

Manitoba PC Caucus

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Manitobans

Week in Review

October 7, 2016

LEGISLATURE RESUMES WITH A BUSY AGENDA FOR THE FALL

The fall session of the Manitoba Legislature began this week with a number of important Bills and Resolutions already up for debate. Some of the items discussed in the Assembly this week include:

Bill 4, *The Elections Amendment Act*

- This bill will require that any by-election called in the province of Manitoba be conducted over a 28-day period, rather than the current 28-to-35-day window.

Bill 6, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act*

- This bill will permit MLAs who are not members of cabinet to be appointed to the provincial Treasury Board. Passage of this bill will enable the appointment of Colleen Mayer, MLA for St. Vital, and Reg Helwer, MLA for Brandon West, to Treasury Board.

Bill 9, *The Election Financing Amendment Act*

- This bill will repeal the NDP's "Vote Tax" which paid an annual allowance of \$1.75 per vote received to Manitoba political parties. The PC Party of Manitoba has never accepted this allowance and believes it is wrong for taxpayers to fund the operation of political parties.

Resolution 3, *Recognition of the Importance of Financial Literacy*

- This resolution, introduced by Radisson MLA James Teitsma, encourages all Manitobans to foster financial literacy skills to improve their daily lives and financial future.

THIS WEEK IN QUESTION PERIOD

Hon. Cliff Cullen, Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade, in response to an opposition question on the northern Manitoba economy:

"I do appreciate the question.

I'm not sure that the members opposite, though, understand the reality of what we've inherited here. These things didn't occur in the last few months. These have been ongoing things and challenges for northern Manitobans, a lot of it because of the 17 years we've had under their watch.

It's clear Manitobans—northern Manitobans said we, as a government, took the right decision. We should not be supporting these companies in short terms. We should be seeking long-term solutions. That's what the federal government is asking for as well. That's what we're asking for. Maybe they should just get out of the road and let us get the job done!"

OPENING OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Manitoba government is encouraging Manitobans to nominate a teacher for Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards, Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart (MLA for Portage la Prairie) has announced.

"These awards allow us to recognize exemplary teachers who bring out the best in their students by making learning an enriching experience and giving their students the tools to thrive in and out of the classroom," said Wishart. "Quality education lays the foundation for a successful and productive adult life, and I would like to thank all Manitoba teachers for their continued dedication to our students."

The deadline for nominations is Dec. 1. A reception to honour the recipients will be held in April 2017 at the Legislative Building.

More information on the nomination process, selection criteria and all necessary forms are available at www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/excellence.

COMMUNITY PLACES FUNDING FOR NEW SOCCER FIELD IN SOUTH WINNIPEG

Jon Reyes, MLA for St. Norbert, announced that the Manitoba Government's Community Places program is providing funding that will allow the Manitoba Islamic Association to construct a soccer field at the site of its Grand Mosque in south Winnipeg.

"Our new government is pleased to provide funds to allow the Manitoba Islamic Association (MIA) to develop this outdoor soccer pitch," said Reyes. "This will be a first-rate recreational facility that will benefit youth and amateur soccer teams and players throughout the Winnipeg area."

The Community Places program is contributing \$30,000 toward the project's total cost of approximately \$131,800, allowing the MIA to develop the pitch on land behind its Grand Mosque on south Waverley Street. With this grant, the MIA has the funding in place to begin the work this year.

The soccer field, which is open for use to the public, is to be the first phase of a three-phase development that will eventually involve construction of additional washroom and kitchen facilities at the Grand Mosque, as well as a play structure.

The Community Places program provides grants to projects championed by non-profit and community-led organizations to help build, upgrade, expand or acquire facilities for culture, recreation and wellness. In the past 30 years, it has provided more than \$118 million to over 7,700 projects across Manitoba.

MANITOBA INTRODUCES MILAN, AN ASSISTANCE DOG TO SUPPORT VICTIMS

Manitoba has welcomed a new assistance dog to provide comfort and help reduce stress for victims of crime throughout the court process, Justice Minister Heather Stefanson (MLA for Tuxedo) announced Friday.

"The newest member of our team will help support victims when they need it most, when they're feeling anxious or scared and need a comforting presence," said Stefanson. "We are incredibly proud to welcome Milan to Manitoba, and know she will be a trusted friend for people who are dealing with extremely difficult and emotionally challenging situations while their matters proceed through court."

For more information on Milan and the benefit of assistance dogs to victims of crime, please visit: <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=39473>

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DELIVERING ON THE PRIORITIES OF MANITOBANS THIS FALL SESSION

By Kelly Bindle, MLA for Thompson



The House at the Manitoba legislature resumed sitting this past Monday, and our new Progressive Conservative government is focused this fall on fixing the province's finances, repairing services and rebuilding Manitoba's economy. Restoring and strengthening basic democratic rights and implementing a more open and accountable government are a part of achieving these goals.

Fair elections are the key to any healthy democracy, and during a decade of NDP debt, decline and decay, Manitobans saw a steady erosion of their basic democratic rights. The previous NDP government took away the right of all Manitobans to vote on major tax increases. As well, for close to 10 years, the NDP refused the chief electoral officer's recommendation to establish a set election period in order to "level the playing field" with other parties – instead putting its own political agenda ahead of the public interest.

And in Manitoba workplaces, the previous government took away the right of employees to secret-ballot votes on union certification.

Our government has moved forward on the *Elections Amendment Act* because this legislation will strengthen democracy by setting a standard 28-day period for a fixed-date provincial general election. It will also strike a balance between flexibility and increased efficiency and fairness in the calling of by-elections, with the understanding they do not occur on fixed dates.

Elections Manitoba noted, as well, in its recommendation that a "set election period would also assist in recruiting election officials."

Our new government is proud to put the public interest first, and to help level the playing field for future elections.

Listening to northerners is a key part of deliberative democracy. Our new government is committed to making Manitoba the most improved province in Canada, and to making Manitoba families safer and stronger.



Kelly with Ministers Scott Fielding and Eileen Clarke at a celebration of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation Urban Reserve within the City of Thompson

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Emerson MLA Cliff Graydon accompanied Candy, a constituent who works at Friesen's in Altona, for Take Your MLA to Work Day



MLAs Rochelle Squires (Riel), Janice Morley-Lecomte (Seine River), and Sarah Guillemard (Fort Richmond) take part in the CIBC Run for the Cure



Radisson MLA James Teitsma at the Seniors Health Fair



Families Minister Scott Fielding and Thompson MLA Kelly Bindle meet with the Chief and Council of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation in Nelson House



Rossmere MLA Andrew Micklefield with community dignitaries at the dedication of Inderjit Claire Park in his constituency