



Priorities 2017 – 2018

Mission:

MASS provides leadership for public education by advocating in the best interests of learners, and supports its members through professional services.

MASS believes that our mandate is to be *leaders of learning*, in our local school systems and in the broader domains of provincial, national and global public education.

We model learning that is:

- active and visible;
- based on robust research;
- tested through purposeful application in the field;
- evaluated using a wide range of meaningful data.

We take responsibility for our own continuous learning and the learning of everyone we lead:

- creating and fostering safe, supportive, inclusive and challenging environments;
- ensuring essential learning for each and every child;
- preparing others to go beyond our own learning.

We are guided by our learning in shaping policy and practice to achieve what is best for the children in our care.

MASS believes that *improved achievement and wellbeing* for all of our students requires a shared commitment to raising both equity and quality.

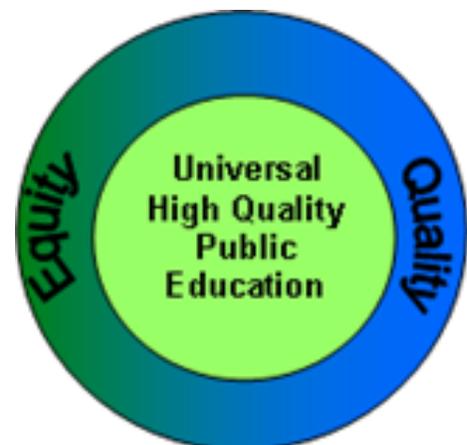
- A conscious and persistent commitment to equity, system-wide and across sectors, leads to poverty reduction, greater inclusion and an appreciation for the riches that diversity brings.
- A purposeful and sustained commitment to quality education for every student increases the capacity for teaching, learning and leading throughout the system.
- A strong grounding in **literacy and numeracy** and a rich learning experience involving inquiry, curiosity, creativity and artistic expression enables all students to achieve success and to flourish in life, academics and career.
- A respect for and openness to authentic youth voices and support for meaningful student action are critical for building capacity and self-efficacy in our students.

MASS actively works towards *equity and quality* throughout the public education system, with a special focus on three action areas:

Indigenous Education

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Early Learning



MASS Focus Committee Priorities for 2017 – 2018

Early Learning:

The MASS Focus Committee will take leadership to ensure that MASS:

- Advocates for full implementation of the Calls to Action in the MASS position paper on Early Childhood Education.
- Participates actively on the Provincial Educaring Committee.

Indigenous Education:

The MASS Focus Committee will take leadership to ensure that MASS:

- Aligns MASS efforts with the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Final Report.
- Builds capacity in MASS and school division to address the MASS and TRC Calls to Action.
- Surveys members on their current needs in the area of Indigenous Education and their progress in implementation at the school division level.
- Promotes ever increasing academic achievement, graduation, school completion and positive life outcomes for Indigenous students, informed by collective inquiry into evidence.
- Collaborates and liaises with indigenous partner groups, builds awareness, takes (or initiates) collective action and obtains/develops/distributes resources to support the MASS Call to Action for Indigenous education and the Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report.
- Partners with school divisions, institutions and organizations in initiatives that address the Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report.
- Participates with educational and community partners in the Visions of Reconciliation round-table.
- Participates actively and regularly with universities and colleges involved in teacher preparation to discuss improved access and services to Indigenous teacher candidates.
- Works with partners to improve preparation programs for Indigenous teacher candidates, while advocating for increasing the number of Indigenous teaching candidates.
- Actively supports the teaching of Indigenous perspectives, corrective history and culture and the use of Indigenous languages.
- Promotes and participates in social enterprises wherever possible for MASS activities and encouraging MASS members and educational partners to do likewise.
- Calls on CASSA to address the Calls to Action in the TRC Final Report at the national level, as part of our national voice.

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

The MASS Focus Committee will take leadership to ensure that MASS:

- Advocate for an implementation of a comprehensive provincial Children and Youth Mental Health Strategy.
- Collaborates with The Education for Sustainable Well-Being Research Group at the University of Manitoba and Manitoba Education and Training to develop tools and indicators for assessing the well-being and well-becoming of students in schools.
- Pursues inter-sectoral liaisons with public and mental health organizations and agencies.
- Contributes to a national voice on mental health through CASSA and through input into the Canadian Mental Health Strategy.
- Promotes Mental Health Literacy in mental health for all educators and pre-service educators.
- Renewing MASS Mental Health position paper and calls to action.