

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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PROVINCE PURCHASING 65 NEW AMBULANCES

February 8, 2019



The Manitoba government will purchase 65 replacement ambulances as part of efforts to modernize its fleet while supporting paramedics in responding rapidly and effectively to medical emergencies across the province, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced this week.

"Every day, paramedics take life-saving care directly to hundreds of patients, responding to 911 calls as well as transporting patients to and between hospitals and other care facilities," said Friesen. "This significant investment will ensure our paramedics continue to have the right equipment to support the excellent care they provide to Manitobans."

The minister noted this investment builds upon the work underway to implement recommendations of the 2013 EMS System Review. This includes a \$5 million annual investment in 60 full-time paramedic positions throughout rural Manitoba, to reduce Manitoba's reliance on on-call staffing. These new full-time positions, 35 of which have been filled, will ensure ambulances are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Additional investments have been made in capital projects that support the delivery of consistent, quality emergency medical services, including the construction of new EMS stations in Snow Lake and Lynn Lake and new crew quarters for the Kinosota Trails station in Sandy Bay.

"Recommendations of the 2013 EMS System Review, which included significant consultation with front-line care providers, are guiding our investments," said Friesen. "Our approach is focused on implementing changes gradually. This includes the creation of a consistent, integrated EMS and patient transport model as part of Manitoba's broader health system transformation."

For more information on emergency medical services in Manitoba, visit:

www.gov.mb.ca/health/ems/index.html.

GOVERNMENTS MAKE MAJOR INVESTMENT IN FARM SAFETY

The Manitoba Government, in partnership with the Government of Canada, are investing more than \$1.1 million over five years in the Keystone Agricultural Producers (KAP) to deliver the Farm Safety Program and to develop safety tools, training and resources for farmers in Manitoba, Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler announced with his federal counterpart this week.

The Manitoba Farm Safety Program is a continuation of a three year Growing Forward 2 – Growing Actions project. This continuation will fulfil the development and delivery of safety training, tools and resources in the agriculture sector.

“Farming continues to be one of the most dangerous occupations in Canada, with risk of injuries increasing with the use of heavy machinery, working with livestock, fatigue and extreme weather conditions,” said Eichler. “The Farm Safety Program will enable Manitoba farms to establish on-farm safety programs to keep their families, their workers and themselves safe while operating their businesses.”

The program will continue to be administered by KAP, with design and development of the program being guided by the Farm Safety Council. The Farm Safety Council consist of representatives from a number of stakeholders including members appointed by Manitoba’s farm commodity associations, including Manitoba Pork Council, Manitoba Canola Growers Association, Vegetable Growers Association of Manitoba, Manitoba Egg Farmers, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Manitoba Corn Growers, Manitoba Beef Producers and Keystone Agricultural Producers.

More information about Ag Action Manitoba is available at www.manitoba.ca/agriculture under Canadian Agricultural Partnership, by calling 1-844-769-6224 (toll-free) or emailing agaction@gov.mb.ca.

NEW WEST PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES TO DELIVER FOR MANITOBANS



New West Partnership Trade Agreement (NWPTA) partners British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have entered into an agreement that will provide suppliers with a more efficient and timely way to resolve procurement concerns.

“The agreement establishes a single dispute resolution procedure for procurement under multiple trade agreements, simplifying the process for suppliers,” said Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen. “The New West Partnership Trade Agreement works to reduce trade barriers and support a thriving interprovincial market. This new, more efficient process will help to streamline trade in the western provinces.”

This provides suppliers with a timely and effective way to resolve concerns that a procurement issued by a government entity was not conducted in compliance with the rules of a particular trade agreement.

The NWPTA is an accord between the governments of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba that creates Canada's largest barrier-free interprovincial market. The agreement came into effect July 1, 2010, and has been fully implemented since July 1, 2013. Manitoba joined the NWPTA on Nov. 17, 2016.

For more information on this aspect of the NWPTA, visit www.newwestpartnership.ca/bid-protest.html.