

Bill 197 COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act

Schedule 5 The *Education Act* is amended in respect of various issues.

An amendment is made to remove the requirement that directors of education must be supervisory officers that are qualified as teachers. The Act is also amended to provide that if regulations prescribe qualifications for directors of education, boards shall not appoint or employ a person as a director of education unless the person holds those qualifications. Related amendments are made to regulation-making powers under the Act.

The Act is amended to provide that the Minister may, in response to the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19), operate one or more demonstration schools for exceptional pupils in either a residential or non-residential setting for the 2020-2021 school year.

Sections 185 and 188 of the Act are amended to allow persons, other than parents or guardians of pupils or prescribed persons, to be prescribed for the purpose of providing written notice to a board that a pupil or prescribed person intends to attend a prescribed school under section 185 or a school of the board under section 188, as the case may be. Sections 185 and 188 are also amended to add regulation-making powers relating to prescribing the persons who may provide notice, governing the conditions under which that notice may be provided by such persons and authorizing the collection of personal information in the process of providing that notice.

Finally, the Act is amended to authorize regulations providing that pupils in specified grades of elementary school shall not be suspended, or that such suspensions may only occur in the prescribed circumstances. Related amendments are made.