

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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PROVINCE FUNDS 225 ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

August 23, 2018



The Manitoba government will provide \$3.7 million in grants to projects for non-profit and community-led organizations, Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton announced recently.

“Investing in non-profit organizations helps to build Manitoba’s communities while encouraging economic development across the province,” said Wharton. “Our government is pleased to provide increased financial support for non-profit and community-led organizations that will benefit Manitobans, rejuvenate and preserve infrastructure, and strengthen our province.”

A total of 175 projects were approved through the Community Places program, which provides funding and planning assistance to build, upgrade, expand or acquire community facilities. Successful grant applicants must also contribute to project costs, often through local fundraising efforts, grants from other sources, or donated labour and materials.

“We see the tangible impact of this funding in our communities every day,” said Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Cathy Cox. “With this level of support, local community organizations across the province can ensure all Manitobans have continued access to safe, updated and inclusive spaces to enjoy now and in the future.”

Another 47 projects were approved through the new Community Support Small Grants program, which supports Manitoba’s non-profit and community-led organizations to build capacity, and support community-driven goals that have a public benefit.

More information on the Community Places program can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/mr/bldgcomm/cpp/

UPDATE ON NEW SCHOOLS FOR MANITOBA

Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen provided a progress report on the construction of seven new schools in Manitoba, which are at various phases of the design, tender and build process.

“Our government is building the most schools ever in Manitoba in such a short time period,” said Goertzen. “Over the past two decades, we averaged one new public school per year, but we’ve had to change our approach to keep up with unprecedented growth in some divisions. We’re happy to have found an innovative way to deliver the greatest value for money to Manitobans and ensure quality schools will be on time and on budget.”

In June 2017, the province issued a request for proposals (RFP) for two new schools – a kindergarten to Grade 8 in Winkler (Garden Valley School Division) and a grade 9 to 12 in Niverville (Hanover School Division). Construction is on schedule and expected to be complete Aug. 15, 2019, the minister said.

As part of Budget 2018 in March, the province confirmed construction of five additional new schools. It plans to issue a RFP Oct. 15 for the construction of a kindergarten to Grade 8 and a grade 9 to 12 school, which will be constructed together on the same site in Waverley West (Pembina Trails School Division). The province is tendering both schools as one bundled package and will use a consolidated design-build procurement strategy to achieve design efficiencies and cost savings. The province expects to complete the RFP process and award a contract in early 2019, Goertzen said.



The province will also issue separate tenders for the construction of three schools under an enhanced version of the traditional design-bid-build procurement process to achieve a compressed design schedule and cost savings.

The minister said design work is already 66 per cent complete and the timing of the competitive tender process is as follows:

- Nov. 16 for a kindergarten to Grade 8 school in southeast Brandon (Brandon School Division);
- Nov. 30 for a kindergarten to Grade 8 school in Waterford Green (Winnipeg School Division); and
- Dec. 14 for a kindergarten to Grade 5 school on Templeton Avenue (Seven Oaks School Division).

The province anticipates awarding those tenders in late 2018 or early 2019.

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MANITOBA INVESTS IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR



The Canada and Manitoba governments are investing up to \$2.85 million over the next five years at the Manitoba Beef and Forage Institute (MBFI) in Brandon, supporting the sustainable growth of the livestock sector, Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler and his federal counterpart announced this week.

“The beef and forage sectors have economic and environmental benefits for our entire province,” said Eichler. “Our investment recognizes applied research, like the work being done at MBFI, is an invaluable resource for producers and the agricultural sector as a whole. MBFI is a prime example of what can be achieved through a partnership between beef and forage producers, conservation organizations, industry stakeholders and governments.”

Funding for MBFI will support continued beef and forage research at sites throughout the Westman region and share this information with producers and other stakeholders throughout the province. Research focuses on innovation, herd management, land productivity, environmental effects and benefits of grazing and other technological advancements to support profitability, sustainability and value-added opportunities.

For more information, visit www.mbf.ca.

STAY SAFE THIS HARVEST SEASON!

With harvest underway across much of the province, Manitoba Agriculture is reminding farmers, farm families, employees and motorists to keep safety as a top priority during this extremely busy period, recognizing there are many tasks to be completed when the weather co-operates. Planning and taking appropriate precautions can help limit the health and safety risks connected to the harvest season, with the goal of reducing the likelihood of injury.

To help improve safety on and around the farm, Manitobans can:

- take extra precautions when driving past or near slow-moving farm equipment;
- be respectful of other drivers, as long lineups of slow-moving vehicles can cause frustration;
- ensure all lights are working and properly adjusted before moving farm equipment on public roads;
- be aware of height, length and weight restrictions on farm vehicles and when permits may be required;
- recognize the risks associated with fatigue when driving or handling other tasks;
- regularly inspect and maintain farm equipment;
- create a safe, separate and supervised play area for children on the farm; and
- identify which farm tasks may be appropriate for young people, based on their age, skill levels and the youth work guidelines available at www.cultivatesafety.org.

