

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS



First Nations were not consulted on Bill 64. It even omits First Nations-specific recommendations from the report of the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education, which also First Nations were not invited. This includes the report's recommendations on the educational gaps between First Nation students and non-First Nation students, and their recommendations on the disparities of northern, remote, and rural schools.

Bill 64 - The Education Modernization Act

Sponsored by the Honourable Mr. Cullen, Minister of Education

First Reading: November 2, 2020

Second Reading: No Updates

Royal Assent: N/A

About the bill

- The Province of Manitoba has claimed that Bill 64 was inspired by the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Report entitled *Our Children's Success: Manitoba's Future, Report of the Commission on K to 12 Education*. The Commission did not engage or consult with First Nations in Manitoba.
- Bill 64 will combine Manitoba's 37 school divisions into 15 school divisions, each governed by an elected board of trustees, with one Provincial Education Authority governed by an appointed Authority Board.
- Bill 64 also removes Principals from the teachers' bargaining units.
- On March 25, 2021, the NDP announced that they would delay bill 64 from being discussed until the legislature's fall session.

How the bill affects First Nations

- Bill 64 is vague as many details will not be known until regulations have been drafted.
- Bill 64 does not affect on-reserve First Nation Schools or Treaty rights. However, it is unknown how Bill 64 might affect education funding distribution.
- It is currently unclear what effect this bill will have on Manitoba's Regional Education Agreement and how the new funding distribution will affect Frontier School Division.
- Bill 64 has omitted First Nations-specific recommendations from the *Our Children's Success* report. This includes the report's recommendations on the educational gaps between First Nation students and non-First Nation students, and their recommendations on the disparities of northern, remote, and rural schools.

AMC's position on the bill

- The AMC ECC opposed this bill as part of the current suite of legislation because of the lack of consultation and the effects on First Nations and their rights.
- The AMC CCOE has shown great concern about Bill 64 and requested the AMC to review Bill 64. Their position on the bill will be made apparent after the analysis of the bill is completed.
- As of right now, the official position of the CCOE is pending, but in reviewing Bill 64, the recommended course of action is to oppose Bill 64.

AMC activities on the bill

- On April 27, 2021, Fox Fraser completed a legal analysis of Bill 64.
- On May 27, 2021, the CCOE met with the Manitoba Teachers Society and the Manitoba School Board Association to discuss Bill 64.
- The AMC proposed activities on this issue include:
 - The AMC and CCOE present to the Standing Committee on Bill 64; and
 - Ensure that Bill 64 does not affect the REA Funding Formulas.
- The AMC Secretariat has registered the AMC to appear at Committee, and will develop submissions for the presentation.

