for school and school system leaders to use. They can be found at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mslf/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/mslf/index.html).



## Department Announcements

### Leadership Updates

#### **New Assistant Deputy Minister for Bureau de l'éducation française**

René Déquier will be joining MEECL as the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Bureau de l'éducation française (BEF), effective August 15, 2024.

Currently serving as Assistant Superintendent with the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM), René brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his new role. His experience and his dedication to supporting the development of students and educators are sure to have a positive impact on French-language education and the broader Francophone community.

We are confident that René's appointment as the Assistant Deputy Minister of BEF will further strengthen our commitment to elevate French-language education in the province.

#### **Lilibeth Pasa Joins Student Achievement and Inclusion Division**

Lilibeth Pasa joined the Continuous Improvement Branch (CIB) as the Manager of the Data and Analytics team on April 8, 2024. She will oversee the work of the Data and Analytics area. Prior to CIB, Lilibeth served as a senior economic and statistical analyst with the Department of Families, where she led the department's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

#### **Serif Akinlabi Joins Early Learning and Child Care Division**

Serif Akinlabi (pronounced *Sherif*) joined the ELCC Division as the Manager of Accounting Services on February 20, 2024. Serif joins us with over 10 years of extensive experience in the private sector, managing information systems, financial planning, analysis and reporting, treasury management, and SAP implementation.

#### **Cees de Vries Joins Early Learning and Child Care Division**

Cees de Vries joined the Provincial Operations Branch as Manager of the Quality Enhancement and Program Development Unit. Cees has 23 years of experience in the Department of Families, including an extensive background in social services policy and program development.

#### **Brigitte A'Bear returns to Early Learning and Child Care Division**

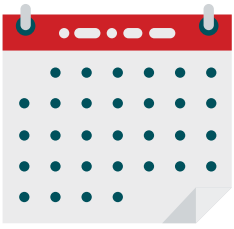
Brigitte A'Bear returned to the ELCC Division as the Manager, Child Care Subsidy, effective April 15, 2024. Brigitte has 12 years' experience working with subsidy programs, including previous stints with ELCC and the Department of Families.

#### **Child Care Subsidy Program Joins Early Learning and Child Care Division**

Effective April 2, 2024, the Child Care Subsidy Program joined the ELCC Division as a unit within the Funding and Financial Accountability Branch.

While funding and administration of the child care subsidy program has been a function of ELCC and MEECL, the Community Service Delivery Division of Manitoba Families has, until now, remained responsible for its program delivery and client services. This exciting transition will bring together all areas of our program to better support child care facilities in meeting the needs of children and families.

The Child Care Subsidy team will continue to be located on the first floor at 114 Garry Street in Winnipeg.



## Department Announcements *(continued)*

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### Pride Month – June 2024

The department's vision is to foster welcoming, safe, and respectful learning environments where all children and youth matter, belong, and are respected, successful, and safe. The department supports Pride Month in June, a month dedicated to celebrating and commemorating the two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer community (2SLGBTQIA+), which includes people who identify in diverse ways, such as questioning, asexual, non-binary, and pansexual.

Two documents that help create and foster safe and inclusive learning environments include [Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools](#) and [Safe and Caring Schools: A Resource for Equity and Inclusion in Manitoba Schools](#). Both resources provide guidelines and valuable tools for educators, students, and parents to work together to create more equitable and inclusive schools, especially with respect to diversity of sexuality and gender identity and expression.

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### National Indigenous History Month – June 2024

This is a month to learn, reflect, and recognize the unique histories, sacrifices, cultures, contributions, and strengths of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Visit the [Indigenous Excellence](#) website to learn about the leadership and coordination they provide for departmental initiatives in Indigenous education and training. The department's [Indigenous Education](#) page also includes information about related resources and initiatives.

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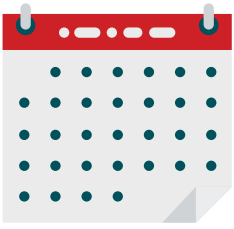
### National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21, 2024

This is a day to celebrate the past and present contributions to Canada from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples. It is important, as Canadians, to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day and to continue to teach about the contributions, true histories, and future visions of Indigenous Peoples. This will build bridges of understanding and respect based on healing and on Truth and Reconciliation.

Indigenous Excellence has an [Indigenous Educators Profile](#), which highlights Indigenous educators throughout Manitoba. This project also serves to address the need to continuously establish mechanisms to recruit and train more Indigenous educators and to promote education as a future career choice for students and youth.

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### Training Update

#### Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation

The department would like to advise that the online training module for the Accessible Information and Communication Standard under The Accessibility for Manitobans Act is now available at <https://amalearningmb.ca/>.

This free learning resource meets the training requirement under the Accessible Information and Communication Standard of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act. Once the module is completed, a Certificate of Completion can be downloaded.

The following employees in your organization must complete the training:

- educators
- staff who communicate with the public or with stakeholders on behalf of your organization
- staff who maintain your website and web content
- staff who purchase or procure information technology
- staff who develop and implement your organization's policies, practices, and procedures related to accessible information and communication

Despite the Accessible Information and Communication Standard Regulation coming into force May 1, 2022, the compliance dates for this standard are as follows:

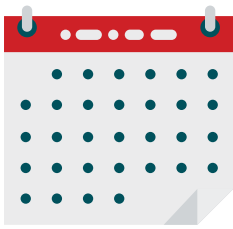
- May 1, 2024, for all public and independent schools
- May 1, 2025, for child care facilities with more than one employee, whether located in a school or elsewhere

Specific to public and independent schools, there will be some flexibility regarding the compliance date. Staff required to complete the training will be encouraged to do so in the 2024/2025 school year.

An invitation to an information session hosted by the department is forthcoming.

Additional resources about The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its standards, as well as tips for creating accessible documents, can be found by visiting the [Manitoba Accessibility Office website](#). Please see the attached supporting documents for further direction to access the course and the completion certificate.

If you have any questions about this standard, please contact the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat at 204-792-0263 or [accessibilitycompliance@gov.mb.ca](mailto:accessibilitycompliance@gov.mb.ca).



## Department Announcements *(continued)*

### Recent Proclamations

#### Education Week – April 15–19

Education Week acknowledges the importance of Kindergarten to Grade 12 education and educators' crucial role in ensuring all children and youth have a sense of belonging and are able to succeed in reaching their full potential.

#### Week of the Early Childhood Educator – April 28–May 4

April 28 through May 4, 2024, marked the 33rd Annual Week of the Early Childhood Educator in Manitoba. Child care workers play a critical role in the lives of tens of thousands of children and families across the province. This week serves as an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the profound impact that early childhood educators have in supporting the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of children from infancy through school age and beyond.

On Wednesday, May 1, Minister Nello Altomare and Deputy Minister Brian O'Leary gathered at the Early Learning and Child Care offices at 114 Garry and 210 Osborne to recognize and celebrate the many ECE II and III certified members of our team.

#### Music Month – May

Music Month celebrates the important contributions of musicians, music educators, and music education programs in Manitoba schools and communities.



The *Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning Newsletter* aims to provide our education and early childhood learning partners with access to information about departmental initiatives and leadership updates, and to highlight some upcoming plans/important dates. More detailed information can be found by visiting [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/).

The newsletter is published in summer, fall, winter, and spring. Please email questions and feedback on the newsletter or the material covered to [SRUnit@gov.mb.ca](mailto:SRUnit@gov.mb.ca).

Thank you.

