

June 9, 2026

Honourable Tracy Schmidt  
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Room 162 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Honourable Mintu Sandhu  
Minister, Public Service Delivery  
Room 343 Legislative Building  
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Dear Ministers Schmidt and Sandhu,

Several resolutions were passed by our members during our Annual 2026 convention, which fall under your exclusive authorities as Ministers of Education and Early Childhood Learning as well as Public Service Delivery. We would like to arrange a meeting with you in near future, to discuss how we might work together to identify strategies and plans to address the significant needs and requirements that have recently been identified and endorsed by our membership.

**Resolution FFM-03-26– Establish a Capital Funding Model,**

**the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning to establish a comprehensive and sustainable capital funding model to address capital funding projects, being cognizant of inflation and reflective of current market conditions, to mitigate infrastructure deficits faced by Manitoba school divisions.**

Rationale:

School divisions across the province are facing mounting infrastructure challenges due to aging facilities, deferred maintenance, and growing student populations. Although the age of buildings is taken into consideration by the department when considering building maintenance, it fails to address buildings that are forty, fifty, and sixty plus years old, and causes divisions to spend a lot of time being reactive to these issues.

Current funding mechanisms are often fragmented and insufficient to meet the long-term capital needs of educational institutions. Without a predictable and sustainable capital funding model for new infrastructure needs, school divisions are forced to make difficult trade-offs that can compromise student safety, learning environments, and community access.

If capital funding was sustainable and increased, it would allow schools to address all of the capital projects that are outstanding for school divisions on the five-year capital plans. This could include things such as new schools, significant renovations of spaces such as woodworking areas, human ecology labs and other renovations for example, as well as portable classrooms, HVAC systems, adding air conditioning and replacing septic fields. Oftentimes, projects stay on the five-year plan for more than five years-- sometimes even ten years-- and never are selected to be done, or they start and stop several times. A good example of this is the start and stop of an elevator project in a school in a certain school division.

Moreover, inflationary pressures have significantly increased the cost of construction, renovation, and maintenance. Existing capital funding formulas do not adequately account for these economic realities, resulting in budget

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shortfalls and project delays. A modern capital funding framework must be responsive to these factors to ensure that capital investments are both timely and cost-effective. A comprehensive capital funding model would enable school divisions to plan proactively, prioritizing projects based on educational and community needs and eliminating infrastructure deficits in a strategic and equitable manner. This approach aligns with principles of fiscal responsibility, educational equity, and long-term planning, and would ultimately support improved student outcomes and community well-being.

**In addition to the above resolution, our members also passed **Resolution FFM-04-26 – Expedition of Procurement, Delivery and Installation of Modular Classrooms****

WHEREAS enrollment in many school divisions across Manitoba is increasing significantly due to population growth and community development;

AND WHEREAS existing school infrastructure in numerous communities is operating at or beyond capacity, resulting in inadequate learning environments and compromised student support;

AND WHEREAS the timely provision of appropriate educational spaces is essential to maintaining equitable access to quality education and to ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff;

AND WHEREAS modular classrooms and capital expansions are proven solutions to address urgent space needs while longer-term infrastructure planning is undertaken;

AND WHEREAS we have been informed by the Province that none of the Seine River School Division's (SRSD) requested modular classrooms can be provided, as none are available;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Manitoba School Boards Association lobby the Minister of Education for the Province of Manitoba to ensure that supply chain and financial barriers are resolved so that it can expedite the procurement, delivery, and installation of modular classrooms;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Manitoba School Boards Association advocate for accelerated planning and funding approvals for permanent school expansions in divisions experiencing sustained enrollment growth.

**Resolution FM-01-26 – Insurance Challenges in Wildfire Affected Areas,**

**the Provincial Government to help school divisions when they have difficulty getting insurance because of being in wildfire affected areas.**

Rationale:

**Background and Context:**

Upon the expiration of the Division's annual insurance policy, the renewal process was significantly impacted by active wildfires occurring within 25 kilometers of several school division facilities across Manitoba. According to the Manitoba School Insurance Program (MSI) memo dated August 22, 2025, the reason for the insurance extension was "the ongoing wildfire risk within 25 km of our locations."

While temporary extensions were granted over several months, the lack of confirmed long-term insurance coverage created operational challenges, particularly in providing timely proof of insurance to external vendors and partners. These challenges included:

**Operational Impacts:**

**1. Delays in Procurement and Leasing Agreements**

Vendors required confirmed insurance documentation to proceed with contracts for leasing equipment and facilities. Delays or refusals to engage in agreements affected technology upgrades and renewal of existing leases.

**2. Disruption to Field Trips and Extracurricular Activities**

Camps and other venues required proof of liability insurance to confirm bookings. Despite planned trips being outside wildfire-affected areas, the inability to provide timely insurance documentation led to hesitation on receiving a confirmation for booking a location.

**3. Financial Uncertainty**

Increased insurance premiums due to wildfire risk placed additional strain on the Division's budget. Temporary insurance arrangements and alternative solutions incurred unexpected costs.

**4. Risk of Liability**

Operating without confirmed insurance coverage exposed the Division to potential legal and financial liabilities in the event of incidents or accidents.

**Recommendation:**

Given the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in Manitoba, it is recommended that the provincial government establish mechanisms to support school divisions in securing insurance coverage during periods of elevated risk. This support is essential to ensure continuity of educational services and to mitigate operational, financial, and legal disruptions.

Alan Campbell can be reached at [acampbell@mbschoolboards.ca](mailto:acampbell@mbschoolboards.ca) at any time to arrange for a meeting with yourselves and members of our Provincial Executive. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our concerns and look forward to working with you to achieve constructive outcomes for our students, staff and communities.

Sincerely,



Leah Klassen  
Interim President

cc: Mona Pandey, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Brenda DeSerrano, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Public Service Delivery