



## **FOX LAKE CREE NATION**

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August 13, 2021

KTC Chiefs

Mayor of Flin Flon

Mayor of Churchill

Mayor of Thompson

Mayor of Leaf Rapids

Mayor of Lynn Lake

Mayor of Snow Lake

### **RE: Bill 64 – The Education Modernization Act**

Recently, Fox Lake Cree Nation and the Town of Gillam invited Frontier School Division to provide a presentation regarding Bill 64 – The Education Modernization Act, and the impact that this legislation would have on education in Northern Manitoba. Since then, we have written to the provincial Minister of Education to express our concern and opposition to this legislation and the government's plans to significantly change public education without meaningfully consulting with First Nations and Indigenous leadership and Northern communities. This proposed legislation also completely and shamefully ignores the importance of Indigenous education, the unique governance and operational structure of the Frontier School Division, and the agreements that Frontier School Division has with many First Nations.

Bill 64 seeks to eliminate all school divisions, including Frontier School Division, and severely reduces the voices of Northern communities. There is no assurance that any member of the new governance model will be from Northern Manitoba or have any experience with the unique needs of our Northern and Indigenous communities. It also does not include provisions to ensure Indigenous representation at any decision-making level. As such, Fox Lake Cree Nation, the Town of Gillam, and many others have called for the immediate withdrawal of Bill 64.

Any introduction of legislation that will impact the education of our Northern youth and communities must first be considered with consultation respecting the right of Northern communities and First Nations to democratically elect their local school boards and preserve the unique governance structure of the Frontier School Division.

Fox Lake Cree Nation will be inviting Frontier School Division to make a presentation to our community and will work with Frontier School Division to provide the tools for our community members to also make their voices heard. Chief and council of Fox Lake Cree Nation will be

registering to speak at the committee meetings on this legislation, and we urge you to do the same by calling 204-945-3636.

As Northern leaders, it is critical that we stand up for the education of our youth and ensure that our voices are heard.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Chief Morris Beardy  
Fox Lake Cree Nation

cc

Councillor Ernie Massan  
Councillor Sophie Lockhart  
Lloyd Kirkness, Director of Operations  
Dwayne Forman – Mayor, Town of Gillam  
Wab Kinew – Leader of the Official Opposition  
Grand Chief Settee – MKO  
George Neepin – KTC  
Frontier School Division  
Manitoba School Boards Association