



## NEWS RELEASE

### **WSD Board passes motions to support WSD “Enough for all, forever” sustainability initiative**

**June 6, 2016 (Winnipeg, MB)** – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce plans to enhance the division’s Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) initiative.

“The Board recognizes the excellent work being done in Winnipeg School Division to ensure our young people are learning, right from their first days in school, about sustaining the world we live in,” said WSD Board of Trustees Chair, Mark Wasyliw. “The intent of these motions is to support that work and, where possible, expand it so that we are always at the forefront of sustainable action planning.”

The motions include a feasibility study into partnering with Manitoba Hydro to develop a Solar Energy Program for WSD, developing a tree planting/urban forest management plan, a feasibility study into creating a pilot project by adding an electric school bus and high efficiency electric cargo van to WSD’s fleet, and a proposal for a WSD Student Sustainability Conference.

WSD believes in developing responsible decision-makers and global citizens, who contribute to the social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being to ensure a sustainable future for all. “Enough for All Forever” is the division’s Education for Sustainable Development definition.

“We rolled out ESD in Winnipeg School Division in 2005 when the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development was declared by the United Nations,” said Fatima Mota, Superintendent of Education Services, Equity and Diversity, Inclusive Education. “Over the past decade, our schools have progressively implemented the eight guiding principles for practicing sustainability in our schools and our commitment to ESD is strong.” Mota said the Board’s motions will now be reviewed by the ESD Steering Committee.

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**The eight guiding principles for practicing sustainability in our schools:**

1. Winnipeg School Division schools and departments strive to follow sustainable practices in the social, environmental, and economic realms.
2. Winnipeg School Division teaches, encourages, and demonstrates critical thinking about global and environmental issues including inequalities of the sharing distribution of global resources and political power (Manitoba Education).
3. Students develop the knowledge, the skills, and the values necessary for meaningful participation in global and pluralistic society.
4. Education for Sustainable Development educates students, staff, and the broader community, of all importance of sustainable living for human survival and the survival of all living things.
5. Traditional Aboriginal perspectives regarding our relationship with Mother Earth, such as our responsibility to ensure the survival of the Seventh Generation and collective responsibility, are incorporated in the Winnipeg School Division Sustainable Development Plan.
6. Winnipeg School Division models the principles of sustainability taught in the classroom.
7. The Winnipeg School Division recognizes the importance of families and values cultural diversity and community partnerships while working toward a sustainable future for all.
8. Winnipeg School Division practices recognize and support the connection between healthy lifestyles and sustainable living.

WSD is the largest school division in Manitoba with more than 33,000 students and 78 schools.

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