



# Manitoba First Nations School System and Funding Model

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Chiefs of Ontario - Charting Our Own Path Forward Education Forum

Chelsea Hotel, 33 Gerrard Street, Toronto

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

1:00 – 1:45 p.m. Mountbatten Salon

# ABSTRACT

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the Manitoba First Nations School System (MFNSS) and the funding model for the MFNSS.

The MFNSS has taken several years to develop as outlined in the 2012 concept paper entitled *A Systematic Approach to First Nations Education*.

The goal of the MFNSS is to provide culturally appropriate education that reflects the unique needs of participating First Nations.

# OUTLINE

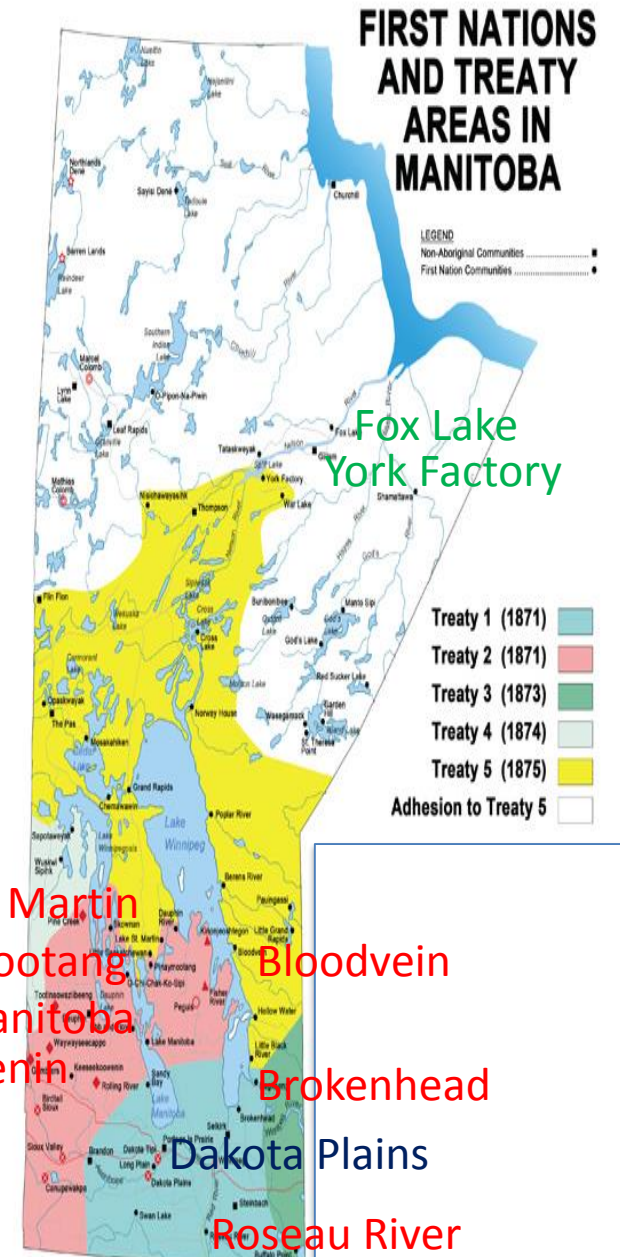
- 1) Who We Are
- 2) Historical Developments
- 3) Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
- 4) Partnership Transition Initiative
- 5) Manitoba First Nations School System
- 6) Funding Model

# WHO WE ARE

Manitoba First Nations (150,000):

- Cree (Ininiw) (65,000)
- Ojibwe (Anishinaabe) (66,000)
- Ojibwe-Cree (Anishininiw) (12,000)
- Dakota (5,000)
- Dene (2,000)

10 First Nations (listed) are part of the MFNSS



# HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Manitoba First Nations leaders outlined their vision for education in **Wahbung - Our Tomorrows, 1971**:

*“We...believe in education as a preparation for total living... as a prime means of improving our economic and social conditions...as a comprehensive program which must be designed to meet the needs of the total community by including offerings to people of all ages”*



# Self-government Process

Education Framework Agreement (EFA) (1990-1994) - The purpose of the EFA was to recognize the commitment of AMC and INAC to negotiate formal arrangements on education in Manitoba, including new funding arrangements and models for educational systems. Four rounds of community engagement sessions were held with over 10,000 participants discussing their visions of education including new FN education systems.

Framework Agreement Initiative (FAI) (1994-2006) – the FAI was to develop a self-government process in 3 key areas: education, child and family, and fire and emergency.

# MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

In 1998, the MFNERC was created by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) to provide services to over 50 Manitoba First Nations schools (using Gathering Strength \$).

Priorities (identified by FN Education Directors) were:

- Professional Development – trustees, administrators, teachers
- Consultant Services – Advisory/Facilitators for schools/ teachers (including Special Education)
- Curriculum Development/Research
- Technology
- Nominal Roll/Data Collection
- New Provincial Curriculum

# MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE ([www.mfnerc.org](http://www.mfnerc.org))

Services currently provided include:

- Consultant Services – Advisory Services/Facilitators for schools/teachers – literacy, numeracy, physical education [1] , science[8], ECE [8], etc.
- Special Education [46] (including Clinical Services and capacity training using Special Education/Jordan’s Principle \$)
- FN Curriculum Framework /curriculum development [16]
- Land-Based Education/FN Language Specialists (9)
- Data Management/Technology [18]
- Virtual High School [15]
- Publishing/communications [13]
- Professional Development/Training [8]– trustees, administrators, teachers, TA’s
- Instructional Resource Centre (library) [3]
- Research



# Partnership Transition Initiative

- Partnership with Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation (RRAFN) (southern Manitoba)
- In 2012, MFNERC agreed to manage and administer the FN school and programming for the RRAFN
- K- 8 school & provincial tuition for grade 9-12 students
- Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation is now part of new MFNSS

# Manitoba First Nations School System (MFNSS)

([www.mfnerc.org.services/mfnss/](http://www.mfnerc.org.services/mfnss/))

- MFNSS is administered by the MFNERC
- Concept was outlined in 2012 – Systems Concept Paper - *A Systematic Approach to First Nations Education*
- Education Governance Agreement signed with federal government in December 2016
- Implementation – July 2017
- 2017/18 – first year of operations of the MFNSS
- Delegation Agreements with 10 Partnering First Nations
- K-12 Education & Service Delivery
- Focus – Quality Education, Language & Culture

# MFNSS FUNDING MODEL – FEATURES:

Funding – based on provincial comparability plus enhancements e.g.

- Language and culture
- Private Home Placement
- Transportation

Average = Provincial Comparability plus enhancements funding for MFNSS = \$18,878 per FTE

In addition, MFNERC accessed Structural Readiness \$ (staffing, research, planning/preparation) & additional infrastructure \$ to meet health & safety standards e.g. building repairs, bus purchases, etc.

# MFNSS Funding

- \$32.4M – annual budget - 2017/18
- Enrollment: 1,715 FTE students
  - 1,169.5 First Nation schools
  - 545.5 Provincial schools
- **Average = \$18,878**

# MFNSS Funding

- Components of MFNSS Funding Model are based on Province of Manitoba's Funding of Schools Program. Funding for Manitoba provincial school boards is outlined in FRAME (Financial Reporting and Accounting in Manitoba Education) [www.edu.gov.mb.ca](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca)
- Premise – equivalency, comparability,

# MFNSS Funding Model - Components

## **Part 1:**

### Base Support

1. Instructional Support
2. Additional Instructional Support for Small Schools
3. Sparsity Support
4. Curricular Materials
5. Information Technology
6. Library Services
7. Student Services Grant
8. Counselling and Guidance
9. Professional Development
10. Physical Education
11. Occupancy

### Categorical Support

1. Transportation
2. Board and Room
3. Special Needs
4. Senior Years Technology Education
5. English as an Additional Language
6. Aboriginal Academic Achievement
7. Aboriginal and International Languages
8. French Language Education
9. Small Schools
10. Enrolment Change Support
11. Northern Allowance
12. Early Childhood Development Initiative
13. Literacy and Numeracy
14. Education for Sustainable Development

# MFNSS Funding Model - Components

Minor Capital – School Infrastructure  
School Building Support – Section D Grant  
Technical Education Equipment Replacement Grant  
Skills Strategy Equipment Enhancement Fund

Property Tax Related Components (proxies)\*

- Equalization Support
- Additional Equalization
- Education Property Tax Credit
- Tax Incentive Grant
- Municipal Government Revenue
- Applying All Tax Related Components

Formula Guarantee

Other Support/Revenue from the Department of Education\*

Employer Contributions to Current Service Pension Plans: Teacher's Retirement Allowances Fund

# MFNSS Funding Model - Components

## **Part 2: Tuition Funding**

Base Tuition for Provincial Schools  
Tuition for Alternative School Types  
Special Needs Tuition

## **Part 3: Student Transportation**

Off-Reserve Routes  
On-Reserve Routes  
Half-Day Routes  
School Bus Driver Salaries  
Extra-Curricular Activities/Field Trips  
Remoteness  
Bus Replacement Support  
Bus Modifications  
Bus Driver Training Supports  
Student Transportation Factors



# MFNSS Funding Model - Components

## **Part 4: Private Home Placement/Student Accommodation**

1. Private Home Placement\*
2. Five Days Room & Board
3. Temporary Room & Board
4. Group Homes
5. Student Residences & Boarding Schools

\* Rates are based on MFNERC research

# MFNSS Funding Model Calculations— 2017/18

Formula Component	Rate	Source
<b>Instructional Support</b>	\$1,927 per FTE student	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p3
<b>Additional Instructional Support for Small Schools</b>	\$125,000 rate used in formula	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p3
<b>Sparsity Support</b>	50 pupils per grade rate used in formula	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p3
	\$11 rate used in formula	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p3
<b>Curricular Materials</b>	\$60 per FTE student	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p4
<b>Information Technology</b>	\$62 per FTE student	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p4
<b>Library Services</b>	\$92 per FTE student	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p4
<b>Student Services Grant</b>	\$588.45 per FTE student	Frontier's total Student Services 2016-17 Budgeted Allocation (\$1,344,008) found in <a href="#">FRAME 2016-17 Budget</a> , Tab 52 ÷ Frontier's Eligible Student Enrolment (2,284) 2015 count provided directly by the Ministry of Education
<b>Counselling and Guidance</b>	\$83 per FTE student	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p5
<b>Professional Development</b>	\$39 per FTE student \$7 or \$12 per FTE student by distance from Winnipeg	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p5
<b>Physical Education</b>	\$125 per FTE student	Manitoba Education, <a href="#">Funding of Schools 2017-18 Guide</a> , p5
<b>Occupancy (Operations &amp; Maintenance)</b>	\$31.66 per square metre	Total provincial Occupancy Allocation (\$85,264,830) found in <a href="#">FRAME 2016-17 Budget</a> , Tab 52 ÷ Total area of school buildings (28,992,093 sq. feet) converted to sq. metres (2,693,456) provided directly by the Ministry of Education

# Some challenges with MFNSS Funding

- No equivalent or really comparable provincial school systems – Frontier SD (similar geography) is used for some components (e.g. Special Needs, etc.) but demographics/size/# of schools are different; River East SD (similar number of students) used for some components, (e.g. technology) but it is an urban SD in a primarily middle class neighbourhood;
- Many provincial school divisions have been in existence for over 50 years, differences in socio-economic circumstances, geographic challenges, costs for travel/fuel/shipping /connectivity higher for FN schools, impacts of historical underfunding in FN schools, etc.
- MB provincial education funding is supplemented by school taxation therefore proxies were used for MFNSS model

# Some challenges with MFNSS Funding

- Costs for FN language immersion/bilingual education are higher for FN languages than French language e.g. curriculum development/ adaptation, training, publishing, etc.
- Cultural/land-based programming not part of most provincial school budgets – costs higher
- Higher numbers of students with special needs in FN schools
- MFNSS Funding Model is tied to changes in Province of Manitoba Funding Model – annual adjustments
- Provincial Funding Model components are not necessarily cost-based but often based on division of available \$ & political priorities e.g. Sustainable Development, Physical Education, etc. [provincial priorities do not reflect FN priorities and realities]

# MFNSS – Challenges:

- Growing pains
- Limited resourcing
- Schools in crisis
- Socio-economic circumstances
- Infrastructure
- School size
- Distance between schools
- Governance
- Time Frame
- Funding/Addressing Historical Gaps
- Concern of Loss of Control/  
Treaty Right to Education
- Mandate/Delegated Authority
- Safe Schools/Facilities
- Governance — Roles &  
Responsibilities

# MFNSS – Enhanced Services:

- More dedicated Second Level Services [26] (for 10 schools)
  - Curriculum
  - Language and culture
  - Early Childhood
  - Special education
  - Data Management
  - Private Home Placement (high school students)
  - Operations & Maintenance
  - Transportation

# MFNSS – Successes:

- Support from federal government
- Partnership with First Nations
- Dedicated staff (capacity – most 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> level staff are FN)
- Shared goals - focus on quality, language and cultural relevancy
- Increased flexibility in funding
- Increased teacher salaries/easier recruitment
- Safer schools/facilities upgrades
- Increased instructional resources
- Increased morale for staff and students

# FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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