

Manitoba PC Caucus

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Manitobans

Week in Review

September 30, 2016

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES BUDGET CONSULTATIONS ONLINE WITH YourProvinceYourPlan.ca

The province is launching Your Province, Your Plan, a strategy that includes all Manitobans in the creation of Budget 2017, and will feature an interactive budget website, in-person consultations at a number of locations around the province and a citizen budget tool that will allow Manitobans the opportunity to learn first-hand about the budget process, Finance Minister Cameron Friesen (MLA for Morden-Winkler) announced this week.

“I’m proud to unveil new tools for our government’s pre-budget consultations including a citizen budget tool – the first time such a tool has been used by a provincial government,” said Friesen. “Your Province, Your Plan will allow us to reach out directly to Manitobans for input and ideas that will help us develop a strong fiscal plan for the year ahead.”

The website, www.YourProvinceYourPlan.ca, will feature an interactive tool allowing individuals to build their own provincial budget. Participants will be asked a series of questions about their provincial budget preferences on topics ranging from health care and red tape to infrastructure and innovation. The tool will then use the responses to build a budget based on the

individual’s priorities. Manitobans can choose to share their input with Manitoba Finance as feedback, as well as on social media to encourage friends and family to participate, the minister noted.

In-person meetings will be held between Oct. 17 and 26 in several communities across Manitoba. The meetings will focus on the themes of efficiency, opportunities for growth and northern economic development and detailed questions will be provided to guide conversations, Friesen said. To ensure the process is as inclusive as possible, invitations for participation in the in-person meetings have also been extended by the premier to representatives from all parties in the Manitoba legislature, the minister added.

Submissions received before Oct. 10 will be reviewed and organizations may be invited to make a presentation at one of the in-person meetings. Manitobans wishing to attend the meetings are encouraged to pre-register by emailing minfin@leg.gov.mb.ca or calling 204-945-3952 in Winnipeg.

For more details on the government’s budget consultation process and to provide your own input, visit www.YourProvinceYourPlan.ca.

NDP CONTINUES TO MISLEAD MANITOBANS ABOUT 'DEPARTURE TAX'

Additional details regarding payouts to former NDP senior staff were released this week. While the NDP explained these payments as “standard operating procedure”, a report by the Manitoba Ombudsman indicate that the lump sum payments totaling over \$700,000 were not paid out based on terms of employment, but rather were negotiated to resolve “a labour relations dispute”.

“Severance is an important benefit paid to workers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own,” said Shannon Martin, MLA for Morris. “However, the details in the Ombudsman’s report reveal that these senior NDP staff were not laid off and that the amounts paid were not based on terms of employment or contracts. Rather, they appear to be a settlement so political staff would leave their jobs voluntarily following the NDP leadership fiasco.”

Examination of the 2014/15 and recently released 2015/16 Public Accounts reveal 7 NDP political staff received a total of \$1,425,866 for approximately 8 months’ work in 2014/15. This includes close to \$700k in the lump sum “Departure Tax” political payouts.

SAFE SPACES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

A new partnership is launching a number of new initiatives to support safer public spaces for women.

“Every woman has the right to enjoy public spaces without fear of being sexually harassed or assaulted,” said Rochelle Squires, MLA for Riel and Minister responsible for the status of women. “Manitoba’s new government is proud to partner with community stakeholders to make Winnipeg’s neighbourhoods safer for all women and girls.”

For more info on these new initiatives, click here: <http://bit.ly/2dtSaK1>

NEW FUNDING FOR INNOVATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Manitoba’s new government is providing additional funding for the Early Childhood Development Innovation Fund (ECDIF) to continue support of a community-led initiative focused on creating opportunities for young children and families in the Point Douglas area, Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart (MLA for Portage la Prairie) announced this week.

“We are making this investment because we know success in life starts with supporting families and mothers during pregnancy and throughout the preschool years,” said Wishart. “The Winnipeg Boldness Project aims to ensure children have the proper supports and conditions for development at this young age to lay the groundwork for a bright future.”

Over the past two years, the Winnipeg Boldness Project has been compiling data and designing interventions alongside partner organizations that will help to create real change solutions for the complex challenges in this community, the minister said.

More information about the Winnipeg Boldness Project is available at www.winnipegboldness.ca/.

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES 2016 INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Kelvin Goertzen (MLA for Steinbach) officially launched the 2016 influenza immunization campaign at an event in Steinbach this week. “Getting vaccinated is your best defence against this preventable disease,” said Goertzen. “I encourage all Manitobans to roll up their sleeve and get the flu shot.”

For more info on the flu and how to get your free flu shot, visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/flu/index.html.

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RETURNING TO SESSION AFTER A BUSY SUMMER IN THE CONSTITUENCY

By Jeff Wharton, MLA for Gimli



As September rolls along and life gets back to a normal fall routine, it's nice to reflect on some of the great events and celebrations that took place over the summer in the Gimli constituency.

It began with Canada's 149th birthday on July 1, when you couldn't drive past a community in this constituency and not

notice a Canada Day parade, bustling markets and fireworks to cap it all off.

Moving through July, we celebrated the Gimli Film Festival, Winnipeg Beach Boardwalk Days and parades in Hecla and Riverton. We kick-started August with Gimli's Icelandic Festival, and that month also brought fish-fry events in Clandeboye, Gimli and Petersfield.

There were too many great celebrations to name, and organizers, volunteers and participants deserve a shout-out for making them all special.

However, Manitobans have finished their vacations and are going back to work. And our new government is getting back to business as well. The 40 MLAs in our Progressive Conservative Caucus are returning to the House on Oct. 3, working for Manitobans with important legislation.

For workers across the province, our government is taking our Labour Relations Act amendments into second reading. When passed into law, they will make

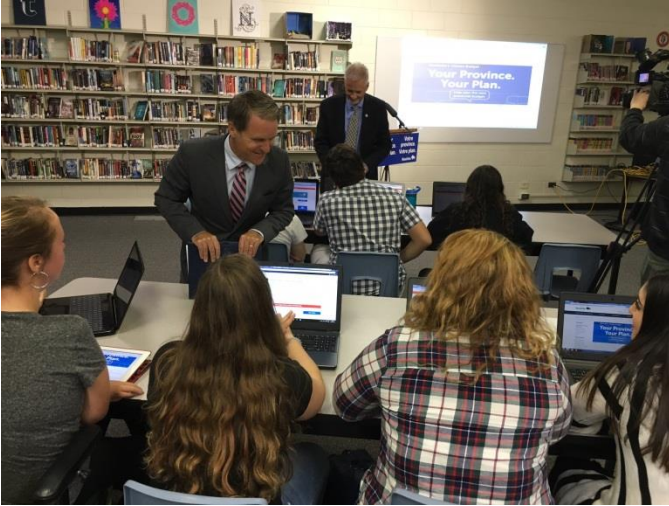
workplace union certification by secret-ballot votes mandatory. This change will allow workers the freedom to participate in decisions on union certification without fear of intimidation by their colleagues or union groups.

Led by Premier Brian Pallister, we're returning accountability and transparency to the legislature with changes to the Elections Act to set fixed dates for the beginning of general election campaigns and six-month time limits for calling byelections. Our new government is also proceeding to abolish the 'vote tax' subsidy for political parties and to restore Manitobans' right to vote on major tax increases.

We are, as well, pushing forward this fall with a law to better protect children at risk. Our proposed Protecting Children (Information Sharing) Act would allow Child and Family Services, police agencies and schools to improve their sharing of critical information when it's in kids' best interests.

These are just some of the measures our new government is moving ahead with over the next several weeks to continue toward our goal to make Manitoba the most improved province in Canada. The summer is over - it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

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Finance Minister Cameron Friesen launching budget consultations at College Belliveau in Winnipeg



Status of Women Minister Rochelle Squires at an announcement for the Winnipeg Safe City initiative



Thompson MLA Kelly Bindle with Health Co-ordinators from KTC who help provide services to outlying communities in the north



Indigenous Relations Minister Eileen Clarke takes part in Orange Shirt Day to honour survivors of the residential school system



Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart with the University of Manitoba Grad Students Society