



April 28, 2021

Dear School District of Mystery Lake Staff, Families and Community Members:

On March 15, Education Minister Cliff Cullen unveiled the details of **Bill 64, The Education Modernization Act**. The purpose of this letter is to provide our community an update from the perspective of the Board of Trustees.

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

- **Local school districts will disappear**
 - The School District of Mystery Lake will be dissolved, and our schools will become part of an approximate 12,000 student geographical region, formed through amalgamation with Flin Flon School Division, Kelsey School Division and Frontier School Division.
- **Parental responsibility & workload redefined**
 - 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**
 - Local business owners will need to secure contracts for goods and services related to schools in their community in Winnipeg, rather than locally, as they do now.
- **Taxation without representation**
 - Even with the phase-out of education property taxes, as Manitobans, you will continue to pay the taxes that support local schools, with no elected voice to ensure the money is invested locally.
- **Elimination of your democratic rights**
 - The board of Trustees of the School District of Mystery Lake will be eliminated.
 - 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 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 SDML Board Chair, Lindsay Anderson at landerson@mysterynet.mb.ca to learn more on lending your voice.

Stay tuned for more details from the SDML Board of Trustees in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,


Lindsay Anderson
Board Chair