

# Manitoba PC Caucus

Proud to serve  
Manitobans

## Week in Review

September 16, 2016

### WORKING WITH NORTHERN PARTNERS

Several communities in northern Manitoba hosted stakeholder meetings with a number of Ministers and MLAs this week as our government continues to work on addressing economic concerns in the north with long-term, sustainable solutions.

Deputy Premier Heather Stefanson (MLA for Tuxedo) was joined by Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Cliff Cullen (MLA for Spruce Woods) and Crown Services Minister Ron Schuler for a meeting in The Pas with a large and diverse group of stakeholders. The Ministers' message of working together with a focus on a long-term plan for the north was well-received and noted to be a refreshing departure from the approach of the previous government.

After their meeting in The Pas, the Ministers continued their tour with additional stops in a number of communities including Flin Flon, Swan River, and Dauphin.

### LEADING PRIVATE SECTOR JOB GROWTH

Statistics Canada released their latest job numbers last week which included some good news here in Manitoba. Since April, Manitoba has led Canada in the number of private sector jobs created. Another sign that, under our new government, Manitoba is once again open for business!

### INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE IN FLIN FLON

Swan River MLA Rick Wowchuk was in Flin Flon this week on behalf of Health, Seniors, and Active Living Minister Kelvin Goertzen to officially kick off a \$25.2 million project for a new emergency department at the Flin Flon General Hospital.

"This renovation creates a modern environment that is spacious, clean and safe," said Wowchuk. "Once this project is complete, we believe the region will be in a stronger position to provide quality care for the community now and in the future."

For more details on the upgrades planned for the Flin Flon General Hospital as part of this project, click here: <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=39232>



*Swan River MLA Rick Wowchuk celebrating the construction of a new emergency department at Flin Flon General Hospital*

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## **HELPING INNER CITY STUDENTS SUCCEED**

Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart (MLA for Portage la Prairie) announced a \$625,000 grant to Pathways to Education to reduce drop-out rates and increase access to post-secondary education for students in low-income communities.

“Education opens the door to opportunity, and many young people who face barriers to education have already been able to complete high school and go on to advanced education or meaningful employment with help from Pathways to Education,” said Wishart. “Manitoba’s new government is pleased to provide this funding, which helps to close the opportunity gap for people from disadvantaged communities.”

More information on the program and how it helps Manitoba students reach their full potential, please visit <http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?archive=&item=39211>

## **CELEBRATING FARM AND FOOD AWARENESS WEEK**

Manitoba’s second annual Farm and Food Awareness Week is September 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> and kicks off on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> with Open Farm Day across Manitoba.

“Manitoba has a proud agricultural history and we know that farming and farm families are an essential part of our future,” said Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler (MLA for Lakeside). “Farm and Food Awareness Week is an ideal time to highlight the economic, environmental and many other contributions to Manitoba by farmers and the entire agriculture industry. A good place to start is by meeting a farmer and having a hands-on agricultural experience at Open Farm Day.”

For more info on Open Farm Day, visit [www.openfarmday.ca](http://www.openfarmday.ca)

## **AB MACDONALD AWARDED THE ORDER OF THE BUFFALO HUNT**

Four-time Stanley Cup winner and original Captain of the Winnipeg Jets, Ab McDonald, was awarded the Order of the Buffalo Hunt by Premier Brian Pallister (MLA for Fort Whyte) earlier this week in Winnipeg.

Mr. McDonald is a long-time supporter of Special Olympics in Manitoba and was presented with the honour at a Special Olympics event to celebrate his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Congratulations Ab!

## **FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Our social media feeds are a great way to stay informed about the work being done by your Manitoba PC MLAs. If you don’t already, be sure to follow us on Twitter, like us on Facebook, and subscribe to our YouTube channel through the links below!

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*Finance Minister Cameron Friesen touring Gateway Resources new Recycling Depot*

## **GUEST COLUMN: STRENGTHENING OUR NORTHERN ECONOMY**



**By Rick Wowchuk, MLA for Swan River**

The keys to strengthening Manitoba's economy are, in large part, in diversification and development of the province's north. To this end, our new government has a goal to develop Manitoba's northern and rural tourism industry and is significantly increasing its investment in this sector.

We are increasing the number of grants – each one up to \$25,000 -- from our newly enlarged Tourism Development Fund in order to help northern, rural and Indigenous tourism and community organizations attract more visitors to Manitoba. The cost-shared grants will be given to First Nations, community development organizations, rural and northern destination organizations along with festival and tourism groups to support their planning, developments and expansions of tourism programs.

Projects given priority for the grants will be those that encourage niche tourism at the local, destination and regional levels, and which are centered on themes such as culture and heritage, trail-based and nature-based outdoor recreation, agri-tourism, culinary tourism and the viewing of wildlife and nature.

These grants are available through applications for 2016/17 to the Tourism Development Fund, which our new Manitoba government is increasing by more than 50 per cent to \$297,000 for the coming year. This fund is part of our efforts to modernize rural and northern tourist attractions in our province, and to support the development of tourism experiences that tell Manitoba's unique stories.

There are great opportunities for growth in Manitoba's tourism sector, which generates more than \$1.6 billion a year in province-wide economic activity including permanent and seasonal employment.

Our government is, in addition, increasing funding by \$3.1 million for Travel Manitoba this year to allow for expanded marketing campaigns targeting Canadian, American and international travelers.

We are increasing our investments in tourism and working with the industry to bring more visitors from across Canada and around the world to spend their vacation dollars in the Swan River area and other parts of Manitoba, so we can further build our economy.

There are various other ways, as well, to strengthen our economy, and our new government recognizes the need for diversification in northern Manitoba. Challenges currently faced in Churchill and The Pas reinforce that need. We're listening to Manitobans about ways to diversify our northern economy. From Swan River to Churchill, our government is speaking with business owners - and we're focusing on opportunities to facilitate a business-friendly environment that's attractive to investors and entrepreneurs.

The previous provincial government made many decisions based on short-term political gain at the expense of sustainable, long-term northern development. Short-term support and transitional funding, however, must be balanced with long-term sustainable investment.

Our government will soon launch a targeted program for northern Manitoba to facilitate partnerships for the attraction of new companies, the development of opportunities and the expansions of businesses. We have begun to explore resource development starting with mining, fisheries, tourism and other sectors in which the north can capitalize. The expertise on the northern economy rests largely with northerners, though the economy throughout Manitoba will benefit from the strengths of their enterprises.

Vision and innovation are necessary to create long-term economic solutions in my constituency, in Manitoba's north and across our province.

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*Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Cliff Cullen meeting with the Flin Flon Chamber of Commerce*



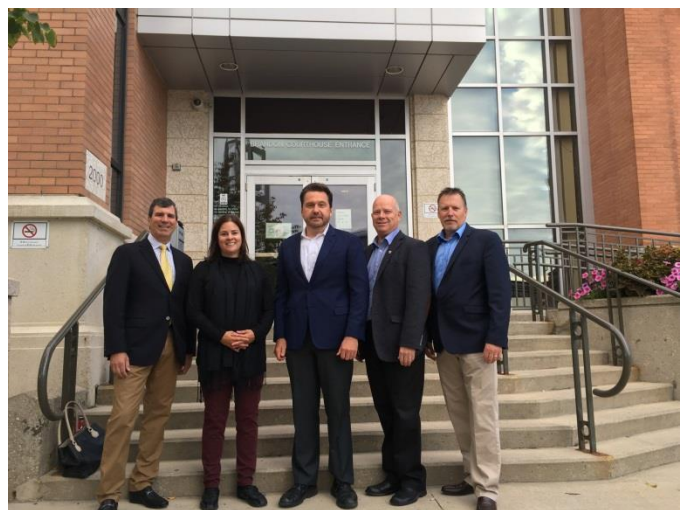
*West Winnipeg MLAs Scott Fielding (Kirkfield Park), Steven Fletcher (Assiniboia), and Scott Johnston (St. James) with City Councillor Scott Gillingham at their community BBQ*



*Minister of Families Scott Fielding with students and staff at MITT*



*MLA Jon Reyes (St. Norbert) with executive members of the Manitoba Islamic Association*



*Justice Minister Heather Stefanson touring the Brandon Courthouse with MLAs Reg Helwer (Brandon West), Doyle Pivniuk (Arthur-Virden), Greg Nesbitt (Riding Mountain) and Len Isleifson (Brandon East)*