

TALKING ABOUT

With school board elections less than five months away, conversations in many communities will be turning to schools and education. We've compiled a new resource that will help inform those discussions. Our advocacy guide, [Talking About](#), examines five topics that tend to generate a considerable amount of public interest:

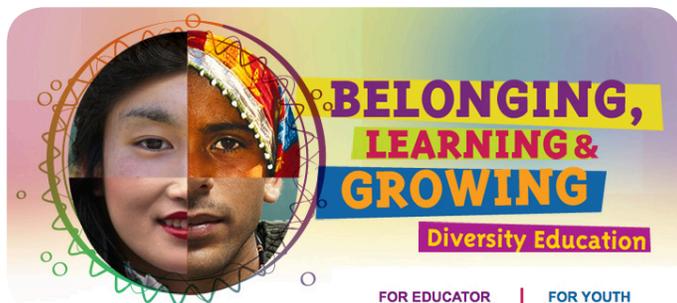
- School Boards and Communities;
- Student Assessment and Achievement;
- Education Funding and Spending;
- School Division Amalgamation; and
- Becoming a School Trustee.



Talking about

For each topic, we have included a factual overview, a series of bulleted key points, and a number of frequently asked questions (many containing common misconceptions), and suggested responses. School divisions are welcome to use these documents as is, or modify them with local information.

DIVERSITY EDUCATION RESOURCES



Did you know that Manitoba Education and Training has a webpage dedicated to diversity education? [Belonging, Learning and Growing: Diversity Education](#) is divided into sections for [youth](#) and for [educators](#). The educator's page includes a section on schools to watch, which profiles school programs, educators, and promising models from Manitoba, Canada, and internationally. It also features a section dedicated to teachers' voices, intended to stimulate dialogue and critical thinking through the sharing of reflections and experiences related to diversity and equity education. You'll find links to departmental publications here, covering topics such as gender diversity and refugee and war-affected children. The most recent addition to this valuable library is [Responding to Religious Diversity in Manitoba's Schools: A Guide for Educators \(2018\)](#), a resource for educators and schools seeking to respond to the needs of their religiously diverse students and community.

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MORE ON SUPPORTING REFUGEE STUDENTS



ESPMI Network

Emerging Scholars & Practitioners on Migration Issues

The [Emerging Scholars and Practitioners on Migration Issues \(ESPMI\) Network](#) website now includes documents on the theme of supporting refugee students in Canada. They were produced as part of a SSHRC-funded research initiative, *Supporting Refugee Students in Canada: Building on What We Have Learned in the Past 20 Years*. Key messages are that:

- refugee students continue to experience socio-psychological challenges;
- well-being of a child is an important focus in practice and policy;
- an asset-based approach enhances the Canadian educational system; and
- there are gaps in Canadian refugee education literature and policy.

The website includes the full report, a policy brief, and a research monograph, as well as two videos created to help disseminate the research findings and to propose next steps.

TAKING ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The [Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup](#) is a national conservation initiative of the Vancouver Aquarium and WWF-Canada that provides Canadians the opportunity to take action in their communities wherever water meets land, one bit of trash at a time. Since 1994, 19,400 cleanups involving 700,000 volunteers have collected more than 1.2 million kg of trash across Canada's shorelines. To learn more, or to initiate or volunteer for a cleanup, visit the [website](#).



ETHICS BOWL GUIDE

Manitoba Education and Training has developed a new guide for educators, [Canadian High School Ethics Bowl: Creating Community through Critical Conversations](#). The guide will assist educators in organizing and running such an event, where teams of students analyze and discuss ethical dilemmas. Ethics bowls allow students to imagine, criticize, and compare bold strategies, and pose and respond to probing questions. The end result is a deepening awareness of the stakes and principles that animate the often-topical discussions.

