



## **Instructional Materials & Resources Review Report November 5, 2024**

It would be fair to say there is increased scrutiny in recent years on instructional materials and resources being used in schools across Manitoba and Canada. This topic has also recently been brought forward within the Manitoba School Boards Association.

Instructional material and resources can refer to any of the materials teachers use with students. These may include but are not limited to books, textbooks, workbooks, videos, and websites. However, most often, it is the books in school or classroom libraries that are questioned.

The school division is in possession of hundreds of thousands of items that would qualify as instructional materials or resources. When purchasing these items schools rely on publisher rating scales, online reviews, trusting the vendor as reputable, or professional/personal experience to try and select materials that are appropriate for use with children. However, this does not guarantee that all materials that make their way into schools would be considered appropriate for use with students.

Most often materials and resources are questioned because they have content of a sexual nature that some identify as not age appropriate for the intended audience, or they contain content that is related to gender identity which some identify as not appropriate for children.

When students or parents identify materials they feel are not appropriate for use with students, they can ask for the materials to be reviewed. Sunrise has a procedure that identifies a review process as well as a form to request a specific resource be reviewed.

IJ Instructional Materials and Resources and IJ-E Request for the Reconsideration of a Learning Resource Form are included with this report.

When reviewing a specific learning resource many factors may be considered, however comparing content of the learning material or resource to appropriate grade level curriculum may be the most significant factor to consider.