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MINISTER
OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Room 168
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
R3C 0V8

OCT 04 2016

Mr. Ken Cameron
President
Manitoba School Boards Association
191 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg MB R2H 0G4

Dear Mr. Cameron:

I am replying to your letter regarding the request for action received by the Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA) Provincial Executive from one of your member boards, the Winnipeg School Board, to update the school health curriculum.

Through the Physical Education/Health Education (PE/HE) curriculum, the Province supports students in developing healthy relationships and responsible sexual behavior as well as the prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). STIs are the subject of specific learning outcomes (SLOs) in Grades 7, 9 and 10, and focus on symptoms, prevention and treatment. These SLOs remain broad and allow schools and teachers the flexibility to select the breadth and depth of the handling of this content. Two Human Sexuality documents also support the delivery of sexual health outcomes in K-8 and in Grades 9 and 10, providing teachers with suggestions for instruction, assessment and resources.

It should also be noted that sexual health outcomes are subject to a parental option provision which is administered locally by schools and school divisions. A parental option allows parents to choose a school-based or alternative delivery (e.g., home, professional counselling) for their child to fulfil SLOs in the PE/HE curriculum.

The department is interested in meeting with educational and public health partners with expertise in sexual health to examine aspects of the current curriculum that could be enhanced. We will inform you of this process at a later date.

Thank you for bringing this request for action to our attention.

Sincerely,

Ian Wishart

c. Honourable Kelvin Goertzen