



February 12, 2021

The Honourable Derek Johnson
Minister of Municipal Relations
Room 317 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Email: minmr@leg.gov.mb.ca

The Honourable Cliff Cullen
Minister of Education
Room 168 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Email: minedu@leg.gov.mb.ca

The Honourable Scott Fielding
Minister of Finance
Room 103 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Email: minfin@leg.gov.mb.ca

Dear Ministers Johnson, Cullen, and Fielding,

On behalf of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) and Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), we are writing to jointly underscore the importance and need to consult with our associations on the provincial government's commitment to phase out education property taxes.

As you are aware, our organizations have a joint interest in this issue as we have both long-shared the objective of establishing a provincially-endorsed multi-stakeholder Task Force to comprehensively review and modernize Manitoba's education funding model. While the current funding model is both antiquated and inadequate given the ever-increasing demands and financial pressures on municipalities and school boards, it is vital that a plan to ensure the needs of taxpayers and the services provided through property taxes is developed in close consultation with our respective members.

While we have noted that the 2021 Funding of Schools announcement has recently signaled the introduction of a Property Tax Replacement Grant for school boards, our organizations would appreciate receiving an update on the Province's comprehensive plan to phase out education property taxes. We also request that we be included in consultative discussions moving forward, before any additional changes are contemplated by the provincial government. We would welcome meaningful discussions based on a collaborative framework in an effort to achieve common understanding of this initiative.

In closing, thank you for your attention to this matter and we shall look forward to hearing from you further regarding how we can collaborate and share perspectives related to the education funding model in Manitoba.

Yours sincerely,

Kam Blight
President
Association of Manitoba Municipalities

Alan M. Campbell
President
Manitoba School Boards Association