

NEWS RELEASE

WSD addresses new lead soil test results

November 29, 2018 (Winnipeg, MB) – Winnipeg School Division administration has done a preliminary review of results from 2018 soil testing done at 16 locations in the division. With the exception of one property, samples from schools in the division all proved to be well below guidelines set out by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment for human health. At Weston School, field samples show lead levels continue to be higher than recommended guidelines.

“We will work with the Province to develop a plan that will ensure appropriate remediation is completed at Weston School to make the field completely safe for our students and staff,” said Celia Caetano-Gomes, Superintendent of Education Services. “In the meantime, we are being abundantly cautious and keeping the fencing in place around the field where the samples were taken to prevent access by students or the public.” There is currently no timeline for when the field may reopen.

Fencing was erected in September when WSD was made aware of unreleased sample data from 2008. It has been left in place as a precaution, although Caetano-Gomes notes that Manitoba Public Health officers have advised WSD that there is a low health risk to lead in soil.

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 78 schools, 33,000 students and 6,000 employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student’s potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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