

# Education Funding

## WHAT IS THE ISSUE AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SASKATCHEWAN?

On behalf of the communities we serve, Saskatchewan school boards are advocating resolutely for **sufficient, predictable, and sustainable funding**. There is a path forward that serves all Saskatchewan students and considers the reality of today's cost drivers. **First, we need to eliminate the education funding gap. Then, we need a plan for new investment in education.**

### SOLUTIONS:

- **Funding:** eliminate the gap in operating dollars and fully fund increasing enrolment. School boards are short more than \$271 million in operational funding and \$85 million in school maintenance.
- **Setting the Mill Rate in Collaboration with School Boards:** for example, a 2.0 mill increase in Education Property Tax (EPT) could fund the current education funding gap and provide additional dollars for school maintenance (at least 1% of school value allocated annually for preventative maintenance).
- **Long Term Planning:** invest in new construction in the communities experiencing growth along with a plan for the sustainability of rural and remote schools - recognizing inflationary pressures and rising costs of construction.
- **A Plan for New Investment:** school board priorities include full-time Kindergarten, school nutrition programs, inclusion and classroom supports.
- **Keep Decision Making Closest to the Community:** decisions in education are best made at the local level, considering local circumstances and student need.

“ Investing in education is a smart use of public dollars. Every dollar invested in K-12 education generates more than four dollars in economic activity in Saskatchewan and roughly 1 in 11 jobs in the province depends on school divisions. We need to think long term and education is the best investment we can make for our kids, our communities and for the future of this province.”

### THE EDUCATION FUNDING GAP

