



LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE FOR MANITOBA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

May 12, 2016

Mr. Kevin Waugh
Member of Parliament
Saskatoon-Grasswood
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Waugh:

On behalf of the Manitoba School Boards Association and its members, the public school boards of this province, I would like to thank you for undertaking the initiative reflected in Private Members' Bill C-241, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities). As an association, we fully support the intent of this legislation, and would call upon MPs from all parties to support its speedy passage.

For many years, the Manitoba School Boards Association, acting both independently and in concert with the Canadian School Boards Association, has advocated for an increase in the GST rebate paid to school boards, from the current 68% to 100%. This reflects our belief that the purchase of supplies and services required for the critical enterprise of public schooling should be exempt from consumption taxes levied by all levels of government: federal, provincial, and municipal. By enacting Bill-C241, the Canadian government would be leading by example, and underscoring the value it places on education.

From a national perspective, the cost of increasing the GST rebate from 68% to 100% would not be large, under \$190 million annually. However, the impact of those dollars on school boards' ability to deliver quality educational programming and services to our nation's children and youth would be significant. In Manitoba, for example, the additional 32% rebate would equate to an annual increase in revenue of \$8.7 million. That amount, in turn, would translate to salaries for an additional 100 teachers, increased supports for students who are at-risk, or myriad other enhancements to public school classrooms that would benefit students and communities.

Once again, thank you for undertaking this initiative. We truly appreciate the support for public education evidenced in Bill C-241, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities). We are copying the leaders of all federal political parties and all Manitoba MPs on this correspondence, and in so doing, are asking that they support you in this important endeavour.

Sincerely yours,



Ken Cameron
President

cc The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
 The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
 The Honourable Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the New Democratic Party
 The Honourable Rhéal Fortin, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
 The Honourable Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party
 All Manitoba Members of Parliament
 All Manitoba School Boards