



September 1997

To: Superintendents of Education
Principals of Schools (Senior 1 to Senior 4)
Principals of First Nations Schools
Principals of Independent Funded Schools

**RE: ISSUANCE OF PROVINCIAL DIPLOMA TO STUDENTS ON THE
INDIVIDUALIZED PROGRAMMING DESIGNATION**

Policy related to the Individualized (I) programming designation is provided in the Manitoba Education and Training document *Towards Inclusion: A Handbook for Individualized Programming Designation, Senior Years* (1995). This designation is intended for students in Senior Years with cognitive disabilities so significant that they are unable to benefit from participating in regular Senior Years programming. When schools report on students receiving the I designation no credits are assigned. The I designation is used to indicate participation in a full-year program.

Since the provincial diploma makes reference to the 28-credit graduation requirement, and since students with the I designation do not earn credits, a question has been raised by the field regarding the propriety of issuing the provincial diploma to such students. Some schools and local communities have indicated their desire to include all students in graduation celebrations, including the presentation of a provincial diploma.

Individualized programming is not intended to isolate or exclude students. In the spirit of inclusive education and out of a desire to recognize the achievements of all students, Manitoba Education and Training authorizes the issuance of the provincial diploma to students who have participated in the Individualized programming designation provided that they have fulfilled, to the best of their ability, the outcomes outlined in their Individual Transition Plan (ITP).

Local administration may also determine the date of school leaving, in conjunction with the student's support team.

.../2

Page Two

Please share this information with your teachers and parent/advisory councils. I appreciate everyone's ongoing contributions to the process of implementing educational change.

Yours sincerely,



John D. Carlyle
Deputy Minister
Education

- c Roy Schellenberg, President, MAST
- Gail Bagnall, President, MASS
- Diane Beresford, President, MTS
- Deborah Giesbrecht, President, MAPC