

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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MANITOBA FUNDS RAPID ACCESS TO ADDICTIONS MEDICINE

May 11, 2018

The Manitoba government will establish five rapid-access, front-line clinics across the province to treat individuals seeking help for substance-related addictions, including patients struggling with opiate, methamphetamine and alcohol addiction, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week.

“These clinics bring together addiction treatment with health services, enabling patients to move smoothly between addictions medicine specialists, primary care providers and community supports. This will allow those in need to access help sooner, closer to home and with necessary ongoing support,” said Goertzen.

Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinics are modelled after a successful program in Ontario. They will provide assessment, counselling, the prescription of appropriate medication, and connect patients to community treatment programs and primary care physicians. The RAAM clinical team will provide ongoing support to primary care providers including mentoring, re-assessment and referral of patients.

NEW STAR ATTRACTIONS ANNOUNCED

The Manitoba government along with Travel Manitoba has designated seven new Star Attractions, Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen, and Travel Manitoba president and CEO Colin Ferguson announced this week.

“Manitoba is home to many unique and vibrant tourism attractions in all regions of the province,” said Pedersen. “They offer incredible experiences for Manitobans and visitors alike. I wish each of these organizations the very best as they continue to welcome visitors from across Canada and around the world.”

The following seven destinations are newly designated Star Attractions:

- Island Park (Portage la Prairie)
- Living Prairie Museum (Winnipeg)
- Flin Flon Station Museum (Flin Flon)
- Farmery Estate Brewery (Neepawa)
- Falcon Ridge Ski Slopes (Falcon Beach)
- Sand Hills Casino (Carberry)
- Manitoba Sports Hall of Fame (Winnipeg)

MANITOBA MOVES TO ELIMINATE LABOUR RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLICLY FUNDED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The government of Manitoba introduced proposed legislation this week that would respect workers' freedom to organize as they choose on publicly funded construction projects, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced this week.

The public sector construction projects act (tendering) would prohibit public-sector entities from using unionization status as a tendering requirement and would eliminate the practice of employees paying dues to unions they are not members of.

Under the previous NDP administration, large publicly funded construction projects such as the Bi-Pole 3 transmission line and the Red River Floodway expansion were subject to project labour agreements that required employees and contractors awarded work on a project to sign a collective agreement and hire members of specific unions. Where exceptions to this rule were made, the agreements still required dues or fees to be paid to unions for work carried out by non-union workers.

This legislation would prohibit public-sector entities from requiring any of the following when tendering for work on a construction project:

- the successful bidder to be, or become part of, a collective agreement;
- the successful bidder to employ only members of a specific union or to employ only non-unionized workers; and
- dues to be paid to a union for work completed by non-unionized employees on a project.

NDP STALLS PC BILL THAT WOULD BENEFIT MUNICIPALITIES AND ECONOMY

Shannon Martin, MLA for Morris, saw his private member's bill, the Planning Amendment Act, stalled by members of the NDP caucus during debate on second reading in the Legislative Assembly this week.

Bill 200 would amend the Planning Act to reduce the period in which a municipal development permit application can be delayed, in certain situations, from 125 days to 90 days. This proposed change would better address Manitoba's short construction season and allow a more efficient and effective use of development capital.

"This proposed amendment has received widespread support from the development community," said Martin. "Amending the Planning Act would reduce red tape to help businesses and municipalities. Our Progressive Conservative caucus and government are committed to reducing unnecessary barriers for businesses, local governments, non-profit organizations and all Manitobans."

Currently in all Manitoba municipalities other than Winnipeg, when changes to a development plan bylaw, zoning bylaw or secondary plan have been initiated, an application for a development permit can be held for up to 125 days if the proposed development plan does not conform with the pending changes. In Winnipeg, the delay period is 90 days. Bill 200 would bring the rest of the province in line with the City of Winnipeg Charter.

Stakeholders have said that unnecessary red tape costs Manitobans at least \$360 million a year. This proposed legislation would help ensure Manitoba is the most improved province for regulatory requirements and accountability by 2020.