



# Prairie Rose School Division

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May 27, 2021

To the Stakeholders of Prairie Rose School Division,

Are you aware of the impact of Bill 64 on your local schools and communities?

Bill 64 is The Education Modernization Act that will replace the Public Schools Act and fundamentally change the way that education is provided in Manitoba. Bill 64 will create a centralization of power within the provincial government and defund education.

Although Bill 64 is focused on student outcomes, it does so through the lens of saving money and standardized testing. Bill 64 does not adequately address many other factors that are required for successful student outcomes.

Our focus continues to be on Prairie Rose students. We encourage our community to become informed and share your questions and concerns on Bill 64.

The Government of Manitoba spent approximately 1 million dollars on an independent Manitoba K-12 Education Review. While Minister Cullen announced “from the onset I will say we have accepted all of the commission recommendations in spirit and principle. We will be focusing on using those lessons learned and their findings to improve education province-wide.”

(Reference: Manitoba Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education Review – March 15, 2021 (Youtube)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWwyWlr4Y9w> 2:32)

It is clear that Bill 64 does not reflect many of the recommendations and in some cases directly opposes the recommendations made in the final report of the Independent Commission.

Under the proposed plan Prairie Rose School Division will be dissolved alongside all other English school divisions in Manitoba. Our schools will be governed by a new centralized Provincial Education Authority that presides over the geographical region that once was Prairie Rose School Division and Prairie Spirit School Division. The new school region will cover approximately 9500 square kilometers.

The Province has committed to a period of consultation through presentations and a submission of questions. The Education Modernization Act is to be implemented by July 2022.

School Boards will be dissolved and the education system in Manitoba will be controlled by the Provincial Education Authority. A single appointed “education authority” will struggle to make decisions for all of Manitoba with diverse students needs across a number of different communities. Will it be a democratic means of administering a public service as critical as Manitoba’s K-12 education system?

We will no longer have local voices influencing what happens in our community schools. Instead, all decisions about education programming will be made by the “education authority” with limited understanding of local needs and no accountability to our students, families or communities.

Bill 64 will replace informal parent councils with formalized School Community Councils tasked with assisting in the successful operation of the school. This will result in increased work for a select group of parents and caregivers and decreased representation for most families. Under the proposed new system, the Provincial Government will save money by requiring busy parents to volunteer more time and take on a portion of the Government's responsibility to deliver education to our students.

Child poverty is known to be one of the highest indicators of poor academic performance in Manitoba. Unfortunately, Manitoba is one of the leaders of child poverty in Canada. Too many students do not have the supports they need to be successful in school and Bill 64 does not address this issue, despite being an overarching theme of the Commission work.

The current system places a moratorium on small schools closures, but Bill 64 does not address this issue. Closing schools has an economic impact on communities and can irreversibly alter the fabric of rural Manitoba.

Bill 64 does not limit the time a student spends on the bus which is limited in the current legislation to a maximum of 1 hour.

Your options to ask questions, raise concerns or obtain information are:

1. Submit your questions to us at [bill64@prsdmb.ca](mailto:bill64@prsdmb.ca). We may not be able to answer your questions immediately, but it is important to bring your concerns forward. Prairie Rose School Division will submit all questions received to the platform set up by the Government at [www.bettereducationmb.ca](http://www.bettereducationmb.ca).

2. Contacting your local MLA at:

Midland MLA	Honourable Blaine Pederson	<a href="mailto:midlandmla@mymts.net">midlandmla@mymts.net</a>
Lakeshore MLA	Honourable Ralph Eichler	<a href="mailto:mlalakeside@mymts.net">mlalakeside@mymts.net</a>
Interlake MLA	Derek Johnson	<a href="mailto:interlakemla@mymts.net">interlakemla@mymts.net</a>

3. Contact the Minister of Education at:

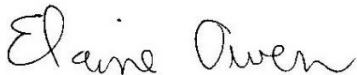
Honourable Cliff Cullen [minedu@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minedu@leg.gov.mb.ca)

4. Any Manitoban can respond to Bill 64 by emailing [committees@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:committees@leg.gov.mb.ca) or by calling 204-945-3636.

Information about Bill 64 can be found on the Manitoba Legislative Assembly of Manitoba website or [EngageMB.ca](http://EngageMB.ca)

Now is the time to speak up with your questions and concerns.

Prairie Rose School Division Board of Trustees,



Elaine Owen  
Prairie Rose School Division-Chair