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| Manitoba | 31e | 4e | Remarques préliminaires à l’étude des crédits du Ministère de l’Éducation | 28 mai 1980 | Keith Cosens | Minister of Education | PC |

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Department of Education continues to provide essential leadership and support to the educational system in Manitoba. During the past year there have been some changes in senior personnel within the department. Dr. W. C. Lorimer, who devoted many years to education in Manitoba, retired on June 30th. Mr. R. A. Macintosh, Director of Education, St. James-Assiniboia School Division, was appointed Deputy Minister. Dr. Lorimer has been named chairman of the Universities G rants Commission to replace the late Dr. W. J. Condo. I am sure that all members of the House join me in paying tribute to Dr. Condo, who served as chairman of the Universities Grants Commission under two administrations. His devotion to furthering education in the province, particularly at the university level, is well known and his valued contribution will be sorely missed. Mr. P. Penner was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Community Colleges Division when Mr. L. Talbot resigned to take on a new position in Lethbridge. Dr. R. Duhamel succeeded Mr. R. Hebert as Assistant Deputy Minister in charge of the Bureau de l'Education Francaise. Mr. R. Hebert resigned to go into private business. Having noted some changes in senior staff, Mr. Chairman, I wish to comment also on the fine work done by all of the staff in my department and to express my appreciation for the effective way in which they have assisted me in managing educational affairs in Manitoba.

The principal organizations in education, Mr. Chairman, the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, the Manitoba Teachers' Society, the Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, the Manitoba Association of School Business Officials, have also played an important role in education during the past year and I wish to acknowledge their contributions and their co-operation.

The Department of Education has two major components. One deals with elementary and secondary education and the other with postsecondary education. The 1979 Annual Report of the department distributed to all members has the organizational chart and I suggest the members will find it helpful to review that particular chart. I also wish to draw to the attention of the members that the names of two branches were changed to correspond more closely to the functions assigned to those particular branches. The Special Projects Branch is now called the Post Secondary Career Development Branch and the External Administrative Consultant Services Branch is now designated as the Field Services Branch. The re-established Field Services Branch has been strengthened and reorganized. The branch, now headed by a full-time director, is operational in five regions: Winnipeg, Southeastern, Northeastern, Northern and Western Manitoba, with offices in Winnipeg, Thompson, Dauphin, and Brandon. In keeping with the reorganization, and in accordance with the goals and objectives announced last year, the branch has moved rapidly to intensify its liaison with school divisions and independent and native reserve schools and become more knowledgeable about the educational delivery services that are being provided in all school systems. The branch is now providing feedback which is vital to the effective operation of the Department of Education.

An important function of the Department of Education is to provide the necessary financial support to public schools in Manitoba. I was pleased to announce in late January that a number of changes had been made to grants payable to school divisions in 1 980. The following are the major changes which were announced: The grant for transportation of pupils was increased from 255 to 290 per transported pupil. The grant for print and non-print materials has been increased from 16 to 20 per pupil. The general per pupil grant was increased from 307 to 365 per pupil. The declining enrolment grant, which has remained unchanged for the past several years, is continued for another year but the rate has been increased from 350 to 500 per pupil. The amount allocated for equalization grants is 22.7 million, which represents an increase of 1 .6 million. The distribution is on the basis of a revised schedule attached to the letter which was sent to all school boards.

With regard to the method of paying these grants, the government of Manitoba has approved a plan whereby 40 percent of each school division's estimated entitlements will be paid in April, followed by a further 10 percent in each of the months of May, June, September, October, November, and December. For 1 980, the revised cash flow will commence in June with an adjustment made for any advance prior to that date. This will assist school divisions very substantially in reducing interest charges due to borrowing.

I believe that these improvements enable the Department of Education to maintain its proportion of the cost of funding education in Manitoba for the current year. But I want to emphasize that it is the intent of the Government of Manitoba to complete its review of education financing and to develop a new system before the end of this calendar year.

A study was conducted by the staff of the Department of Education, together with representatives from the office of the Provincial Auditor and the Manitoba Association of School Business Officials, to determine the feasibility, including estimated costs, of preparing and implementing a standardized system of accounting and financial reporting to be used by all Manitoba school divisions. The group conducting the study favoured the plan and the Public Schools Finance Board will be assuming responsibility for the project.

Though no time-frame has yet been established it is elected that the project will take two to three years completion. It is further hoped such a measure I assist school boards in their financial liberations. The Research Branch also operates as a service at providing research support for planning, policy king, management and assessment to all sections the department, elementary, secondary section, community colleges' section and the Universities grants Commission. During the past year the research Branch, among other things, sponsored a preference on declining enrolments; developed a provincial projection of public school enrolments for a period 1980 to 1985 based on pre-school population information from Family Allowances formation; did an assessment of the utilization and effectiveness of the department's instructional media services and completed a major study designed to view the direction and co-ordination of data excessing plans and activities. For the next fiscal the Research Branch will be undertaking search support designed to assist the department's magement in developing effective policies, plans and programs, in several major areas. Some of these 1jor activities will include an evaluation of the high school computer network, a survey of post high school plans of Manitoba high school students and education needs assessment in the community of Compson, and an implementation of a test-scoring support service for the department and school. Curriculum Development will continue to be enhanced through the Measurement and Evaluation branch. The branch successfully conducted a writing assessment program in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12 and is the final stages of preparation for an assessment reading in these same grades for May of 1980. A similar assessment program for mathematics is mned for May of 1981 to complete the first round a three-year cyclical testing program in these areas. In addition, the first of a series of non-cyclical assessments will be undertaken commencing in the year of 1980 with the testing of science at Grades 5, 8 and 11, and chemistry in Grades 11 and 12. In 1980-1981 Curriculum Development will also continue with studies and language arts revisions for the elementary school, and mathematics and science divisions moving into the senior high schools. An interim K to 12 guide for physical education has been completed and the final form of that guide will be ready this fall. A revised health curriculum will be completed in draft form during the 1980-81 school year. The coming year will see the establishment of a comprehensive process for the certification, evaluation, selection and review of constructional materials which will not only increase provincial efficiency in these tasks, but also because is used interprovincially and internationally, will eliminate unnecessary duplication of time and effort both provincial and local levels.

In 1980-81, the Vocational Education Branch will begin a major thrust in the development of guidelines materials for a co-operative Work Education Program in Manitoba schools. The purpose of is project is to develop for students a wider range vocational training opportunities. The branch will so conduct a follow-up review of secondary school vocational education graduates in conjunction with the Research Branch to obtain, among other things, information on the degree of utilization and satisfaction with school services in this area. A committee, Mr. Chairman, is now being formed to produce a safety guide for vocational and industrial art shops . as part of the ongoing concern with the identification, correction and prevention of unsafe conditions and practices in school shops. Another committee has been set up to revise and update the safety manual for school laboratories. In the Media Services Branch, in the coming year we shall be proceeding with the development of an integrated and automated distribution system for all instructional support materials, films, library materials, multi-media kits, audio video tapes, etc.

The aim is to provide a more efficient service resulting in greater user satisfaction and a higher level of service per dollar of inventory. Members may be aware that in addition to regular grants, additional funding is available to divisions to assist in the provision of educational services for children with high-cost, no-incidence handicaps. In 1 978-79, 40 school divisions applied for and received a total 250,000 for these students. Last year, 1 979- 80, 450,000 was expended to assist 56 divisions and districts in providing services to approximately 355 students. In 1980-81, some 850,000 will be available to provide funding for the programs of a greater number of special need students and to increase the level of such funding. Overall, considering both provincial and divisional budget contributions, it is estimated that total special education support will reach some 28 million, up 10 percent from the 1979- 80 estimates of 25.5 million.

The Child Development and Support Services Branch, during the past year, conducted professional development programs on a regional basis for special class teachers, resource teachers, special education co-ordinators and administrators. This thrust will be continued into 1980-81 with extension to regular · classroom teachers in kindergarten and Grade 1. The increased level of awareness and understanding that should result will help teachers accept special needs' children in integrated settings and will facilitate the preventative approach to

children with special needs.

The Native Education Branch has placed its emphasis on the development of instructional guides for the teaching of native languages in the elementary schools, and in co-operation with the University of Manitoba, on the development of methods, courses, in the teaching of native languages. Supplementary resource materials have been developed and made available dealing with education for native people and about native people, and a Native Studies Program for Grades 7 to 9 is under development. In-service programs in native awareness will continue to be offered to Manitoba teachers.

In its continuing efforts to improve educational facilities and programs, the Frontier School Division, which operates 30 schools in 28 communities in northern Manitoba, will be constructing new schools in Norway House, Duck Bay, and an addition to the Wanipigow School. Major renovations will be done to the Rossville School at Norway House as well. The division is also negotiating provision of new school facilities at Cross Lake. An agreement has been reached between the Government of Canada and this government to build a new school at Hillridge, on the Ebb and Flow Indian Reserve. The Manitoba Department of Government Services and the Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs are now proceeding with this project.

The Post-Secondary Career Development Branch is responsible for such programs as BUNTEP or the Brandon University Northern Teacher Education Programs, and the various special mature student programs at the University of Manitoba, Brandon University, Brandon General Hospital and Red River Community College. During the past year, as a result of successful negotiations for enhanced cost-sharing agreements with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, an extra 645,000 was provided to the branch, raising its total allocation under this program to 4,436,000.00. These additional funds permitted the opening of two additional BUNTEP centres at Gods Lake and Grand Rapids. The addition of 15 students to the special mature student program at Red River Community College and the opening of the special premedical studies program at the University of Manitoba with an enrolment of 10 students. All of these programs, which continue to provide quality graduates, will be maintained into 1980-8 1, and in addition, the branch will also undertake an examination into the needs and potential for distance education in Manitoba.

I can say, Mr. Chairman, I am proud of our progress in this area of career development, opportunities for mature students. I've had the pleasure of meeting with a number of these students in the projects over the past year. I've been impressed with their seriousness and sense of purpose. It is gratifying to experience the wholehearted support communities give to their BUNTEP centres and it is especially gratifying to attend graduation exercises and hear of the accomplishments of these students. During the 1979-80 school year, apart from the continued interest in French language education for Manitobans of French origin, there has emerged a growing interest in the learning of French as a second language. Growth is anticipated in basic French programs. As far as immersion education is concerned, there has been almost a 25-percent increase in enrolments. This growth in programs has created the need for curriculum development, as well as associated services from the department. This government has undertaken the necessary measures to meet this challenge by increasing the human and financial resources within the Bureau de l'Education Francaise. This action indicates clearly this government's intention to improve French language education in the province of Manitoba. It also provides concrete support to the youth option in second language learning. In September, 1980, a pilot program in basic French, beginning at the Grade 4 level will be piloted in several school divisions. The curriculum package for this undertaking is almost complete at this time.

A pilot English-Ukrainian bilingual program was established in a number of Manitoba centres and this program will continue next year into Grade 2 as a second year of a three-year pilot program.

In Student Aid, Mr. Chairman, a decline in numbers of applications which has been noted in the past several years appears to be leveling off, and apparent indications are that secondary school student applications will actually show a slight increase this year. Average awards continue to increase, indicating that the program is serving the more needy applicants. In 1979-80, the average postsecondary award was 2,480 in a combination of bursary and loan, an increase of 700 over the average award for the previous year. During the past year, eligibility for Canada student loans was extended to students attending our private postsecondary institutions, and theological students were

Made eligible for bursary assistance in addition to Canada student loan. Members may also have noted that after several years of discussion, an agreement has been reached with the Secretary of State, under which a federal provincial task force has been set up to do a thorough review of all aspects of needs based student assistance programs in Canada. It is our expectation that this review will lead to changes and improvements, especially in the Canada Student Loans Program, for which the provinces, of course, have been pressing for some time. Mr. Chairman, another major component of the Department of Education deals with post-secondary education in this province.

During the past year, the Manitoba community colleges provided training during the day and evenings for over 30,961 students. More than 1 50 different day courses were offered by the three colleges, plus a wide variety of vocational, avocational and trade improvement evening subjects. Both policy shifts and changes in criteria by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, CEIC, influenced training purchases and deliveries during the past year. CEIC reduced its purchases of adult basic education courses and requested more jobs, specific training as well as critical skills training. Also, in order to meet the labour demand for skilled workers in certain fields, the colleges developed new courses and revised existing courses. This trend will continue in 1980-81. There will be a thrust toward the development of training for the manufacturing sector in such areas as the tool and die, garment and farm machinery industries. For example, sewing machine mechanics will be trained by Red River Community College and the agricultural mechanics' course at Assiniboine Community College will be replaced in September, 1 980 by a farm machinery mechanics' diploma course which will prepare graduates to work as qualified farm machinery mechanics in dealerships throughout Manitoba. To meet shortage of qualified personnel, Red River Community College will increase enrolments this fall in courses such as business administration, business accountancy and computer and analysts' program.

During the past year the number of courses operated on a co-operative education basis with a related business or industry, has increased. Representatives from business and industry also continue to be involved in the development and revision of community college training through participation and course advisory committees. The expansion and rennovation to Assiniboine Community College will get under way during 1980- 81. When completed, the new 75,000 square foot section will accommodate courses such as farm machinery, equipment mechanics, heavy duty equipment mechanics and auto body, as well as house and expanded learning resources centre. The estimated cost of the project is 6.4 million. Regarding the University Grants Commission, it has been possible to allocate a general increase in operating grants for the three universities and St. Boniface College, of 8.266 percent. Incidentally, Mr. Chairman, this compares rather favourably with other jurisdictions such as the Maritimes, where the announced increase is 8.85 percent, Ontario where the increase is 7.22 percent, with a comparable increase in tuition fees and the right of the institution to increase fees, in fact, by an additional 10 percent. Enrolment projections for the universities and St. Boniface College, outside of the controlled enrolment faculties, seem to indicate a decline in full-time enrolment with no upswing imminent for a number of years. This situation, generally, prevails across our country.

Research continues to play an important part in universities, Mr. Chairman, and members may be aware that the professional schools and faculties are concentrated at the University of Manitoba, although there is an established Faculty of Education and a School of Music at Brandon University along with teacher training programs at the University of Winnipeg and St. Boniface College. In these faculties and in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, very extensive research is being conducted with the aid of direct grants from a variety of sources. In 1979-80 these grants totalled 1 8.5 million. These activites not only add to the extension of knowledge, the development of abilities in areas of competence for graduate students and the prestige of the universities, but since most research grants come from sources outside the province, they represent very substantial additions to the economy of this province.

Through the years many research-oriented activities have been attracted to this province by reason of the research development on the campus of the University of Manitoba. In an effort to husband resources carefully, the universities and St. Boniface College have instituted effective programs for cost reductions in such major expenditures as utilities. Moreover, the institutions are reviewing programs and courses to eliminate obsolete courses.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to stress that my department will continue to work towards maintaining and improving the quality of education for all students in Manitoba.