



ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES POLICY BRIEF – SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

| Minister of Education and Early Childhood Learning |

| Wayne Ewasko |

The AMM appreciates the opportunity to meet with Minister Wayne Ewasko and representatives of Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. The AMM encourages the Province to consider municipal concerns as well as the effects of funding decisions on local communities throughout the budget process. This document outlines the AMM's position and recommendations on a number of important municipal issues relevant to the Education and Early Childhood Learning portfolio. The AMM looks forward to working with the Province to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities.

TOP POLICY IMPLICATIONS



- The AMM has long called on the Province to establish a multi-stakeholder Task Force to comprehensively review and modernize Manitoba's education funding model. However, to date discussions have not focused on how education could be funded, but rather how to allocate funds between school divisions in which the AMM has no position.
- The education system's future and long-term sustainability cannot be de-coupled from how it is funded and paid for.
- While we welcome steps taken by the provincial government to phase-out education property taxes, municipalities remain concerned with including school taxes and credits on the municipal tax bill.
- The distribution of the Education Property Tax Rebate (EPTR) was administratively burdensome for municipalities as many faced a significant influx of calls and questions from residents.
- It is vital that the Province consider local insights and feedback regarding the distribution of the EPTR in 2022.
- In addition, AMM members continue to appeal for the \$5,000 cap on the Farmland School Tax Rebate to be lifted as it negatively impacts agricultural producers and the vibrancy of local communities. When the rebate was first introduced, there was no cap in place.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

1. MODERNIZE EDUCATION FUNDING
2. EDUCATION PROPERTY TAX PHASE-OUT

The current education funding model is inadequate and antiquated, particularly given the ever-increasing demands and financial pressures on municipalities. Thus, we welcome the provincial commitment to phase out education property taxes

The AMM recommends the government:

- ❖ ***Work with municipalities and the AMM on the provincial commitment to phase out Education Property Taxes and ensure the new funding model is reflective of municipal concerns.***

ACTIVE AMM EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING RESOLUTIONS

AMM Resolution #21-2020: School Tax Deferral

AMM Resolution #42-2018: Education Property Tax Credit (EPTC) Application Changes

AMM Resolution #24-2015: Deadline for Farmland School Tax Rebate

AMM Resolution #25-2015: Business Education Tax

AMM Resolution #32-2013: Modernize Education Funding