

W.A.N.T.E Bulletin Please Post

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March 18, 2021

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MEETING WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION

Dear Members,

On Tuesday March 16, 2021 I attended a zoom meeting with Dana Ruby, Deputy Minister of Education, along with many other union presidents and public sector officials. The purpose of this call was to provide an opportunity to listen to the education overview, and timeline explaining Bill 64, in regard to the release of the Report of the Commission on K-12 Education.

Posted to the WANTE website is the Public Discussion Paper. On page seven of the Discussion Paper, you will find the Executive Summary which explains the six comprehensive areas of focus, and the consultation process that went into creating the educational review. This document continues by outlining the *Ten Imperatives to Improve Manitoba's Education System with a Sense of Urgency*.

In the meeting I attended today, one thing was made abundantly clear: the changes being announced in this reform are significant, and will impact every single person working within, or connected with the education system.

The changes proposed by the Minister of Education and the government are unclear, and I, among other union presidents, have many questions. At this time, we are all left with unclear messages, and do not currently have all of the answers. This I know for sure: it is imperative that we use our voices during this time. We are the front lines, and we have the right to express our concerns, questions, and thoughts.

The government has asked for feedback on this plan. You can submit your responses by following this link <https://engagemb.ca/better-education-starts-today> and taking part in the survey. I want to remind you, **it is your duty and your right to be honest** when filling out this survey. The Minister of Education needs to know how these changes will affect our schools. This survey must be filled out by April 30, 2021. The goal for the government is to begin the data collection process in April, present Bill 64 in September, and vote on it in November.

Continued.....



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"Members Working for Members"

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Please remember, these proposals are not yet the law. For the time being, we will remain as 37 school divisions, with the same structure we have now. We cannot panic, we must remain level-headed, and follow the steps provided to us in the survey link above.

If you have any questions, we want to hear them. We will do our best to answer them, but just know that we are searching for clarification too.

In the meantime, we encourage you to reach out to your MLA (you can find their information listed here: https://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/members/mla_list_alphabetical.html), as well as Dana Rudy - Deputy Minister of Education, and Cliff Cullen - Minister of Education; their information is below.

Additionally, I suggest looking through the following resources:

PowerPoint: https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/2020_2021/bill-64-overview.pdf
Or the Better Education Manitoba website <https://bettereducationmb.ca/> to read more on the proposed plan.

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Regards,



Carla Paul
WANTE President



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