

Bill 1

The Public Schools Act

WHEREAS “The worry is that a large private sector will lead to segregation on socioeconomic or other lines as those who can afford it leave the public system, and those in most need are left to attend the weakest schools.”¹ and

WHEREAS “It is argued that private schools divert gifted children and teachers and scarce financial resources from state schools and that they perpetuate economic and social divisions.”² and

WHEREAS “Many parents are taking out second mortgages or postponing the fruits of material success to give their children an educational edge. Others are even dipping into university trust funds”.³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) As of 01 January 2014, the Government of Canada shall convert all K-12 educational institutions currently classified as private, independent or charter schools into public schools.
 - a) All public schools will be 100% federally funded.
- 2) No student may be educated outside a public school unless otherwise indicated by a medical professional.
 - a) Students so designated may be home-schooled or assigned a state tutor if the family is unable or unwilling.
- 3) All public schools will teach a universal curriculum to be determined by the People United for Better Learning in Canada [**PUBLIC**].
 - a) **PUBLIC** will be responsible for researching, implementing and maintaining a comprehensive national curriculum.
 - b) Three democratically elected representatives from each of the provinces, and one from each territory will comprise the **PUBLIC** board of directors and hold executive power in the formation of the curriculum.
 - i) Elections will be held once every 10 years.
 - ii) To be eligible for election a candidate must have at least 10 years of experience working in education.
 - iii) Representatives are subject to recall every 3 years.
 - c) Public school curricula will be modified to include at least one credit of provincial history particular to the provincial jurisdiction to which the institution belongs.

¹ Levin, B. (2013). How much private schooling is bad for the public?. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 94(6), 72-73.

² United Kingdom. (2011). In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved from <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/615557/United-Kingdom>.

³ Dwyer, V., C. Wood, L. Fisher & J. DeMont. (1995). The Price of Privilege. *Maclean's Magazine*.

- 4) All public schools will receive the necessary resources and funding to host extracurricular activities and specialty programs including but not limited to the following schedule:
 - a) Dance
 - b) Sports
 - c) Trades
 - d) Languages and Culture
 - e) Technology
 - f) Family and Life Skills
 - g) Drama and Fine Arts

- 5) A student may attend any public school, irrespective of distance or catchment area.
 - a) For those students demonstrating a passion and/or aptitude for a specific program outside of their catchment, subsidized transportation can be applied for through **PUBLIC**.
 - b) A Student's enrollment in a school is dependent upon its capacity, personnel, and the student's record of attendance.
 - i) Popular schools will be considered for increased funding and resources if demand warrants.

- 6) **PUBLIC** will determine salaries of all school staff on a case by case basis primarily based on position, expertise, years of experience and ability to perform duties at a level of excellence.