

## 2019-20 Ministry of Education Budget Backgrounder

### Prekindergarten to Grade 12

- Saskatchewan's 27 school divisions will receive \$1.90 billion in school operating funding for the 2019-20 school year. This is an increase of \$26.2 million, or a 1.4 per cent more than last year's \$1.872 billion.
- \$10.5 million for operating grants for qualified independent schools and historical high schools, an increase of \$879,000, due to increased enrolment.

### Early Years and Child Care

- \$72.6 million for child care funding, which includes \$15.078 million in funding provided by the federal government through the *Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement*.
- \$15.6 million in continued funding for *KidsFirst*.
- \$4.3 million for Early Childhood Intervention Programs, a \$300,000 increase over last year.
- \$2.4 million in continued funding for nutrition programs.

### Infrastructure:

- \$95.6 million for capital investments including:
  - \$3.0 million to provide planning and design funding for the replacement of two schools in Regina and four schools in Moose Jaw;
  - \$250,000 to determine the scope of a replacement school for St. Frances Elementary in Saskatoon;
  - \$29.0 million to provide funding for two ongoing major school consolidation projects in Rosthern and Weyburn;
  - \$55.9 million for preventative maintenance, renewal and emergency funding;
  - \$6.4 million for relocatable classrooms; and
  - \$1.0 million for school facility assessments.

### Libraries and Literacy

- \$11.2 million in supports for libraries, a \$128,000 increase over last year including:
  - \$6.0 million in resource sharing grants for the seven regional library systems;
  - \$989,000 in resource sharing grants for Pahkisimon Nuyeqáh Library System in Northern Saskatchewan;
  - \$1.4 million for municipal libraries in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert;
  - \$2.8 million to support universal access to library services, and for infrastructure including internet connectivity and the Single Integrated Library System.
- \$1.0 million in continued funding to support Saskatchewan's literacy programs, including:
  - \$541,000 to the network of Family Literacy Hubs; and
  - \$500,000 to continue to support the provision of 20 summer literacy camps in eight school divisions.

## **Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People**

- \$5.1 million in ongoing funding in response to the 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);
  - \$1.0 million to support *Help Me Tell My Story* and *Help Me Talk About Math*; and
  - \$100,000 for Microsoft Software Licensing.

## **Teachers' Pension and Benefits**

- \$410.8 million for the teachers' pensions (Statutory) and benefits (Statutory and CBA), a decrease of \$8.1 million or 1.9 per cent. This includes:
  - \$388.5 million in statutory funding requirements for the two pension plans (the Saskatchewan Teachers' Retirement Plan and the Teachers' Superannuation Plan), the Teachers' Dental Plan and the Teachers' Group Life Plan, a decrease of \$7.6 million or 1.9 per cent;
  - \$21.0 million in bargained benefits to teachers for extended health, a decrease of nearly \$500,000 or 2.2 per cent; and
  - \$1.3 million in operation costs for the Teachers' Superannuation Commission, an increase of \$7,000 or 0.5 per cent.