

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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MANITOBA INVESTS IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR YOUTH

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The Manitoba government and Bell Let's Talk have partnered to contribute \$1 million to the Strongest Families Institute (SFI) to expand mental health services for children, youth and their families throughout Manitoba, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced this week.

"When families need help, they need it right away," said Friesen. "The Strongest Families Institute has a proven track record of providing mental health care to children and youth that is effective, family-centred, timely and accessible to those living in rural and remote areas. We thank Bell Let's Talk for raising awareness of mental health issues and for its support of this new program in Manitoba."

The Manitoba government and Bell Let's Talk are jointly contributing \$1 million over five years to SFI, an award-winning organization that provides evidence-based programs for children, youth and families dealing with mild to moderate mental illness and other health issues. SFI uses a unique distance coaching approach to support families in the privacy of their own homes at flexible hours. SFI is the only program of its kind in the country, offering a no-wait-list policy and services to families with children and youth aged three to 17 affected by significant challenges.

SFI currently operates in seven other provinces. Services will be available in both English and French when SFI formally launches its programs in Manitoba in the coming weeks. Approximately 1,000 families are expected to benefit from the service over the next five years, the minister noted.

To learn more about the Strongest Families Institute, visit www.strongestfamilies.com.

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GOVERNMENT RENEWS IMPORTANT CULTURAL INDUSTRY TAX CREDIT

Following a comprehensive review of the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit, the Manitoba government will make it permanent and remove the 'sunset clause', Sport, Culture and Heritage Minister Cathy Cox and Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced this week.

"By making the tax credit permanent, we are ensuring there is stability and predictability for Manitoba's media production industry," said Cox. "It is important to ensure the industry has what it needs to respond to growing demand for content from streaming services like Netflix, Amazon and Apple, as well as broadcasters across the globe."

Budget 2018 announced the establishment of an industry working group that partnered with government to evaluate the effectiveness and outcomes of this tax credit.

"Manitoba's cultural sector is an important contributor to the provincial economy, accounting for \$1.6 billion in GDP and generating more than 22,500 culture-related jobs in 2016," said Fielding. "We recognize the positive effect that film production has on our economy and creative community, and this action will bring long-term certainty to the industry."

The ministers noted eliminating the expiry date of the tax credit brings Manitoba in line with other jurisdictions offering this type of support including the federal government, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

MANITOBA ANNOUNCES GRANT TO HELP ADVANCE WOMEN IN TRADES



The Manitoba government has launched Women's Equality Week 2019 with a boost to women in the trades, Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires, minister responsible for the status of women, announced this week.

"Women in Manitoba continue to be under-represented in many areas of training including the trades," Squires said during today's announcement at Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT). "We know that when people are empowered with skills and training, all kinds of doors open to good jobs, financial stability and better opportunities. This project will help teach prospective students about non-traditional career options and create support networks to enable careers in the trades."

Squires announced a \$25,000 grant to MITT for a new initiative to advance women in the trades that will increase the number of women enrolled in the school's programs. The Empower Project will engage part-time student recruiters to share information with other women across the province about the value of training in the trades and the rewarding career opportunities are available to graduates.