

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Tina Fontaine- Recommendation 1

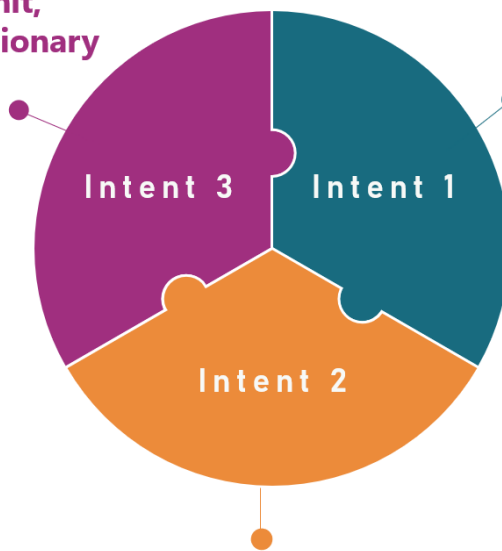
Recommendation Summary: Review the measurement of school absenteeism, suspensions, and expulsions, create a province-wide strategy to address issues.

Primary Public Body: Manitoba Education

3. Use this information to develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase out exclusionary practices

Policies and public awareness campaigns on absenteeism and the right to education are anticipated outputs of the Attendance Task Force.

Outstanding Action: Finalize and release the in-development activities of the Attendance Task Force.



1. Direct the Commission on K-12 to review the measurement of and response to absenteeism across Manitoba

Actions met the intent of the recommendation in 2020.

2. Review the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions

The Attendance Task Force has been created under the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate of Manitoba Education. The focus of the task force is to look at absenteeism in Manitoba and develop a Manitoba-based response to issues affecting chronic absenteeism.

Outstanding Action: Finalize and release the in-development activities of the Attendance Task Force.

COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

0.75

Largely Compliant

Actions taken meet the majority of requirements for implementation. Development and release of identified policy directive, and completion of a review of the issue will assist in reaching full compliance.

Recommendation Compliance Summary

This form details the assessment of compliance with recommendations made under Section 27 and Section 31 of *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act*. MACY assesses recommendations for compliance once a year but receives updates from the public bodies every six months.

1. Recommendation Information	
Report Name:	A Place Where it Feels like Home: The Story of Tina Fontaine
Date Released:	3/12/2019
Full Recommendation: (including details)	<p>Recommendation One: The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommends that Manitoba Education and Training (now Manitoba Education) ensure its recently established <i>Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education</i> review the measurement of and response to absenteeism across Manitoba. It is further recommended that the Commission review the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, with the goal of developing a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase-out exclusionary practices, except in situations of imminent safety risk to students and staff. This review and strategy should provide evidence-informed practices that are in line with the best interests of the child and respect the right to education for children and youth.</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission to identify how school divisions can be resourced with the capacity to measure, assess, and respond to the underlying causes of school absenteeism. Building and sustaining relationships with students who are experiencing absenteeism and their families. • Manitoba Education and Training (now Manitoba Education) continue efforts to improve student attendance by increasing public awareness of the right to education, identifying improvements to communication with parents and guardians around absenteeism, and to provide transparent information to the public about suspensions and expulsions.
Intent(s) of Recommendation:	<p>The intents of the recommendation are for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manitoba Education to direct the Commission to review the measurement of and response to absenteeism across Manitoba. 2. Review the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. 3. Use this information to develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase out exclusionary practices.
Issue:	Chronic Absenteeism, Suspensions, and Expulsions
Primary Department:	Manitoba Education
Dates of Previous Official Updates from Public Body:	June 30, 2020
	December 31, 2019
	June 30, 2019
2. Compliance Determination	

Largely Compliant 0.75	Actions taken meet the majority of requirements for implementation, only negligible requirements remain.
Self-Assessment	Largely Compliant
Previous Compliance Determination	Partially Compliant
3. Rationale for Determination <i>(How did you reach this compliance determination)</i>	
<p>Intent 1: Manitoba Education to direct the Commission to review the measurement of and response to absenteeism across Manitoba. 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Education directed <i>The Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education</i> to review issues associated with this recommendation including, chronic absenteeism, suspensions, and expulsions in a letter dated April 11, 2019. This requirement of the recommendation has been completed. <p>Intent 2: Review the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the responses provided by Manitoba Education to this recommendation, and the recommendations regarding suspensions/expulsions from two other MACY reports, separate work is being completed on the issues of reviewing chronic absenteeism, suspensions, and expulsions. While acknowledging the links between all types of school absenteeism, two separate entities within Manitoba Education are working on these issues. The Student Services Inclusive Education Committee of the Inclusion Support Branch is developing a policy directive on suspensions/expulsions as discussed in the compliance summary for Documenting the Decline recommendation 2, and the Slow Disappearance of Matthew recommendation 2. On the issue of absenteeism, the Attendance Task Force of the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate is leading a review, which includes the use of a consultant group to study absenteeism both across Canada and in the Manitoba context. The Attendance Task Force is looking at an analysis of chronic absenteeism and the development of interventions. A literature review on the issue of chronic absenteeism, and various methods for addressing the issue, was provided as documentation with this recommendation response. <p>2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Response from MACY-RAP indicated a commitment to achieving the intent of the recommendation. A working group was established that received feedback from school divisions related to how the divisions are tracking suspension and chronic absenteeism. The information is intended to form the basis of a template that can be used universally across school divisions to report on suspension and chronic absenteeism rates. The data collected are intended to provide an evidence base to inform strategies to identify trends and reduce the use of suspensions. Work on this initiative will resume in the fall of 2020 with the return to in-class instruction. The review on how school divisions track suspensions and chronic absenteeism and the use of a single tracking form is a promising and necessary first step to reviewing the current use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. A review of use of suspensions and chronic absenteeism, however, is not yet completed. 	

Intent 3: Use this information to develop a province-wide strategy to limit, reduce, and phase out exclusionary practices.

2021

- As identified in the response provided by Manitoba Education, “The provincial Task Force on Attendance has drafted provincial policy and is working on public awareness initiatives to improve school attendance and reinforce the message of how consistent school attendance is crucial for student well being.”

2020

- As of yet, a province-wide strategy has not been developed. Activities are focused on the development of tools to ensure the collection of reliable data on chronic absenteeism and suspensions.

Analysis Summary: Although the wording of this recommendation is similar to that of the suspensions/expulsions recommendations found in other MACY reports, the focus of this recommendation and accompanying responses pertains specifically to the issue of chronic absenteeism. An Attendance Task Force has been established and is actively studying and developing resources for the Manitoba context of addressing absenteeism. As actions have been taken on the issue of chronic absenteeism, the fulfilment of this recommendation will be based on the completion of the actions of the Attendance Task Force, including a provincial strategy and/or policy directive to address absenteeism in Manitoba. This work will be viewed in conjunction with the work being conducted on suspensions and expulsions to recognize the connection between these issues. Given intent one has been met and progress made on intents two and three, this recommendation is deemed largely compliant.