



Province of Manitoba

LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

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Abe & Rick

Dear President Araya and Mr. Peschel,

Thank you for copying me on your recent letter to the Minister of Education regarding your recommendations for support staff as schools reopen this month. I wanted you to know that you have the full support of myself and the NDP caucus in your requests of the provincial government. We agree with your recommendations, and we have actually made many of those same recommendations in our own alternative back to school plan.

In our alternative back to school plan, we have called on the provincial government to invest additional Education funding, create a 15-student maximum cap on class sizes so that students and educators can physically distance, and hire 400 additional teachers and support staff to cover the extra classes. We have called on the provincial government to hire more bus drivers and invest in more buses. We have called on the provincial government to hire additional custodial staff, and to invest in personal protective equipment, including masks for every student and staff member. We have asked the provincial government for more investment in school infrastructure, including ventilation systems and windows.

The health and safety of Manitoban students, teachers, educators, and support staff is our top priority, and we will continue to advocate for a safer environment for everyone who will be in schools this fall. The provincial government needs to invest in schools to ensure that students remain healthy, educators remain safe, and support staff remain protected. This includes investing in protected, paid sick leave for all staff in Manitoban schools, and investing in mental health supports for students.

I am glad to see that we agree on the importance of all of these issues. I have attached our alternative back to school plan, and would be happy to discuss this further with you both.

Miigwech (thank you),


Wab Kinew
Leader of the Official Opposition