

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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PROGRESS MADE ON KEY MANDATE ITEMS AS SPRING SESSION WRAPS UP

June 7, 2019

The Manitoba government concluded the fourth session of the 41st legislature Monday, citing significant progress made on key mandate items, notably reducing the PST, Premier Brian Pallister announced this week.

“Three years ago, Manitobans elected us to fix the finances, repair the services and rebuild the economy; with prudent fiscal management, targeted investments in health care, education and social services, Manitoba is now back on the right path,” Pallister said. “We believe in making life more affordable for all Manitobans, and we’re proud to fulfil our promise of reducing the PST to seven per cent from eight per cent, effective July 1, six years to the day the former government broke its promise and raised it.”

The premier highlighted the province’s 10-point economic plan is nearly complete, resulting in private-sector job creation, increased capital investment and rising business confidence. Reducing the deficit, lowering and indexing the basic personal exemption, delivering small business tax relief, and eliminating unnecessary regulatory requirements are other important initiatives the government undertook, resulting in improved economic stability and competitiveness, the premier noted.

“Getting our fiscal house in order has enabled us to provide record investments in the services Manitobans rely and depend on – health care, education and social services. Manitobans deserve a government who will spend their money wisely and provide a legacy for the next generation.”

The premier noted the government passed 17 pieces of legislation during the spring session in support of Budget 2019 and key government initiatives including affordability, safety and security, and improved services.

“For the first time in two decades, Manitobans have a government that is delivering on its promises,” the premier said. “We remain steadfast in our commitment to make Manitoba the most improved province in all of Canada. We cannot do it alone and we will continue to take a team approach to addressing the challenges that remain. We will do it in partnership with Indigenous leaders and communities, rural and northern Manitobans, business leaders, the private sector, industry stakeholders, families and everyday Manitobans.”

MAJOR INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN NORTHERN MANITOBA

The Manitoba government is taking further action to increase access to justice in the north and protect the safety of families living in Thompson by investing more than \$11 million in infrastructure and public safety initiatives, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced this week.

“Our government is committed to improving services to enhance confidence in the justice system and to keep Manitobans safe in their homes and communities,” said Cullen. “Providing efficient and responsive justice services to those living in Thompson and surrounding communities is a priority, and these investments will support further modernization of Manitoba’s criminal justice system.”

The minister announced that design work is underway for renovations of the Thompson Provincial Office Building and Court Offices. In addition to adding capacity, existing courtrooms will be revitalized and additional space will be created in the administration area, allowing for more efficient processing of cases and better working conditions for court staff.

The project will increase accessibility at the Thompson Court Office and make court proceedings more timely and efficient. The minister noted the multi-phased construction project will create jobs for skilled tradespeople in the region including graduates of University College of the North trade programs.

The minister noted \$300,000 is also being provided to support collaboration between the RCMP, City of Thompson and other stakeholders in the development of a public safety strategy for Thompson. The province will continue to support law enforcement and community stakeholders in approaches to combat and reduce public intoxication and disorder in the downtown area, and extend the Restorative Justice Centre model to the community.

OVER 180 NEW CHILD CARE SPACES COMING TO MANITOBA



Joint Federal-Provincial funding that will provide over 180 new early learning and child care spaces was announced at events in Winnipeg and St. Georges this week by Families Minister Heather Stefanson.

“It’s exciting to see these projects moving forward, which will soon become a valued addition to these communities as well as for area families,” said Stefanson. “Our government recognizes the importance of accessible, affordable and quality child care. We will continue to make strategic investments that will make a difference in the lives of Manitoba children.”

A total of 181 early learning and child care spaces will be created as a result of this federal-provincial investment, including:

- \$294,000 to create 16 spaces at Les P’tits Loups Inc., the first-ever licensed child care facility in the community of St. Georges.
- \$1.8 million for 40 spaces at the Assiniboine Children’s Centre in Winnipeg.
- \$1.2 million for 125 spaces at Festival Early Learning and Child Care Centre in Winnipeg.

More information about early learning and child care in Manitoba is available at: www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childcare.

MANITOBA SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH HIGH SCHOOL IN UKRAINE



The Manitoba government has signed a memorandum of understanding with a school in Ukraine, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week. The agreement will allow students at Novopecherska School in Kyiv to study the Manitoba high school curriculum and earn a Manitoba high school diploma.

“Manitoba is proud of its strong ties to Ukraine and excited for this new partnership that will allow students in Kyiv to study the Manitoba curriculum,” said Goertzen. “We hope international high school students who graduate with a Manitoba diploma will consider Canada as an option for their post-secondary studies. The province’s post-secondary education system is internationally recognized for its leading-edge facilities and first-rate educators, and is an excellent choice for international students.”

The agreement authorizes Novopecherska to offer a Manitoba Blended Program for grades 9 to 12, and allows students who complete all credits and program requirements to graduate with a Manitoba high school diploma and a Ukrainian high school diploma. Students will be encouraged to use the Manitoba diploma to apply to Canadian post-secondary institutions.

The agreement between Manitoba and Novopecherska School is the first Canada-Ukraine bilateral agreement that supports a dual program of studies leading to a high school diploma.

PROVINCE LAUNCHES INNOVATION GROWTH PROGRAM, DELIVERS FUNDING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The Manitoba government is moving forward with key elements of its *Economic Growth Action Plan* that build on Manitoba’s strengths and help to better respond to the needs of business and industry, Indigenous and Northern Relations Minister Eileen Clarke, vice-chair of the Economic Growth Committee of Cabinet, announced this week on behalf of the Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen.

“Manitoba’s *Economic Growth Action Plan* is delivering a renewed and reinvigorated approach to economic development in our province,” said Clarke. “We are working together to make Manitoba a more attractive place for new businesses to start, for existing businesses to grow and for foreign businesses to invest.”

The minister noted the province is launching its new Innovation Growth Program (IGP) to encourage small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) private-sector investment to develop and commercialize innovative new products.

To advance the ‘Team Manitoba’ approach to economic development, simplify program delivery and address gaps in available business supports, the province is providing funding to its regional and strategic partners. A \$5.8-million investment will enable Economic Development Winnipeg, Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, North Forge Technology Exchange, World Trade Centre Winnipeg and the Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) to fulfil their mandates in the current fiscal year.

More information about the province of Manitoba’s Innovation Growth Program can be found at: www.gov.mb.ca/jec/busdev/financial/igp/index.html.