

# Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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## PROVINCE OF MANITOBA LAUNCHES ECONOMIC GROWTH ACTION PLAN

December 7, 2018

The Manitoba government is launching its *Economic Growth Action Plan* and establishing a modern approach to supporting economic development in the province, Premier Brian Pallister announced this week at the annual State of the Province address in Winnipeg.

“I’d like to thank Dave Angus and Barb Gamey for leading a comprehensive public engagement with over 500 representatives of business, industry, economic development organizations and academia,” said Pallister. “Throughout this process, we heard calls for a more consistent, co-ordinated and nimble approach to government decision-making on economic development. We are pleased to deliver a renewed and reinvigorated approach to economic development in Manitoba.”

Angus and Gamey’s report, *Growing Manitoba’s Economy*, articulates themes important to all sectors of the economy, such as skills development, sector growth, access to capital, Indigenous economic development and competitiveness.

The premier noted the province will prioritize the report’s recommendations for immediate, medium and long-term action in a phased implementation plan.

Phase one of the *Economic Growth Action Plan* will establish an Economic Growth Committee of Cabinet and a new Manitoba Economic Development office to lead economic development initiatives and projects with business, industry and stakeholders. Seven regional and strategic partnerships will also be established to deliver economic development programs and front-line services.

In addition to a new governance structure, the initial phase will include new economic development programs, such as the creation of a new Innovation Growth Program, a revamped Tax Increment Financing Framework and a Skills, Talent and Knowledge Labour Market Strategy.

“When we formed government, we inherited an outdated and unfocused patchwork of programs,” said Pallister. “It lacked co-ordination, clearly defined goals and mechanisms to measure outcomes. We are establishing a modern approach to address today’s challenges and unlock the untapped economic opportunities in our province and around the world.”

Learn more about Manitoba’s Economic Growth Action Plan at [manitobagrowth.ca](http://manitobagrowth.ca).

## MANITOBA SIGNS AGREEMENT TO FUND ADDITIONAL ADDICTIONS TREATMENT



Manitoba has signed on to the Government of Canada's Emergency Treatment Fund, increasing funding to establish flexible length withdrawal management and recovery beds, and establish mobile clinical support services in Winnipeg and Brandon that are appropriate for people who use methamphetamine.

The announcement was made this week at the Crisis Response Centre in Winnipeg by Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen and the Honourable Jim Carr on behalf of the Government of Canada.

"Manitoba has responded to the unique challenge that methamphetamine use presents to our communities with a number of initiatives including the opening of five Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine clinics," said Friesen. "We believe the creation of flexible length withdrawal beds, as well as accompanying clinical support services, to treat people recovering from meth addiction will make a meaningful difference as we all work together to respond to the sharp rise in use of this devastating drug in our communities."

## PROVINCE TAKES ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



The Manitoba government is remembering victims of gender-based violence and creating a cabinet committee to find solutions, Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires, minister responsible for the status of women, announced this week.

"Manitoba has some of the worst rates of gender-based violence in Canada," said Squires. "As Dec. 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we are honouring 12 women we have either lost to acts of violence over the past year or were confirmed as victims of homicide over the past year, as well as the women and girls who experience violence as their daily reality."

The minister also announced the appointment of a Gender-Based Violence Cabinet Committee to better collaborate across departments to meet the needs of Manitobans in critical situations.

"This is the first time a cabinet committee will focus solely on this topic in Manitoba," said Squires. "The committee will help us integrate services and take a government-wide approach to co-ordinate policies, legislation and initiatives on pervasive issues such as domestic and sexual violence and harassment."

## LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO PROTECT PATIENTS AT RISK OF SERIOUS HARM

Proposed changes to legislation would allow a person's personal health information to be disclosed without their consent if necessary to reduce the risk of serious harm to themselves or others, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced this week.

"There have been incidents in Manitoba where health-care professionals were prevented from conveying their concerns to a patient's support network that have ended in tragedy," said Friesen. "These amendments will bring Manitoba in line with jurisdictions that have done a better job of balancing the duty to protect personal health information with the need to notify loved ones in rare cases where an individual discharged from hospital can possibly present danger to themselves or others."

An amendment to The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA) would allow trustees of personal health information to disclose an individual's medical records without consent to caregivers, loved ones or support people if they believe doing so reduces the risk of serious harm being done to the health or safety of that person or anyone else. Trustees include health-care professionals, as well as health facilities, agencies and public bodies that collect or maintain personal health information.

The Mental Health Act would also be amended to allow disclosure of information from a patient's clinical record in a psychiatric facility without consent. The disclosure would only be made if the facility's medical director had reason to believe it necessary to reduce the risk of serious harm to the mental or physical health or safety of the patient or another person.

## MANITOBA ANNOUNCES CONSULTATIONS ON MANDATORY ENTRY-LEVEL TRAINING FOR TRUCK DRIVERS



The Manitoba government will move forward with a broad consultation with industry and other affected stakeholders on mandatory entry-level training (MELT) for truck drivers in the province, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler said this week.

"Our government is focused on safety above all else," Schuler said. "Mandatory entry-level training is something the trucking industry has asked for and we want to work in a collaborative way to ensure that Manitoba roadways are as safe as possible."

In April, Manitoba Infrastructure began consultation in conjunction with Manitoba Education and Training and Manitoba Public Insurance, working with western partners to establish a harmonized foundation on driver training for class one vehicles.

As part of the industry consultations, staff from Manitoba Infrastructure will consult and collaborate on training standards, approaches to out-of-province drivers coming to Manitoba and the scope of individuals who will require this training. The consultation meetings will take place Jan. 7 in Winnipeg and Jan. 10 in Brandon.