

# Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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Manitobans

## MANITOBANS INVITED TO LOOK NORTH!

*February 28, 2017*

Premier Brian Pallister and Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Cliff Cullen announced the next phase of the Manitoba government's Look North Strategy, a long-term vision for sustainable economic and business development and growth for the province's north.

"Northern Manitoba is home to diverse economic opportunities, unique cultural and tourism experiences, an excellent quality of life, an eager labour market and welcoming communities," said Pallister. "Whether businesses or investors are looking to move or expand an existing business, have an idea they would like to develop into an entrepreneurial opportunity or wish to build a partnership that will result in economic development and job creation, we encourage them to 'Look North' and investigate the untapped potential of this vast region of Manitoba."

The strategy encourages those from outside northern Manitoba to consider investing in the incredible, untapped potential of the region, the premier said. It includes a website, [www.looknorthmb.ca](http://www.looknorthmb.ca), with information on building a business in northern Manitoba, encourages Manitobans to share their vision and love for the north via social media using the

hashtag #looknorthmb or by submitting short videos, photos or in writing.

Dates for a number of community roundtables throughout Manitoba as well as three Northern Economic Summits to be held in The Pas (April 3 and 4), Thompson (April 4 and 5) and Churchill (April 5 and 6) were also announced.

"Manitoba's north is a region ripe with opportunities, particularly in areas such as the sustainable development of natural resources and the expansion of tourism," said Cullen. "Look North is an ongoing and in-depth process that will continue to engage Manitobans as we create the environment necessary for the attraction of new businesses and the expansion of existing expertise."



This announcement builds on Manitoba's commitment to develop a renewed Duty to Consult framework to advance reconciliation by fostering a mutually respectful relationship between the Crown and Indigenous peoples, the premier said. The renewed frameworks will identify more effective mechanisms to address and mitigate adverse impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights. Manitoba is developing a plan to engage Indigenous communities in the development of the renewed framework, he noted.

A plan is also in development to engage Manitoba's First Nation communities with interest in increasing their participation in the economic benefits of mining within Manitoba's highest mineral potential regions, Cullen said. The input of these communities will inform the mining sector specific elements of the renewed Duty to Consult framework including establishing efficient timelines with respect to permitting, certainty around land tenure and adequate resources for communities to participate in a meaningful consultation process.

A simultaneous launch took place in Thompson, where Kelly Bindle, MLA for Thompson and Legislative Assistant for Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade, was joined by northern economic development task force co-chairs Onekanew (Chief) Christian Sinclair of Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Chuck Davidson, president and CEO of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, who are previewing the strategy during meetings with northern communities and business leaders.

"This announcement is further proof that our government is committed to bringing new investment, new ideas and new opportunities to northern Manitoba," said Bindle. "There is much to love about

this region and I am proud to be part of a team that recognizes all the north has to offer."

The announcement also highlighted several of the success stories found across northern Manitoba. From small, unique shops that find their roots in northern Manitoba but maintain a presence in Winnipeg to southern-based businesses operating in the north, there are numerous inspiring success stories found with a direct connection to Manitoba's north, the premier noted.

A northern tourism strategy being led by Travel Manitoba will help inform the Look North economic development strategy by focusing on the tourism opportunities that exist throughout the region, Cullen said.

"The need for economic diversification and development throughout Manitoba's north has been ignored for too long and short-term fixes have not prompted sustainable development," said the premier. "Northern Manitoba is a region with the potential to contribute in previously unimagined ways to our province's economy. Look North will engage all Manitobans in a consultative process that will encourage the creativity and vision necessary if we are to unleash the true potential of our province's north."



**MANITOBA'S NORTH IS A REGION THAT IS  
RIPE WITH ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

**Hon. Cliff Cullen**  
MLA for Spruce Woods

Minister of Growth,  
Enterprise and Trade

Long-term economic development in northern Manitoba is crucial to the province's prosperity and growth. With this in mind, our government is calling on Manitobans and others to make their own success stories in this vast, untapped region by contributing creativity and vision to its development.

Our Look North Strategy for sustainable economic and business development and growth for northern Manitoba has taken a significant step forward with the beginning of the plan's exciting next phase. We are encouraging businesses and investors from outside the province's north to consider investing in the region's unlimited potential by developing entrepreneurial opportunities, opening businesses, expanding existing expertise or building partnerships leading to job creation and economic development.

This new step in the Look North Strategy, announced on Feb. 21 in Winnipeg and Thompson, involves the website [www.looknorthmb.ca](http://www.looknorthmb.ca) that has information on building businesses in northern Manitoba. As part of the initiative, we are encouraging Manitobans to share their vision and appreciation for the north through social media by submitting short videos or photographs, or in writing, and by using the hashtag #looknorthmb.

Our Manitoba government will also hold three Northern Economic Summits in The Pas, Thompson and Churchill in the first week of April, as well as other community roundtables throughout the province to discuss northern growth and development. Travel Manitoba, meanwhile, is leading a tourism strategy to examine opportunities across the northern region, which offers unique cultural and immersive experiences such as remote fly-in fishing as well as our province's widely known polar bears, northern lights and beluga whales.

However, tourism is only one sector of potential growth in this part of Manitoba. We recognize that the north is a diverse region with opportunities in various areas, particularly in sustainable natural resource development. Look North is an in-depth process that continues to work toward the creation of a competitive and business-friendly environment that will allow renewed opportunity into the region.

The need for economic development and diversification in the north was ignored for far too long under the previous NDP administration. Our Progressive Conservative government sees the incredible potential of this vast region, as well as its array of opportunities, great quality of life and enthusiastic labour market.

We are committed to bringing new ideas, investment and prosperity to northern Manitoba. We want people across Manitoba and others outside the province, to 'Look North' and see the opportunities for themselves.



## NEW \$400 MILLION PEA PROCESSING PLANT COMING TO PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

The Manitoba government and Roquette recently announced a historic investment in the province's food-processing industry, confirming the France-based company's plans to build a new, \$400-million pea-processing facility near Portage la Prairie. Premier Brian Pallister and Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler were joined by Edouard Roquette, Roquette's chairperson and Jean-Marc Gilson, Roquette's CEO, as well as many industry partners for the announcement made at the Legislative Building on Global Pulse Day.

"We are pleased to enter into this historic partnership with Roquette, which will result in an unparalleled investment in Manitoba's food-processing and agricultural industry," said Pallister. "This new facility will create jobs and establish stronger markets for Canadian farmers while benefiting our province's economy for decades to come. It also demonstrates to Canada and to the world that our province is open for business and ready to compete for investments in agricultural production and innovation."

"This new investment in Manitoba marks a key step in reinforcing Roquette's leadership position in offering high-value plant-based ingredients around the world," said Roquette. "The new plant, which will be the largest dedicated to pea protein processing in the world, will support the future of Manitoba's agriculture industry and help address the growing global demand for innovative food, nutrition and health products and solutions."

Once open, the facility is expected to create approximately 150 jobs with an estimated annual payroll of around \$9 million, the premier noted. The facility will help better serve customers in North America and globally with high-value nutritional choices including vegetarian foods and high-protein sport nutrition products, he added.

"This new facility will be an enormous boost to our agricultural economy as a whole and is an exciting opportunity for Manitoba to continue to build its reputation as a leader in food development and processing," said Eichler. "Peas are an excellent source of protein, which is in growing demand around the world. They are also a sustainable crop, complementing the land management and environmental stewardship techniques practiced by our farmers."

Canada is the largest producer of peas in the world. Roquette chose Manitoba as the location for the new facility due to the quality of the workforce, the strength of its diverse economy, location as a transportation hub by air, rail and road to the rest of the continent, and access to reliable, sustainable and economical hydroelectric energy.





## **MANITOBA CALLS FOR FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE FUNDING**

Premier Brian Pallister has called on the federal government to join Manitoba in pursuing a partnership on sustainable, long-term health-care funding, once again referring to the federal government's unilateral approach as a significant erosion of the federal funding of health care that will place additional strain on provinces and territories.

"Health care is the single largest budget item for provinces and territories, and we are responsible for ensuring the quality front-line delivery of health-care services to Canadians," said Pallister. "Provinces representing approximately 90 per cent of Canada's population continue to seek a true partnership. However, the federal government remains unwilling to meet us at the table, choosing instead to pursue bilateral deals that are insufficient to meet the increasing pressures on provincial and territorial health systems."

"Health care is the top priority of Canadians, yet federal funding to the provinces and territories for health care is at a historic low. Our government has inherited among the worst wait times in the country for emergency departments and other services, and we have been left to battle a massive inherited deficit," Pallister said. "The future of our provincial health-care system and our ability to improve the quality and delivery of services is dependent on a sustainable partnership from the federal government. To protect health care, the federal government must fund health care."

## **PROVINCE CELEBRATES FIRST ANNUAL ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE DAY**

The Manitoba government is commemorating the first annual Royal Canadian Mounted Police Day to recognize the many contributions of RCMP officers to the safety and well-being of the province, Justice Minister Heather Stefanson announced on February 1.

"It is an honour to be part of this special celebration, recognizing the important work the RCMP are doing in our communities to ensure public safety, especially their work with young people throughout Manitoba," said Stefanson. "The RCMP have played an important role in Manitoba's history, which is clear as we celebrate our country's 150th birthday. From all Manitobans, we thank you for your dedication, your service and your sacrifice."

To help recognize the many contributions of the RCMP in Manitoba, the minister invited young people throughout the province to draw, design or create a card and mail it to the province by May 31. The cards will be displayed at the Legislative Building and then formally presented to the RCMP later this year.

The RCMP were formally established by an act of parliament on Feb. 1, 1920, merging the North-West Mounted Police and Dominion Police of Eastern Canada. In Manitoba, RCMP Day was established by a private member's bill introduced last fall by Cliff Graydon, MLA for Emerson.

Manitobans who wish to send a card to the RCMP can do by mailing it to:

Manitoba Justice  
1801-155 Carlton Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR FAMILIES OPENS IN NORTH POINT DOUGLAS

A new, \$7.5-million affordable housing project has opened its doors to families in Winnipeg's North Point Douglas neighbourhood, Families Minister Scott Fielding announced recently.

"Austin Family Commons will become part of the fabric of this community while ensuring more families have access to affordable and welcoming homes," said Fielding. "During construction, social enterprise and community partnerships delivered on-the-job training and skills development opportunities which provided benefits for members of the community that extend beyond this project alone. Our government is proud to join with the community to celebrate this grand opening with the many people who have helped make it possible."

Austin Family Commons, located at 150 Austin St. North, is a three-storey, 19-unit family apartment building designed with input from the community. It features mostly three- and four-bedroom units to meet the needs of larger families. It also includes a small elder suite, which allows an older family member to live independently while still remaining close to family members for support and companionship.

All rents will be set at affordable housing levels for Winnipeg, with the intent to have half of the units available on a rent geared-to-income basis to accommodate lower-income households, the minister noted.

For more information about affordable housing in Manitoba, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/housing/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/housing/). For more information about WHRC and its properties, visit [www.whrc.ca/](http://www.whrc.ca/).

## GOVERNMENT PROVIDES EMERGENCY SUPPORTS FOR REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

The Manitoba government is working with municipal officials, non-profit settlement organizations and charities to provide emergency relief for refugee claimants crossing the Manitoba border into Canada, Premier Brian Pallister announced recently, with Education and Training Minister Ian Wishart during a visit to Welcome Place.

Included in the announcement were the following:

- 14 units of emergency housing in response to the growing need for temporary shelter for refugee claimants.
- \$70,000 in funding for MANSO to support a refugee response coordinator for 2017-18.
- \$110,000 in funding for Welcome Place for 2017-18 to support services for refugee claimants including paralegal services and safe transportation from Emerson to Winnipeg.

The Government of Manitoba has also been approached by the Paramedic Association of Manitoba (PAM) and is finalizing details that will see primary care paramedics located in the community of Emerson on a temporary basis. This agreement will provide medically trained personnel within the community to supplement the efforts of local first responders in delivering emergency care to those most in need.



## PROVINCE COMMITS TO NEW LEGISLATION TO REDUCE RED TAPE

The Manitoba government marked the beginning of Red Tape Awareness Week by making a commitment to introduce new legislation that would reduce the burden of regulatory requirements, Deputy Premier Heather Stefanson announced recently.

"Our government is committed to reducing unnecessary barriers for businesses, local governments, non-profit organizations and all Manitobans. Proclaiming Red Tape Awareness Week is evidence of our recognition of the burdens posed by the status quo," said Stefanson. "We want to make sure we remove unnecessary administrative burdens so Manitobans can access the services they need in order to make important contributions to their businesses and communities without the frustration of long waits or confusing instructions."

"This is part of our path to becoming the most improved province in all of Canada," said Shannon Martin, MLA for Morris and co-chair of the Red Tape Task Force. "Excessive regulation and unnecessary red tape create a drag on our economy, costing Manitoba's businesses hundreds of millions of dollars."

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) has advocated for many years that provinces adopt policies that reduce red tape for small businesses, the deputy premier noted.

"We're delighted to see the Manitoba government make this landmark announcement and become the first province to commit to legislate a one-for-one law," said Laura Jones, executive vice-president and chief

strategic officer, CFIB. "There is nothing better than seeing a province go from a laggard to a leader on reducing red tape. Manitoba is now the province to watch on regulatory accountability."

New, proposed regulatory accountability legislation would require government to remove a regulatory requirement with a similar administrative burden every time a new requirement is put in place, Stefanson said. This one-for-one rule would cap the growth of regulatory requirements, she noted, adding a stricter two-for-one rule would be enforced until 2021.

The proposed legislation would also allow government to better track regulatory requirements, redesign approval and review processes to provide additional transparency and require more detailed analysis before regulations are put in place, the deputy premier said.

"People across the province have told us that red tape prevents them from growing their businesses," said Stefanson. "Our government is committed to making Manitoba the most improved province for regulatory requirements by 2020."

The proposed legislation will be introduced in the spring, she added.



## **PROVINCE MAKES IMPORTANT INVESTMENTS IN WESTMAN HEALTHCARE**

The Manitoba government recently announced two major investments to improve healthcare delivery in Western Manitoba.

On February 3, a \$23 million construction contract was awarded to Horizon Builders Ltd. of Brandon for the redevelopment and expansion of the emergency department at the Dauphin Regional Health Centre. On February 7, Health Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced that the province would invest over \$3.4 million to purchase and install a replacement magnetic resonance imager (MRI) at the Brandon Regional Health Centre.

“We thank patients and staff for their patience during construction and look forward to the improved emergency department,” said Goertzen of the project in Dauphin. “The new emergency department will ensure staff at the facility will be equipped to provide quality care for many years to come.”

“Investments in replacement equipment ensure patients have access to the best possible diagnostic care,” said Goertzen regarding the new MRI for Brandon. “Once installed, the new equipment will make a real difference for patients in Brandon and the surrounding area.”

The current scanner, which provided more than 9,000 procedures last year, is more than 10 years old and needs repairs more frequently. The new scanner will be larger, reducing problems with claustrophobia for patients and allowing technologists to scan multiple body areas without moving or repositioning the patient.

## **VISIT OUR NEW CAUCUS WEBSITE!**

The Manitoba PC Caucus has recently launched a new and improved website at [www.pcmbcaucus.com](http://www.pcmbcaucus.com)!

Our new website features information on your Manitoba PC MLAs, the latest news from the Manitoba Legislature and around the province, and easy access to all our social media channels. Add us to your favourites list and visit often to see what's new!

## **THE LEGISLATURE IS BACK – WATCH LIVE!**

Did you know that you can livestream video and audio of the proceedings in the Manitoba Legislature? Visit [http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/business/house\\_broadcasts.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/legislature/business/house_broadcasts.html) and tune in to follow the work of your Manitoba PC MLAs when the house is sitting.

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*Jon Reyes and Rochelle Squires at Waverley Grand Mosque*



*Wayne Ewasko, Brad Michaleski, Bob Lagasse, Reg Helwer, and Len Isleifson celebrate Pink Shirt Day on February 22<sup>nd</sup>*



*Cliff Graydon and Heather Stefanson celebrate RCMP Day*



*Andrew Smith and Blair Yakimoski welcome a new Canadian citizen at a Citizenship Ceremony held at the Legislature*



*Rick Wowchuk and Kelly Bindle at Trappers Festival Parade*



*Alan Lagimodiere celebrating I Love to Read Month at a school in his Selkirk constituency*