

Education Matters – Provincial Education Review

The Manitoba Government is embarking on a K-12 Education Review and is in the consulting phase of the process. The government has appointed a nine member Commission with Co-Chairs being Dr. Janice McKinnon and Clayton Manness. Dr. McKinnon is a former Saskatchewan finance minister and Mr. Manness is a former Manitoba education minister. The Commission has also hired Dr. Avis Glaze as the lead consultant. Dr. Glaze wrote the report to the Nova Scotia Department of Education who then applied sweeping changes to education in Nova Scotia.

According to the Commission's website - The commission will consult with students, parents, educators, school boards, academics, indigenous organizations, la francophonie, municipal councils, professional organizations, the business community and members of the public- from across Manitoba. The commission will also conduct extensive research and study best practices.

The focus of the commission will be

- 1) Long-term vision for K to 12 education: What should the goals and purpose of K-12 education be in a rapidly changing world.
- 2) Student learning: What are the conditions required to achieve excellence in student achievement and outcomes in Manitoba?
- 3) Teaching: How can teachers and school leaders become more effective?
- 4) Accountability for student learning: How can the education system develop a stronger sense of shared accountability for student learning?
- 5) Governance: What type of governance structures are needed to create a coordinated and relevant education system?
- 6) Funding: What actions are required to ensure that the education system is sustainable and provides equitable learning opportunities for all children and youth?

To this end there will be two types of public meetings held in Winnipeg, Brandon, Steinbach, Thompson, The Pas and Dauphin. There will be interactive public workshop meetings with round table discussions lead by facilitators to get more information and provide feedback. The one closest to Beautiful Plains is in Brandon on May 9th. You must register to attend and you can register on the website <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/educationreview/consultation.html>. There will also be public hearings. To speak at one of the public hearings you will first have to apply, and the Commission will pick those allowed to speak. You can also send in a presentation online directly to the commission using the provided template. Presentations will be allowed a maximum of ten minutes with five minutes allotted for questions from the commission. Dates and times have not yet been announced for the meetings. There will also be two round table discussion forums with the Commission. The attendees to these discussions will be chosen from parties of interest to the commission and MLA representatives.

In an effort to keep Beautiful Plains public informed, there will be more information and updates on our website and twitter account. You can email written submissions to the Commission until the end of May to K12educationcommission@gov.mb.ca. There is a template letter on the Manitoba school boards website that you can use. The website is www.mbschoolboards.ca/documents/Advocacy/LocalVoices

[Template.pdf](#). The commission is looking for ideas to help inform the recommendations they will make to provide Manitoba students with the skills they need both today and into the future. It would be great if our local voices were heard.

Timeline of Education Review

February – May 2019: Online engagement and public and stakeholder meetings

June 2019- January 2019 Analysis and formulation of recommendations

February 2020 Recommendations to the Minister of Education and Training

March 2020 – Public Release

October 2020 – Provincial Election