

# Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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## PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING TO STRENGTHEN NEWCOMER SUPPORTS

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The Manitoba government is investing up to \$3.1 million in services that support newcomers to Manitoba, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week at events in Steinbach and Winnipeg.

“Our strategic investments will improve the settlement, language, employment and community supports newcomers that need as soon as they arrive in Manitoba to put them on a path to success,” said Goertzen. “Our province continues to grow largely because of immigration, and we’ve seen the many ways newcomers benefit our culture, communities and economy.”

The province is reinvesting revenue generated by Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program (MPNP) application fees into 17 organizations across the province. In November 2016, the province announced MPNP enhancements to eliminate a backlog in processing times, fast-track nominations and reinvest revenue generated by a new \$500 application fee for skilled workers and existing \$2,500 application fees for businesses. The reinvestment would help immigrants and refugees integrate and settle in the province at no additional cost to Manitobans.

The province held several newcomer roundtable consultations to identify which service areas could benefit from strategic investments. Participants recommended programming to better integrate newcomers with multiple barriers or special needs, as well as targeted supports for newcomer youth and families that face unique challenges.

MPNP has made significant contributions to Manitoba’s economy since its introduction in 1998. The program celebrated its 20th year in 2018 and in that year, saw the highest number of nominations to date, the highest amount of nominees with jobs and one of the highest levels of rural immigration.

## PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW FUNDING TO SUPPORT FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION



The Manitoba government is providing \$176,000 in new funding through the Family Violence Prevention Program to support women's resource centres in Winnipeg and Brandon, Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires, minister responsible for the status of women, announced this week while at the West Central Women's Resource Centre.

"Our government values and recognizes the critical work and resources these centres provide to women, their children and the community as a whole," said Squires. "When women experience relationship or sexual violence, it is crucial that services are accessible and available in their local community. Today's announcement will ensure these centres can continue to develop positive relationships with the community, and be a safe place of healing and growth for women and their families."

The minister noted the West Central Women's Resource Centre (WCWRC) is receiving annual funding for the first time, officially bringing it under the umbrella of the Family Violence Prevention Program. The centre will receive \$118,000 in annual funding starting in 2019-20. The minister also announced \$58,000 in new funding for the Women's Resource Centre in Brandon.

## LEGISLATION INTRODUCED THAT WOULD IMPROVE BUSINESS TRANSPARENCY

The Manitoba government has introduced legislation that would reduce interprovincial trade barriers while improving business ownership transparency, Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen announced this week.

"These amendments support our commitment to making Manitoba an excellent place to do business, while balancing the need for safeguards to address money laundering, terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax avoidance," said Pedersen.

The proposed changes in the business registration, supervision and ownership transparency act include:

- Amending Manitoba's business statutes to allow business registration and reporting provisions under the New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA) and other trade agreements. This amendment would allow Manitoba to meet its business registration and reporting reconciliation requirements under NWPTA effective Jan. 1, 2020.
- Amending The Corporations Act to require privately held corporations to track beneficial ownership information and eliminate the use of bearer warrants, to prevent or mitigate money-laundering, terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax avoidance. This would implement commitments made by all Canadian jurisdictions at the December 2017 federal, provincial and territorial finance ministers' meeting.
- Enabling the transfer of registrar functions under The Cooperatives Act to the Companies Office, which would consolidate functions from similar acts in one place.

These amendments would uphold the Manitoba government's commitments to federal, provincial and jurisdictional partners, Pedersen noted.