



LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

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Manitoba School Boards Association Negotiating Receipt of Federal Climate Funds

The Manitoba School Boards Association is working collaboratively with the Federal Government to ensure that Manitoba schools receive a share of Climate Action Incentive Funds in the 2019/20 Fiscal Year. If negotiations are successful, federal carbon tax revenues will be available to Manitoba schools for investment in an array of school-based energy efficiency initiatives.

"The Manitoba School Boards Association is well positioned to coordinate receipt and payment of these funds to our school board members," said Alan M. Campbell, association president.

Over many years, Manitoba schools have benefited greatly from several investments, mostly from the provincial government, in sustainable infrastructure and clean energy to minimize the carbon footprint of schools and thereby reduce any pollution arising from school operations.

All new school buildings are constructed by the Government of Manitoba using a minimum LEED Silver designation, meaning that school boards continue to benefit from significant provincial investments that remain the primary foundation for promoting capital sustainability across public education infrastructure in Manitoba. The federal Climate Action Incentive Fund will add to this strategy with nearly \$5.4 million in funding towards ongoing objectives of promoting energy efficiency and green environment capital retrofits.

"Today's statement by the federal government signals an important added investment towards promoting the sustainability of our schools," said president Campbell. "We welcome the federal government's decision to work with our association, as a non-profit and neutral third party, to ensure that the carbon tax funds that have been collected from school boards, are returned to school boards."

Today's decision means that Manitoba school boards will join their counterparts in Ontario, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, in receiving the first carbon tax backstop funding arising from the newly implemented federal carbon tax.

While the funds will not result in new capital infrastructure in Manitoba, the ability to direct the funds to significant energy efficiency retrofits for existing capital assets, such as new windows, better lighting, new furnaces, smart thermostats and controls and renewable energy, will help schools to continue to reduce their carbon footprint and achieve energy savings.

"In good faith, we are hopeful that we will be able to deliver these funds on behalf of Manitoba's school boards, schools and students," concluded president Campbell. "We are pleased that the federal government has identified our association as a potential partner, and will work to flow these funds to schools in Manitoba."

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