

## IS THIS WHAT EFFICIENCY LOOKS LIKE?

### K-12 Review

- The K-12 Review, announced Jan 23, 2019, did not include the expertise of those who have knowledge and experience in overseeing educational programs, schools or divisions. There was no expertise included from Coordinators, Department Heads, School Principals, Directors, or Superintendents on the K-12 panel.
- Selection and vetting process for the Committee and definition of “expertise” has remained undefined, and places the review in question. The majority of the Committee had **no K-12 experience or educational expertise** related to Education.
- The K-12 Review was concluded and written prior to the turbulence and changes experienced in education due to Covid.
- Although reported as higher, Manitoba Education indicates that the cost of the K-12 review was **\$635,000**. **This is \$17,162 which could have been provided to each of the 37 school divisions to support local initiatives and programs.**

### Bill 64

- "The Modernization of Education Act" is seen as a direct threat to rural communities. Sweeping changes means that local governing and oversight is transferred to the provincial government. This is a **loss of democratic control of education**.
- Small communities will lose their support and voice. It will strip away autonomy. It will **reduce jobs & harm the economy**.
- This will **remove** locally elected Trustees who are a **direct link to the community and local needs**.
- Senior Administration in the local school divisions will be replaced with a Director of Education, appointed by the Provincial Education Authority. This will **replace local decision making, voice, and oversight**.
- Educational direction and power will be provided to an unknown appointed Director of Education – who does not require a background in education or knowledge of the community, programs or students they will oversee.
- Our vast Northern region (with a greater land mass than that of the UK) would **only have one voice** in the province.

### BEST

- On March 25 an email launched a new \$5 million Teachers’ Idea Fund under Better Education Starts Today (BEST).
- The Manitoba Teachers’ Idea Fund is described as a five-year initiative that will invest \$25 million into the ideas and innovations of front-line teachers, staff and school leaders from across our province to support quality education and improve student outcomes.
- It would seem **contradictory for Manitoba Education to be collecting ideas from staff that they have indicated are underperforming** and/or whom they are replacing in their administrative oversight of educational initiatives & programs.
- There are already hundreds of educational sites that exist for teacher planning and reference. There are additional webinars, videos, and tools to empower, guide and support staff. Why is Manitoba Education spending unnecessary Educational funds on this initiative?
- Manitoba Professional Learning Environment (**Maple**) **already exists** and is an online professional learning community that provides educators access to resources, professional learning services and opportunities for collaboration and interaction. Is this new initiative not a duplication of the current services?
- Teachers are trained in their field and know how to teach. What teachers & admin need are supports in the system (for mental health, poverty, inequity, technology) to help them do their job. This was reiterated at consultation meetings.
- **\$25,000,000** will be spent on the Manitoba Education Idea Fund. **This is \$675,675.68 that could instead be provided to each of the 37 school divisions to support local initiatives and programs.**

### Remote Learning Support Center

- The pandemic struck in March 2020. It took more than **9 months (over 279 days)** for Manitoba Ed. to devise an online support plan for K-8 students, by using the supports of different division staff. The RLSC launch was January 4, 2021. Yet Manitoba Education wants to **overhaul the entire provincial education system** K-12 in 15 months.
- In the KSD community, 43 students joined this platform which, overall, highlighted needs and deficiencies in the system.
- March report cards for Second Term produced 477 teacher responses of N/A in relation to student learning. 139 responses from teachers indicated that there was “not enough evidence to provide a grade” for the student.
- The online learning platform, as predicted, has **not been an effective strategy for our rural students and their needs**.
- Additionally, lack of supports and technology have created an even greater gap for our students who are unable to access this remote learning – the only option provided. This concern has been voiced and largely ignored.
- **\$10,000,000** is being spent on the RLSC. **This is \$270,270.27 which could instead be provided to each of the 37 school divisions to help fund local initiatives and programs.**

Manitoba Education initiatives/studies had the potential to provide  
**\$963,107.95** to our **local** School Division.