

## 2017-18 Ministry of Education Budget Backgrounder

### Budget Highlights

- 21 new schools will open in Saskatchewan in the 2017-18 budget year including the 18 schools being built in new neighborhoods in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville. The expansion and major renovations at St. Brieux school will also be completed this year.
- Saskatchewan's 28 school divisions will receive \$1.86 billion in school operating funding, which includes revenue collected from the education property tax. This is down \$22 million from 2016-17 and represents a 1.2 per cent reduction year over year.
- Overall Education funding is \$2.02 billion, down \$145.8 million or 6.7 per cent from 2016-17, with most of this resulting from a significant decrease in joint-use schools capital funding required for 2017-18. These schools are scheduled for completion in just 100 days, on June 30, 2017.

### Kindergarten to Grade 12

- School operating funding for the 2017-18 government fiscal year, including revenue collected from education property tax, will be \$1.86 billion, down \$22 million or 1.2 per cent from 2016-17.
- \$12.5 million for CommunityNet and LIVE network services, an increase of \$364,000 or 3 per cent.
- \$9.3 million for operating grants for qualified independent schools and historical high schools, a decrease of \$209,000.

### Early Years and Child Care

- \$55.8 million for child care funding. 889 new child care spaces will be created, including 810 spaces at the 18 new joint-use schools in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville.
- *KidsFirst* funding remains the same as in 2016-17 at \$15.5 million.
- Early children intervention programs remain at 2016-17 budget levels at \$3.9 million.

### Infrastructure:

- \$119.1 million for capital investments including:
  - \$43.2 million for preventative maintenance and renewal (PMR) and emergent funding, an increase of \$5.2 million or 13.7 per cent;
  - \$21.8 million to complete four major capital projects including three new schools in Regina (Sacred Heart, École Connaught and Scott Collegiate in the Mâdawêyatitân Centre) and a major expansion and renovation of St. Brieux School;
  - \$2 million in design funding for two new projects (consolidation and replacement of schools in Rosthern and Weyburn);
  - \$2.8 million for the purchase of seven new relocatable units;
  - \$48.3 million to complete the 18 joint-use schools, down \$262.3 million over last year; and,
  - \$1 million for school facility audits.

### **Joint Task Force**

- \$5.1 million in ongoing funding in response to Joint Task Force for the following initiatives:
  - \$2.4 million to continue the Invitational Shared Services Initiative;
  - \$1.6 million continued support of Following their Voices (First Nations and Métis Student Achievement Initiative);
  - \$1 million to support Help Me Tell My Story and Help Me Talk About Math; and,
  - \$100,000 for Microsoft Software Licensing.

### **Libraries**

- \$3.5 million in operating funding for libraries:
  - funding for Pahnkisiimon Nuyeháh in Northern Saskatchewan remains consistent with 2016-17 levels at \$974,000;
  - the seven regional library systems will receive \$2.5 million in operating funding, a decrease of \$3.5 million; and,
  - municipal library funding for Regina and Saskatoon Public Libraries will be eliminated, a reduction of \$1.3 million.

### **Ministry efficiencies**

- \$1.8 million decrease which includes:
  - a reduction of \$300,000 for information technology;
  - the elimination of 12 vacant positions resulting in nearly \$800,000 in savings; and,
  - \$700,000 in operational savings.

### **Teachers' Pension and Benefits**

- \$419 million for the Teachers' Pension (Statutory) and benefits (Statutory and CBA), an increase of \$22.5 million or 5.7 per cent, due primarily to an increased number of superannuates. This includes:
  - \$384.2 million in statutory funding requirements for the two pension plans, the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan and the Teachers' Superannuation Plan, and the Teachers' Group Life Insurance, an increase of \$22.2 million or 6.1 per cent;
  - \$33.6 million in bargained benefits to teachers for dental and extended health, an increase of 1.6 per cent or \$523,000; and,
  - \$1.2 million in operation costs for the Teachers' Superannuation Commission, down \$263,000 or 18 per cent.