

Education

Advanced Education and Literacy

Financial & Administrative Services Branch

15 - 1577 Dublin Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3E 3J5

AUG 13 2013

Mr. Colin Craig
1881 Portage Avenue, PO Box 42123
Winnipeg, MB R3J 3X7

Dear Mr. Craig:

**Re: Your Request for Access to Information Under Part 2 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*:
Our File No. 2013 - E 013**

On July 10, 2013, Manitoba Education received your request for access to the following records:

"Please provide documentation on the 700 teachers fired during the Filmon government era."

In response to your access request, please find enclosed a letter dated June 2, 2010 and read into Hansard on June 3, 2010.

Subsection 59(1) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that you may make a complaint about this decision to the Manitoba Ombudsman. You have 60 days from the receipt of this notice to make a complaint on the prescribed form to:

Manitoba Ombudsman
750-500 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 3X1
(phone) 982-9130
1-800-665-0531

If you have any questions with respect to our response, please contact Jodi MacDonald, Access and Privacy Coordinator at 204-945-5310.

Sincerely,



Claude Fortier
Access and Privacy Officer

Attachment

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, June 3, 2010

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS PRESENTED BUT NOT READ

Re: Bill 31

June 2, 2010

My name is Pat Isaak and I am president of The Manitoba Teachers' Society. We represent 15,000 public school teachers in the Province of Manitoba. Thank you for the opportunity to make this presentation to the Legislative Committee considering this Bill.

I am here to support Bill 31. This government has always viewed funding for education as an investment in the future of this province. And during difficult economic times, perhaps more than ever, it is crucial that we continue to adequately fund quality public education programs. The implementation of this Bill will help ensure that our public schools continue to receive the resources they need to do an increasingly challenging job.

Last Thursday, I had the opportunity to address nearly 300 delegates to The Manitoba Teachers' Society Annual General Meeting. These 300 teachers work in classrooms in every corner of the province. And struggle daily with the changing face of Manitoba classrooms. Many of those delegates were still in high school during the last recession of the 90s. I told them that looking back is not only about reminiscing. It's about learning. So I gave them a short history lesson.

Education funding in the 1990s can be summarized in one word: cuts. For 10 years the annual public school funding announcements were between zero and minus two percent. In 10 years, we lost more than 700 teaching positions. In 10 years, we lost 18 percent of our salaries to inflation. And in 10 years, we saw class size increase and Bill 22 take away professional development days.

There cannot be a more stark contrast for teachers in Manitoba than between the 1990s and the 2000s. And there are many lessons for us to take from those two decades.

Despite our best efforts during the 90s to explain to government how the face of schools and classrooms was changing, the response was 'do more with less'. These budget decisions significantly harmed students in this province and our schools are still recovering.

Our success as a province and a nation depends on the strength of our public schools and teachers understand the challenges we face today.

We're preparing our students to use technologies that have yet to be invented in order to do jobs that don't yet exist, amidst uncertain economic times.

Today people come to Manitoba from every part of the globe. They come here with their children, but more importantly they come here for their children. The steady growth in Manitoba's immigration rate means there are 3,600 more English as an additional language students in this province than there were four years ago.

The increasing number of students with special needs in our classrooms means that teachers need more resources to deliver the programming necessary to meet those needs.

And declining enrolment in Manitoba doesn't necessarily mean fewer teachers or schools. In order to keep schools open in remote Manitoba communities, it means multi-grade classrooms where a teacher is required to teach the curricula of all grades. Meeting the needs of those students requires more resources, not fewer.

Teachers view this government's public school funding increases despite uncertain economic times, as a signal that it considers the long-term benefits of education. This government is focusing on the future, while clearly being mindful of the present.

What we've learned from the cuts of the 1990s is that fewer teachers, larger class sizes and fewer resources can have a lasting impact on the success of our students, and as a result our province.

Teachers know that our job is only the start. If our students and communities are to be all they can be, then public education is only the beginning of a lifelong experience in growing and learning. It's a matter of paying now or paying later. The Manitoba Teachers' Society believes that the passage of this Bill will benefit Manitoba's 180,000 students now and into the future.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide the views of Manitoba teachers.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Isaak
President
The Manitoba Teachers' Society