



Manitoba Library Association

March 18, 2019

Minister Kelvin Goertzen
168 Legislative Building
450 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

RE: closure of the Curriculum Support Centre

Dear Minister Goertzen:

I write on behalf of the board of the Manitoba Library Association (MLA), and MLA's members across the province regarding the announcement of the closure of the Province's Curriculum Support Centre (CSC). This decision was undertaken without consultation, without a plan for its specialized resources, nor consideration for its users.

As announced on January 23, 2019, the Province indicated it had established a commission to undertake a comprehensive, independent review of Manitoba's education system. This same announcement indicated that the commission would soon commence public consultation and seek input from a range of stakeholders including educators, school boards, municipal councils and professional organizations.

We request that your Ministry reverse this decision and instead include the CSC in the previously announced independent review of Manitoba's education system.

Taken together, the collections and staff expertise of the CSC form a critical and efficient component of the education system, and is a key resource for: for K-12 educators, rural and northern communities, education students, and literacy teachers.

The CSC's librarians, employing their in-depth knowledge of curricula and educators' needs, curate and develop collections and services specifically to support the Provincial government's mandated curricula. Items in the collection - including online resources, print books, learning kits - have been purchased on behalf of the Manitobans and represent an investment in our province's students. Teachers should not be expected to purchase learning materials for their students. Teachers' resources in the CSC collection are often far beyond what can be supplied by any school or by any public library system.

The credentialed librarians, library technicians and other support staff who work at the CSC also contribute to effective and efficient teacher support services in our province. They are experts in sourcing, organizing, recommending and providing context and guidance for educators in the use of instructional materials across all formats. They do this work so teachers can focus their efforts directly on educating students.

Removing teacher supports - especially efficient and expert supports - affects outcomes. The Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education, through a thoughtful and informed consultative process, should include CSC in their review of the education system as outlined in their mandate. To do otherwise is a disservice to educators and students.

We thank you for consideration of the above and look forward to speaking with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Kerry Macdonald
President, Manitoba Library Association

