

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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BRINGING NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES TO EASTERN MANITOBA

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The Manitoba government has concluded a deal to revitalize and bring new economic opportunities to Pineland Forest Nursery and the surrounding region, with the successful bidder being a company that plans to grow and develop hemp. The announcement was made this week by Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen, Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires, and MLA Dennis Smook.

“Thanks to this investment, a valuable provincial asset can now be repurposed and continue to be a significant employer in the region,” said Pedersen. “It will build upon Manitoba’s strengths in value-added agricultural processing and bring new life to the area, with plans to hire even more people than once worked at the nursery.”

The new venture, Botanist Organic Growers Corp., has agreed to purchase the on-site assets and negotiated a long-term lease for Crown land previously used by Pineland Forest Nursery. There are plans to cultivate hemp and eventually establish a processing facility that will turn hemp into biomass for cannabidiol (CBD) material.

Pineland Forest Nursery, near Hadashville, was originally established to produce seedlings for the province and supplied some seedlings for customers outside the province as well. An extensive review determined the nursery was not viable as it was losing nearly half a million dollars a year.

“Our government is pleased to see this environmental and economic asset renewed,” said Squires. “This sale does not change our commitment to sustainable forestry as reforestation and seedling planting will continue throughout the province. A request for proposals was issued in November, 2018, and a deal has now been reached with private nurseries to supply our next crop of seedlings.”

The province is also pleased to confirm the University of Winnipeg will continue to have access to the area as part of a 20-year research agreement with the province, Minister Squires noted.

NEW PCH BEDS ANNOUNCED IN STEINBACH AND CARMAN

As part of our government's commitment to create 1200 new personal care home beds by 2025, events were held this week in Steinbach and Carman to announce funding for the construction and operation of a total of 253 new personal care home beds.

"We remain committed to ensuring there are consistent, reliable services when and where people need them most," said Premier Brian Pallister. "These new personal care homes will add to the province's total number of personal care home beds and ensure area residents can access the quality care they need."

We are developing a sustainable funding model to achieve the goal of constructing 1,200 personal care home beds by 2025, as part of a comprehensive strategy for enhancing supports for our seniors in their community.

To accomplish this, we asked non-profits, regional health authorities, and private providers of personal care homes for proposals to construct 1,200 PCH beds to address the emerging health care needs facing Manitoba families.

We are pleased to move forward with the 143-bed personal care home in Steinbach and 110-bed facility in Carman to support those needing 24-hour nursing care. These new beds will address the long-standing and growing needs of Steinbach and Carman for those requiring additional services, in a setting of person-centered care.

Construction of these new facilities supports the Minister's mandate to oversee the addition of 1,200 personal care home beds by the start of 2025 as part of a comprehensive strategy to enhance supports for seniors in Manitoba communities.

FUNDING ANNOUNCED TO REDUCE YOUTH CRIME IN THOMPSON



The Manitoba government is distributing nearly \$450,000 through the Proceeds of Crime Fund to police agencies across Manitoba including an investment of nearly \$50,000 to support programs to reduce youth crime in Thompson, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced earlier this week.

"Our government is committed to keeping Manitobans safe and helping community leaders to create positive change," Cullen said. "When we work together to focus on the needs of at-risk young people, we create opportunities for individuals and a stronger and safer community for all."

Provincial funding will be co-ordinated through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) detachment in Thompson. The RCMP will provide \$25,500 to support the work of the Peace and Prevention Group, which launched in May 2018, and approximately \$23,600 will be dedicated to bringing members of the StreetReach program to Thompson from Winnipeg.

The Peace and Prevention Group was created by Thompson community leaders to help reduce youth crime and improve community safety. The group co-ordinates patrols, warm-up stations and free activities to connect with at-risk youth, and is making efforts to reach them through schools and shelters with the goal of preventing suicide.