

From: **Economic Development and Training, Deputy Minister**

Date: Thu, Apr 23, 2020 at 2:02 PM

Subject: RE: AESES Letter to Manitoba Government re Financial and Workforce Impacts

To: [aeses@aeses.ca](mailto:aeses@aeses.ca)

Cc: Economic Development and Training, Deputy Minister

Laurie R. Morris  
aeses@aeses.ca

Dear Ms Morris:

Thank you for your correspondence sent to The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba, regarding funding to post-secondary institutions. Your email was forwarded to Honourable Ralph Eichler, Minister of Economic Development and Training, as this matter falls under his portfolio. As Deputy Minister, I am pleased to respond.

Post-secondary education is an important element of the fabric of Manitoba. Our college and university partners will play a key role in moving our economy forward during and after the pandemic, helping students to gain key skills needed in our labour market. As you are aware, Manitoba is facing unprecedented financial issues due to COVID-19, and the pressure on our province is immense. Revenues are decreasing at the same time as significant and unanticipated cost pressures in the health care sector and across government are increasing.

All areas of the public sector in Manitoba are working together to explore options for cost reductions. The collective response of all public bodies including post-secondary institutions will ensure that we have the financial strength to protect vital front line services like health and child care. We have asked all other reporting entities such as post-secondary institutions and Crown corporations, as well as core government departments, to do some scenario planning for the workforce and expenditures for the immediate future as we, collectively, respond to and recover from the pandemic. We know that together we can all do our part in these unprecedented times.

With these challenges, there are difficult decisions that need to be made and we will continue to work closely with universities and colleges on how best to address these challenges and meet the unique needs of each institution. Above all, we remain committed to collaborate with our universities and colleges to ensure there continues to be a strong post-secondary education system that can support student success and meet the skills needs in our province going forward.

Thank you for your support for post-secondary education in Manitoba. I wish you all the best in this challenging time.

*"Original signed by"*

Jan Forster  
Deputy Minister  
Economic Development and Training

- c. The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba  
Honourable Ralph Eichler, Minister of Economic Development and Training