



Saskatchewan Learning

Restructured Saskatchewan School Division Boundaries

November 2004



Opening Remarks

On May 13, Learning Minister Andrew Thomson announced the Government of Saskatchewan's Education Equity Initiative to renew our provinces system of education to restore sustainability and equity for students and education ratepayers. Three phases were outlined in this initiative.



Initiative Phases

- Establish a three-member Education Equity Task Force to recommend new division boundaries based on a map of no more than 40 school divisions, with no fewer than 5000 students in each division, and to ensure that all divisions would be eligible for funding under existing provincial government programs.



Initiative Phases (con't)

- Direct Saskatchewan Learning to work with its stakeholders to develop a new system of school operating grants that is simpler, fairer, and more transparent.



Initiative Phases (con't)

- Dedicate 30 per cent of new and ongoing compensation on equalization received from natural resource revenues from Ottawa to property tax relief, to shift the balance off education property tax.



Education Equity Task Force

Restructured Saskatchewan School Division Boundaries

- Technical Briefing -

November 2004





Education Equity Task Force

Overview

- **Introduction**
- **Background**
 - The Mandate
 - Activities
 - Process
- **Guiding Principles**
- **Restructuring Issues**
- **Implementation Issues**
- **Finding The Balance**
- **School Division Map**
- **Restructured School Divisions – Outcomes**
- **Questions**





Education Equity Task Force

Introduction

- Privilege
- Expressions of Appreciation
 - Boards of Education and Education Stakeholder Organizations
 - Dept of Learning Personnel





Education Equity Task Force

Background

- **The Mandate**
 - < 40 School Divisions
 - > 5000 Students
 - Elimination of Zero Grant Boards
- **Activities**
 - Baseline Information
 - Preliminary Map





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Background (con't)

- **Process**

- Meetings with Education Stakeholder Organizations
- Meetings with Boards of Education
- Meetings with First Nations Organizations





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Guiding Principles

- Education Equity
- Taxpayer Equity
- Local Autonomy





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Restructuring Issues

- Support for Directed Restructuring
- School Division Size
- Board Representation
- Changing Existing School Division Boundaries
- Restructuring Time Frame
- School Divisions Subject to Restructuring Initiative





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Implementation Issues

- Elected Boards or Appointed Interim Boards
- Partnership Agreements
- Local Relationships and Local Participation
- Programs and Services for Students
- School Closures
- Transition Funding
- School Division Financial Reserves





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Implementation Issues (con't)

- Education Property Taxes
- Review of the Foundation Operating Grant
- Sustainable Provincial Funding





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Finding The Balance

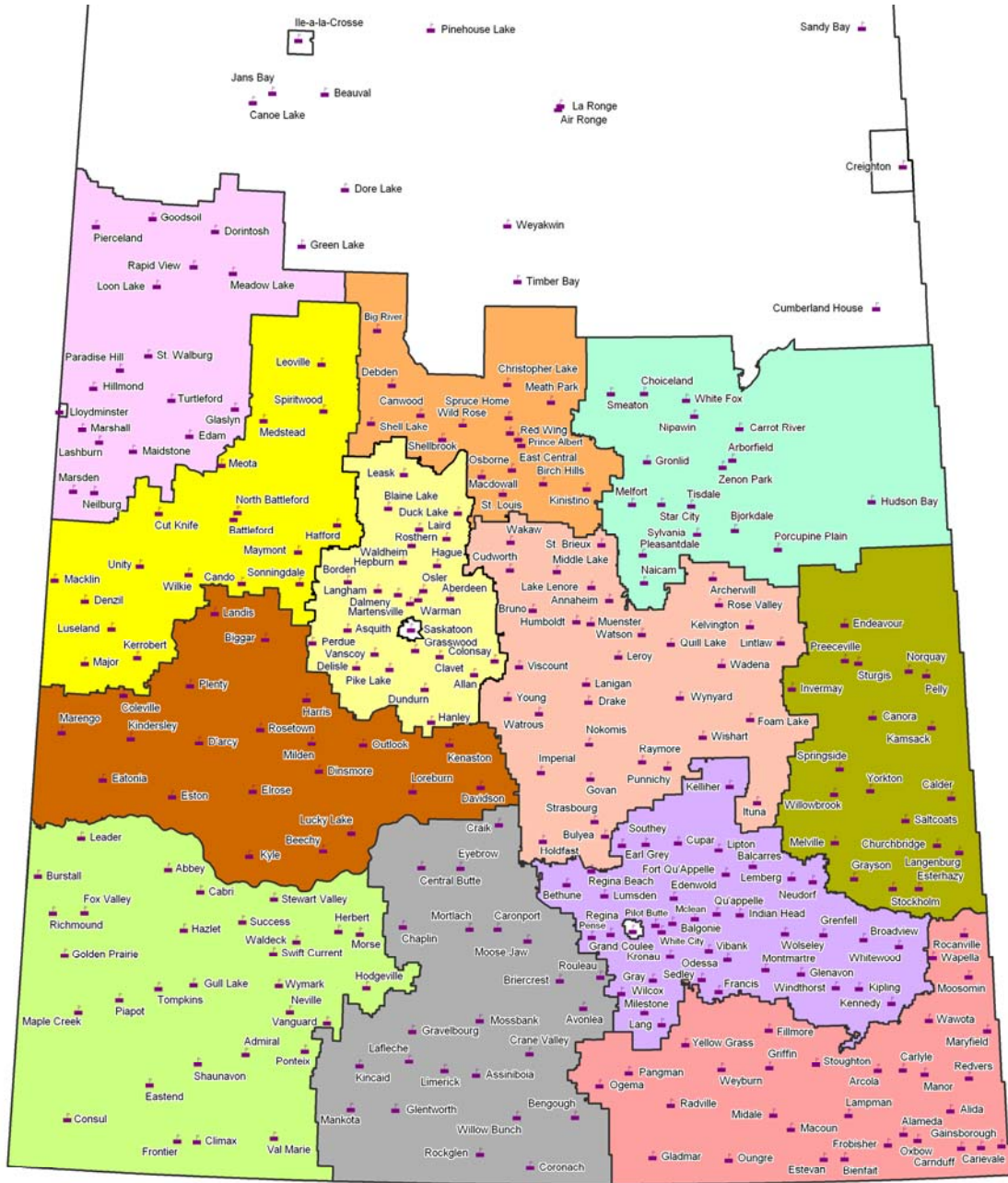
- The Best Interests of Students
- The Recommendations from School Divisions
- The Criteria





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School Division Map



0 25 50 75 100
Distance (km)

Saskatchewan School Divisions

— School Division

January 2006

■ Urban Municipality with School



Saskatchewan Learning



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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- 12 Restructured Divisions for a total of 34 including Minority Faith Divisions, Regina, Saskatoon, Lloydminster, Francophone and 3 Northern Divisions.





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- Each Division has At Least 5,000 students. The Range is from 5,143 to 9,566 students.





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- All Divisions will now be in a Positive Grant Position. The Range of Local Fiscal Capacity, as measured by Assessment Per Student, will be Substantially Narrowed.





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- Boundaries of Previously Amalgamated Divisions are Left Intact Within the New School Division Structure





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- In determining the final boundaries of School Divisions, the Task Force attempted to Find a Balance between the Amalgamation of Entire School Divisions and the need to consider the Normal Trading Patterns for Communities.





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- Health District Boundaries were Considered and Respected where possible to Ensure Most Effective Delivery of School^{Plus} within Divisions





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- All New Public School Division boundaries will be Contiguous (adjoining)





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- The 3 Northern School Divisions and Lloydminster School Division will Remain The Same





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- The Catholic Section of the Sask School Boards Assoc indicated that over the last several months the Number of Separate Divisions has Reduced from 21 to 14. They indicated that there would be a Further Reduction to 8 or 9 Divisions In Conjunction with the Restructuring of Public School Divisions.





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- Capacity and Opportunity for All Divisions to Offer a Full Range of Programs and Services to their Students





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Restructured School Divisions - Outcomes -

- Educational Interest of All Students Reflected in Boundary Changes. Should Result in:
 - Enhanced and Sustained Quality of Education Programming
 - Equity of Access for All Students





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Questions?





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