

INSERT DATE

INSERT NAME OF MLA, ETC

INSERT NAME OF CONSTITUENCY (see second page for contact information)

Re: Bill 64 - The Education Modernization Act

I am writing to express my significant concern about the Government's proposed Bill 64.

(ADAPT THIS PARAGRAPH TO MAKE IT "YOUR OWN")

As a *parent/tax-payer/senior citizen/business owner*, who *state connection to the community and education system*, I am outraged to see what we will lose if the proposed legislation, Bill 64 passes. I am appealing to you as a Progressive Conservative MLA to do everything you possibly can to stop this bill from passing, or at minimum see it altered significantly.

The concept of School Community Councils (SCC) is unworkable and unsustainable. This model has been tested and proven a failure in other jurisdictions. It discriminates against those that are already marginalized by lack of time and money to get involved. These people have a school trustee who can speak impartially for them.

Through elected school boards our voices are heard and there is accountability which will be sorely lacking with the new governance structure. The local boards have real decision-making power and the trustees are from and care about our communities. Under the new structure, every time my community wants or needs anything, we will have to go hat-in-hand to the central, Winnipeg-based Provincial Education Authority. This authority is to be made up of government appointees, who will be subject to politically partisan influence and loyalty (now and for any future government) and susceptible to appointment rescindments, with or without cause. That is not democracy.

Many additional arguments speak against what is proposed:

- Local business will suffer with jobs lost when divisional offices shut down and families move away. Business will also be hurt when locally-sourced materials and services are centrally sourced.
- Programming decided by a provincial authority will be subject to homogenization, and appointees will not understand or know how to prepare or offer our students the skills to work in local industry. This will be the death of what are now vibrant rural communities; YOUR community.
- Electives and school programs will see a one-size-fits-all, in an effort to save money. Other provinces have seen no costs savings when implementing anything similar and reports have shown clearly there are no savings. As a taxpayer, I do not want to see my taxes go up with this legislation based on ideology and not on common sense.

I strongly urge you and your colleagues to work to alter this proposed legislation, something we can all live with and vote against what is currently proposed.

Sincerely,

INSERT YOUR NAME

INSERT YOUR CONSTITUENCY

Premier
Hon. Brian Pallister- Fort Whyte,

Minister of Education
Hon. Cliff Cullen- Spruce Woods

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