

## Minister of Agriculture

### Which locals are directly impacted:

CUPE 110 - Winnipeg School Division	CUPE 1630 - Rolling River School Division
CUPE 731 - Seven Oaks School Division	CUPE 1719 - Turtle Mountain School Division
CUPE 737 - Brandon School Division	CUPE 1897 - Turtle River School Division
CUPE 744 - St. James-Assiniboia School Division	CUPE 1947 - Swan Valley School Division
CUPE 796 - River East Transcona School Division	CUPE 2085 - Portage La Prairie School Division
CUPE 949 - Seven Oaks School Division	CUPE 2348 - Winnipeg School Division
CUPE 1522 - Lord Selkirk School Division	CUPE 2348 - Seven Oaks School Division/Wayfinders Manitoba
CUPE 1596 - Kelsey School Division	CUPE 2938 - Seven Oaks School Division
CUPE 1618 - Sunrise School Division	CUPE 2972 - Interlake School Division
CUPE 110 - Winnipeg School Division	CUPE 3037 - Park West School Division
CUPE 731 - Seven Oaks School Division	CUPE 3164 - Evergreen School Division
CUPE 737 - Brandon School Division	CUPE 3206 - Lakeshore School Division
CUPE 744 - St. James-Assiniboia School Division	CUPE 3254 - Hanover School Division
CUPE 796 - River East Transcona School Division	CUPE 3305 - Mountain View School Division
CUPE 949 - Seven Oaks School Division	CUPE 3344 - Pine Creek School Division
CUPE 1522 - Lord Selkirk School Division	CUPE 3473 - Louis Riel School Division
CUPE 1596 - Kelsey School Division	CUPE 3754 - Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine
CUPE 1618 - Sunrise School Division	CUPE 3873 - River East Transcona School Division
	CUPE 4456 - Sunrise School Division

### CUPE Manitoba Priorities:

1. Support farm families, many of whom rely on employment in our school divisions, by working with the Minister of Education and school divisions, to end the

Urban-Rural pay gap and create a defined benefit pension plan to ensure farm families have reliable income during retirement.

2. Collaborate with the Minister of Education to expand agricultural education opportunities and experiences for students.
3. Collaborate with Minister of Education and Minister of Public Service Delivery to build partnerships with local producers to help supply school breakfast programs.

## Why it matters:

In rural communities there is often a lack of good jobs. One of the ways governments can combat this problem is to ensure that public sector jobs in rural communities are good jobs that pay good wages, with good pensions and benefits. We know that in rural Manitoba, many of our members come from farming families, and they rely on school division wages to maintain and sustain farming families, especially in the lean years. An education job can provide families with retirement security and benefits that family farms often do not provide.

For a long time, governments with “perimeteritis” have failed to ensure that rural school divisions are providing good jobs, with good pensions and benefits. As a result, we are now at a crisis point, with rural education support workers earning \$5.00 or more an hour less than their urban counterparts.

In 2024, the province reached an agreement with the Manitoba Teachers Society which standardized teacher salaries - providing significant raises to rural teachers to bring them up to Winnipeg rates. We demand that the NDP do the same for education support workers and end the two-tier system of wages. In addition, we need a defined benefit pension plan for all education support workers, so that education workers can retire with security and dignity.

We would like to see more agricultural educational opportunities and experiences for students, so that students are more aware of where their food comes from and to expose them to various agriculture and food related careers that are available in Manitoba.

Finally, we are supportive of the government’s breakfast program initiative and are proud that CUPE members are on the front lines providing healthy food to students so that they can grow and learn. We would support an initiative to help connect school divisions with local producers to better integrate locally grown food into the program.