

WHAT IS BILL 64?

Bill 64 - *The Education Modernization Act*, is the enabling legislation that will be used to achieve some of the government recommendations included in the K-12 Education Review. Once it receives proclamation, Bill 64 will replace *The Public Schools Act*, *The Education Administration Act* and *The Community Schools Act*, the pieces of legislation currently governing education in Manitoba.

WHAT IS PROPOSED IN BILL 64?

Bill 64 proposes the elimination of democratically elected school boards. The 36 English school divisions will be continued under a single board that will administer education within 15 regions.

Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) will continue as a separate board.

WHEN WILL THIS HAPPEN?

The Provincial Education Authority will be established as early as November 2021 and changes to the school trustee system will come into effect by July 1, 2022.

The government will have a road map ready in September 2021 which will provide more information.

WHAT ABOUT PRINCIPALS AND VICE PRINCIPALS?

For 102 years, principals and vice principals have been integral members of The Manitoba Teachers' Society, and they will continue to be members. We are committed to continuing to provide the services that they have come to expect.

There is nothing in Bill 64 that restricts membership in the Society, and we are working to ensure protections are in place for continuous membership of principal teachers and vice principal teachers.

Under the terms of Bill 64, principals and vice principals must be certified teachers and will still participate in the Teachers' Retirement Allowances Fund (TRAF) Pension.

The definition of "teacher" in sub-section 219(1) specifically excludes principals and vice principals from the definition for the purpose of collective bargaining. However, that definition only applies to bargaining, not the rest of the Act.

WHAT ARE OUR KEY CONCERNS? (including but not limited to)

Bill 64:

- includes system-wide changes that lack evidence of their impact on improving educational outcomes—the stated intent of commissioning the education review. The status of principals and vice principals within the teacher bargaining unit is one such example. How does this improve student learning?
- introduces mechanisms for parent influence over decision-making in areas best suited for the expertise of trained teachers and principal teachers, including, but not limited to, staff hiring and performance evaluations, recommendations regarding priorities and policies on discipline management and analysis of student achievement.
- includes mechanisms to issue directives and requirements for system accountability that will increase standardized testing as well as publication and public comparison of test results. This will serve to widen existing systemic discrimination and inequities.
- requires the Provincial Education Authority Board to create an official province-wide policy ensuring families are given notice and the chance to opt out of "sensitive content" which includes health and phys-ed lessons involving human

sexuality, substance use and abuse prevention and personal safety. Policy regarding sensitive content was introduced in 2005 and unfortunately Bill 64 has reinforced this antiquated approach to curricular content and failed to take the opportunity to empower students with knowledge to better understand and protect themselves and others.

- attacks local democracy through a public appointment structure that can be subject to politically partisan influence and loyalty, susceptible to appointment rescindments with or without cause, and indicates no structure to ensure diverse community representation.
- obstructs free and fair collective bargaining. Under Bill 64, the new teacher employer—the provincial government—requires arbitrators to take into account the ability of the employer—also the provincial government—to pay. Arbitration is the only dispute resolution mechanism for teacher bargaining, and it must remain robust, effective and fair.
- eliminates all school divisions and creates regional catchments that may not be equipped to respond to local needs, based on their size. This centralized structure could *increase* bureaucracy and high-level administration rather than reduce it.

While not all aspects of the BEST report appear in the Bill, the government is not finished. Through the establishment of regulations, the government can fast track changes that do not require introducing new legislation. MTS will be vigilant and intentional in our communication, both with the government and with you, to ensure protections for our members remain in place.

WHAT ARE THE NEW REGIONS?

Fifteen new regions, plus DSFM, will replace 37 separate school divisions. Once the new governance model has been implemented, the new regions will be as follows:

1. Winnipeg, St. James-Assiniboia, Louis Riel, Pembina Trails, Seven Oaks and River East Transcona
2. Garden Valley, Western
3. Frontier, Kelsey, Flin Flon and Mystery Lake
4. Evergreen, Lakeshore
5. Beautiful Plains, Park West, Rolling River
6. Interlake, Lord Selkirk
7. Mountain View, Swan Valley, Turtle River
8. Hanover
9. Fort La Bosse, Southwest Horizon, Turtle Mountain
10. Sunrise, Whiteshell
11. Brandon
12. Seine River
13. Portage La Prairie, Pine Creek
14. Border Land, Red River Valley
15. Prairie Spirit, Prairie Rose

WHO IS MY EMPLOYER?

There is no immediate change to your employer. Once established, the Provincial Education Authority will become the employer for all public school employees except for employees in the Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) and the Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT?

Current collective agreements remain in effect and will be followed.

WHAT HAPPENS TO SCHOOL BOARDS?

Bill 64 proposes the abolishment of all English school boards. The Francophone school division and school board will remain as currently structured.

WHAT IS THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY?

The Provincial Education Authority will be responsible for collective bargaining, the delivery of K-12 education, remote learning and more.

The Provincial Education Authority must appoint a director of education for the schools in each regional catchment area. The director of education will effectively act like a superintendent does under the current system. The Provincial Education Authority will be established as early as November 2021.

WHO RUNS THE PROVINCIAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY?

The new Provincial Education Authority is made up of government appointees, of which two must also be serving on the Provincial Advisory Council on Education.

The Provincial Education Authority Board will report to the Minister.

WHAT IS THE PROVINCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EDUCATION?

The Provincial Advisory Council on Education (PACE) is an advisory body to the minister. The PACE will be comprised of 16 members, one parent representative from each region, elected from among the School Community Council executives, and one trustee representative from the DSFM.

This advisory council may provide the minister of education with direct parental advice on matters relating to the education system, including, but not limited to: staff hiring and performance evaluations, recommendations regarding priorities and policies on discipline management and analysis of student achievement.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL?

Parents and guardians of each school community will elect an executive (the School Community Council) to work with the principal on matters impacting the school community. The councils' specific roles have not been finalized but could include assessing the effectiveness of programming at the school, analyzing student achievement and learning outcomes and proposing capital construction projects and budgets. These councils will replace traditional parent councils.

WILL THERE BE JOB CUTS?

The province has indicated that there will be no changes to staffing at the school level as a result of Bill 64.

Other human resource implications for divisional staff will be shared as part of the transformation road map in September.

WILL MY UNION CHANGE?

No. The Manitoba Teachers' Society will continue to be your union.

I DON'T SUPPORT THIS BILL. WHAT CAN I DO?

[Click here for a toolkit that will help you #raiseyourvoice](#)