



RED RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DIVISION DIVISION SCOLAIRE VALLÉE de la RIVIÈRE-ROUGE

233 Main Street, P.O. Box 400, Morris, MB R0G 1K0
Ph. 204.746.2317 • Fax 204.746.2785 • Email: rrvsd@rrvsd.ca

Dear Staff, Families and Community Members,

April 27, 2021

With only two months remaining, the end of the 2020-2021 school year is nearing. What a year it has been so far! You are all to be commended for your incredible resilience in the face of complex and unrelenting COVID-19 challenges.

On March 15, Education Minister Cliff Cullen added to those challenges with his unveiling of the details of Bill 64, [The Education Modernization Act](#). The purpose of this letter is to provide our community with an update from the perspective of the Board of Trustees.

What you need to know about the potential impacts of Bill 64:

- **Local school divisions will disappear**

- o The Red River Valley School Division will be dissolved, and our schools will become part of a 4500+ student geographical region under the centralized power of the Provincial Education Authority.

- **Parental responsibility & workload redefined**

- o With the creation of School Community Councils, parents/guardians will be asked to step into governance/management roles of their child's school, without any clarity in the legislation about what their actual decision-making authority will be.

- **Support of local businesses in question**

- o Local business owners will need to secure contracts for goods and services related to schools in their community, through the centralized Provincial Education Authority, rather than locally, as they do now.

- **Taxation without representation**

- o Even with the proposed phase-out of education property taxes, as Manitobans, you **will** continue to pay the taxes, with no elected voice to ensure the money is invested locally. The [Education Property Tax Rebate](#) outlines the shift in taxes.
- o The Minister will solely set the education levy.

- **Elimination of your democratic rights**

- o The Board of Trustees of Red River Valley School Division will be eliminated.
- o Decisions about your local school will lie with an appointed Director of Education, who will report to the government-appointed Provincial Education Authority.

Perhaps the most important thing for you to understand is that the government has provided no details on how any of these proposed changes will benefit students or families. You are strongly encouraged to learn more about the damage that Bill 64 will create and to speak out against it.

Visit www.localvoices.ca or email RRVSD Board Chair, Charlene Geiler at cgeiler@rrvsd.ca to learn more on lending your voice.

We want to know what your concerns are. Please join us for an information Town Hall **May 12th, 2021 at 6pm.**

Email rrvsd@rrvsd.ca to get the link. More information will be posted on our website at www.rrvsd.ca

Sincerely,

Charlene Geiler
Board Chair