

November 23, 2023

MEMO

TO: All members
FROM: Josh Watt, Executive Director
RE: Diversity in Schools– Safe and Caring Schools Guidance Documents / Human Rights Documents

Where the Government of Manitoba issues guidance, it is important that our members be aware of the existence of such resources, in an effort to support the work of members in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion and human rights.

To that end, I would encourage all members to access the materials that remain available on Manitoba Education's website, by way of gaining additional perspective on the specific guidance that has been produced over many years by panels of experts specializing in each subject area:

https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/safe_schools/links.html#

Among the variety of subjects covered by existing guidance are the following:

- Responding to Religious Diversity in Manitoba's Schools: A Guide for Educators
- Supporting Transgender and Gender Diverse Students in Manitoba Schools
- Safe and Caring Schools: A Whole-School Approach to Planning for Safety and Belonging
- Safe and Caring Schools: Taking Action Against Bullying
- Safe and Caring Schools: Respect for Human Diversity Policies
- Safe and Caring Schools: A Resource for Equity and Inclusion in Manitoba Schools (MB MYGSA)

Frontline workers can equally reach out to the Department of Education for support that may be required, as well as interpretation and operationalization support in relation to the above documents:

Inclusion Support Branch Telephone: 204-945-7912 Toll Free in Manitoba: 1-800-282-8069, ext. 7912
Email: isbinfo@gov.mb.ca

Finally, it is important for all members to be aware of the foundational statutes and regulations that must be taken into consideration at all times during review of issues pertaining to diversity:

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/rfc-dlc/ccrf-ccdl/>

The Manitoba Human Rights Code https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/archive/pdf/_pdf-arch.php?cap=H175&dt=2021-12-31

The Manitoba Public Schools Act https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/archive/pdf/_pdf-arch.php?cap=P250&dt=2020-11-05

The UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/convention-text-childrens-version>