

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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MANITOBA LEADS IN BREAKING DOWN TRADE BARRIERS

July 27, 2018

Premier Brian Pallister attended the summer meeting of Canada's premiers in St. Andrews, New Brunswick and led discussions resulting in meaningful action to reduce barriers to internal trade and progress on other Manitoba priorities.

Manitoba has no personal-use limits for alcohol crossing its boundaries and welcomes the commitment of all premiers to significantly increase their limits. On behalf of all premiers, Premier Pallister and Premier Stephen McNeil of Nova Scotia will also lead further work by provincial and territorial trade ministers to advance greater consumer choice for alcohol products, and to bring down internal trade barriers in other specific areas including transport regulations, agriculture, business registration and occupational health and safety.

"Internal trade barriers cost Canadian households \$1,500 every year. We made great progress this week in strengthening Canada and improving the lives of Canadians," said Pallister. "The work we are doing will help energize the economy, create jobs and put money back on the kitchen tables of Canadian families."

CREDIT RATING AGENCIES ENDORSE MANITOBA'S DEFICIT REDUCTION, BUDGETARY PERFORMANCE

The Manitoba government is ahead of schedule in reducing the provincial deficit, Finance Minister Cameron Friesen announced recently, following encouraging reports by S&P Global Ratings (S&P) and DBRS Ltd. (DBRS) on the government's improved budgetary performance.

"Since forming government over two years ago when we inherited a serious financial mess, our work to fix the finances has been endorsed by global credit rating agencies," said Friesen. "While the previous government repeatedly ignored warnings from credit rating agencies about its uncontrolled spending, these agencies have acknowledged our responsible efforts to put Manitoba on a path to sustainability.

S&P affirmed Manitoba's outlook remains stable which reflects their expectation that "in the next two years, the government will continue to make progress toward achieving fiscal balance."

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR OVER 120 COMMUNITY PROJECTS

The Manitoba government will provide more than \$848,000 in grants to community development projects across the province, Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton and Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires, minister responsible for the status of women, announced recently.

“We are continuing to invest funds in programs and local infrastructure that make a difference in our communities,” said Wharton.

The province has committed more than \$20 million in 2018-19 to support community development projects. This year’s application intake also placed an emphasis on projects that support women’s safety and help reduce rates of violence against women.

“As part of our government’s ongoing commitment to support survivors, I am pleased Neighbourhoods Alive! placed an emphasis on applications that support women in vulnerable situations and enable women’s empowerment,” said Squires.

This year, 19 community-driven projects were funded under the Neighbourhoods Alive! program. Ten projects were approved through the Partner 4 Growth program, which provides cost-shared funding for regions to identify and pursue economic development opportunities and help communities strengthen or diversify economic activity. Another 91 projects were funded through the Hometown Manitoba program, which provides financial support for rural and northern projects led by local communities, organizations, co-operatives and businesses to enhance main street public places and building exteriors.

More information on these and other grant programs offered by the Manitoba government can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/mr/index.html.

PROVINCE COMMITS \$3.9 MILLION FOR THE ST. JAMES CIVIC CENTRE

The Manitoba government is committing up to \$3.9 million to the City of Winnipeg to support updates to the St. James Civic Centre, Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton, Families Minister Scott Fielding, and St. James MLA Scott Johnston announced this week.

“Our government is pleased to support local projects that enhance community facilities and revitalize neighbourhoods,” said Wharton. “Community centres across the province play key roles in our lives and are hubs for neighbourhood gatherings. These updates to the St. James Civic Centre will ensure the facility meets the needs of the community for years to come.”

The proposed project will support enhanced space for programming for seniors, children and families. Examples include new and improved multi-purpose rooms, an auditorium for fitness programs and special events, weight room, carpentry shop and a drop-in computer room. The provincial funding will enable the City of Winnipeg to refurbish the buildings and ensure the design meets the current and anticipated future uses of the facility, Wharton added.

The \$3.9-million commitment is in addition to the support available to the City of Winnipeg under its municipal infrastructure funding basket for 2018, Wharton said. He added the province will work in partnership with the City of Winnipeg to develop a funding agreement to outline the scope of the project and set timelines.