|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Province*** | ***Législature*** | ***Session*** | ***Type de discours*** | ***Date du discours*** | ***Locuteur*** | ***Fonction du locuteur*** | ***Parti politique*** |
| Manitoba | 39e | 4e | Discours relatif à l’Éducation | 26 avril 2010 | Nancy Allan | Ministre de l’Éducation | NDP |

Hon. Nancy Allan (Minister of Education): Madam Chair, I'm pleased to be here in my first Estimates as the new Minister of Education. And I'd like to welcome the MLA for Turtle Mountain (Mr. Cullen) as the new critic for Education, and I look forward to working with him.

Our government has demonstrated its commitment to education by helping to meet the

needs of parents, students and taxpayers across the province. Our funding announcement for the year 2010-2011 continues to be a priority area for us because, once again, we exceeded our commitment to fund public education at the rate of economic growth with a 2.95 percent increase to public schools funding. This increase was made during very

difficult economic times, and I think it reflects a co-operative work with school divisions.

We worked very co-operatively with officials in my department, encouraging restraint in order to ensure that expenditures are managed carefully and property taxes in support of education remained affordable. This year's budget sees every school division receiving at least a 2 percent guarantee, which is very important to us. And I've heard a lot of positive comments from the school divisions and stakeholders in regards to how important that

2 percent guarantee was this year. A couple of highlights from this year's funding increase was$17.2 million in equalizations payments, particularly to those school divisions with the low tax base; a million-dollars increased funding for English as an additional language and $25 more per pupil to help preschoolers get ready for school.

We can see that stable and increased funding for education pays dividends over time.

Steadily increasing rates of high school completion demonstrate the social and economic benefits that can result from consistent investment in education. Increased resources to support the hard work of teachers and administrators, trustees and parents in partnership with the provincial government have helped improve graduation rates and helped to evolve more alternative approaches to increased student success. School and community partnerships provide a wide range of innovative programs to engage, encourage and mentor students, ensuring that schools are safe and accessible places to learn. Schools

collaborate with many partners to support those who are underrepresented in our system, working closely with immigrant, war-affected and Aboriginal students at risk of dropping out of school. These combined efforts have seen Manitoba's graduation rate increase from 72.4 percent in 2001 to 80.9 percent in June 2009.

Relationships between schools, families and communities have evolved greatly over the past decade. Today, Manitoba schools welcome family and community representation for effective student, school and division planning. Family, schools and communities who work and plan together meet the shared goal of improving education for Manitoba students.

Our department is continuing to provide funding to support parent and community involvement, the teaching of Aboriginal languages and culturally relevant programming. It is continuing to participate in partnership agreements with First Nation education authorities, Manitoba's First Nation Education Resource Centre, which is commonly known as MFNERC and Indian and Northern Affairs, INAC. The Aboriginal Education

Directorate provides leadership through an Aboriginal Education Action Plan to co-ordinate all departments on matters related to Aboriginal education and training.

I have outlined a few of our initiatives, and it's exciting to know that Manitoba Education's overview plan is now available on our government Web site. This overview identifies our mandate, mission, vision and overarching goals and priority action areas for education in our province. This action plan and this vision statement were–we consulted on it broadly with our education stakeholders, and I'd just like to thank them for the advice that they gave us. And I think that it's important that we have this available, for the first time in the history of the department, on our Web site. It's information that's important, because it shows how we align our policy to practice with respect to current to future directions for education in our province.

I'd like to thank my department for the work that they do every day in public education in regards to providing me with the support that I've needed as a new Minister of Education, and I know that many of the stakeholders out there in the community speak highly of the staff in my department in regards to the excellent working relationship that they have with them.

So we look forward today, and for the new few days, as long as it takes, to have an important dialogue about public education here in the province of Manitoba.