Silencing voices of public

Re: *Government demands data from school divisions ahead of restructuring* (June 24) What is it with Manitoba's PC government assuming anyone who questions their COVID-19-related decisions or disagrees with Bill 64 must be doing so for nefarious reasons?

Last November, health minister Cameron Friesen accused doctors of "creating chaos" and questioned their motivation when hundreds signed a letter warning that tighter restrictions were necessary to prevent overwhelming hospitals.

Now, with Bill 64, Education Minister Cliff Cullen has accused teachers and school boards of running a "misinformation campaign" stating "the purpose of their campaign is to instil fear and anxiety" for "political reasons."

To be clear, Manitoba doctors, nurses, educators and democratically elected local school boards do not work from a political agenda. The audacity of Premier Brian Pallister and his ministers to accuse them of doing so is not only extremely offensive to their profession, but is meant to shut down the voices of people who know better.

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