

MANITOBA  
School Boards  
ASSOCIATION

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

January 24, 2020

Honourable Kelvin Goertzen  
Minister of Education  
Room 162 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Honourable Cameron Friesen  
Minister of Health  
Room 302 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Ministers Goertzen and Friesen:

On behalf of the Manitoba School Boards Association, we would like to bring forward for your attention a matter of great concern to our membership.

The matter concerns inoculation of school-aged children. In particular, our membership has highlighted the need to ensure that childhood diseases are carefully monitored and managed at levels that prevent major population epidemics.

By working with federal partners at Health Canada, we believe that expanded education programming across the province of Manitoba can be targeted at the parents or guardians of all school-aged children. Such efforts would result in greater information being shared with primary caregivers, with the aim of promoting deeper understanding and personal choice for all parents and guardians, given the important considerations involved.

It has been observed by our membership that vaccination rates in Manitoba are perilously low. Only 67% of Winnipeg Children are vaccinated for measles with only 55% vaccinated in one Winnipeg neighbourhood. Medical experts recommend a 90 to 95% vaccination rate to preserve "herd immunity". There have been significant measles outbreaks in British Columbia, Ontario and New Brunswick, prompting the New Brunswick and Ontario governments to mandate vaccination as a condition of school attendance. It is for these reasons that the Manitoba School Boards Association wishes to raise these matters for your attention and consideration.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or should you wish to arrange for a meeting to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to reach out to Executive Director Josh Watt at [jwtatt@mbschoolboards.ca](mailto:jwtatt@mbschoolboards.ca) to arrange for a suitable date and time.

Sincerely,



President