

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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INCREASED FUNDING FOR GREEN TEAM JOB PROGRAM

May 15, 2020



The Manitoba government is taking a number of steps to create summer job opportunities for young people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through its \$10 million commitment—double 2019’s commitment—the government is supporting over 2,000 jobs through the Green Team program.

“This investment will help students gain critical work experience, support employers during the response and recovery phases of the COVID-19 pandemic, and build our economy,” said Premier Brian Pallister.

Green Team grants are awarded to non-profit organizations and municipal governments to hire youth and young adults to work on community projects between May and August.

Projects are incredibly diverse, providing non-profit organizations with 100 per cent of wage costs and municipal governments with 50 per cent of wage costs.

Participants will work on a variety of community development projects that improve neighbourhoods, promote community involvement and help develop young leaders. Green Team funding through Manitoba Conservation and Climate also supports provincial parks by creating positions for applicants interested in working with wildlife or in forestry, or in assisting at interpretive centres.

“We recognize the important role played by community-based organizations across the province in building communities that are thriving and sustainable,” said Premier Pallister.

To further enhance Manitoba’s economic recovery, the province has reopened the intake for Green Team.

For more information on the urban and hometown Green Team programs, visit www.manitoba.ca/mr/bldgcomm/greenteam.html and for information on the provincial park Green Team program, visit www.manitoba.ca/sd/parks/greenteam.html.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT FOR THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES

The Manitoba government is following through on its commitment to frontline workers who need help finding childcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Families Minister Heather Stefanson has been working in partnership with childcare providers to find creative options and services in the community.

“We continue to call on childcare facilities and early childhood educators to be part of our provincewide response to COVID-19,” said Stefanson. “Together, we can ensure children can continue to learn and grow in a safe, caring environment as their parents go to work helping those most affected by COVID-19.”

As of today, more than 1,900 children of healthcare and other emergency services workers have been matched with an available space by staff within the Department of Families.

“Childcare centres and homes that are opening their doors to children and their families during this challenging time are truly heroes helping heroes,” said Stefanson.

The province is partnering with the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce to administer a \$18-million grant program for eligible early childhood educators to receive up to \$3,000 to provide care to up to eight children in their home or another appropriate space.

The Manitoba government will also continue to provide nearly \$30 million in operating grants to all licenced childcare centres for the next three months to help ensure licensed childcare options are available to essential frontline workers who need it as they support the province’s COVID-19 response.

PROVINCE PROVIDES ECONOMIC RECOVERY SUPPORTS

The graphic features a dark blue header with the title 'Gap Protection Plan' in white. Below the title, it states: 'To help businesses not eligible for federal programs with a \$6,000 interest-free, forgivable loan from the province'. The main body is light blue and contains the 'Manitoba Economic Support Centre' logo and the text 'Connecting Manitoba businesses and not-for-profits with support programs and resources'. A dark blue button on the right says 'To learn more, call 1-888-805-7554 or visit www.manitoba.ca/supportforbusiness'. The footer includes the Manitoba PC Caucus logo and the phone number 204.546.3708.

Throughout this pandemic the province has brought forward many programs to help Manitobans through these stressful times. The Manitoba government believes it is vital that businesses are best positioned to retain their employees, and keep Manitobans working.

“We want to help organizations navigate and leverage the resources available to them so they can be in a better position to rebound from the economic challenges brought on by COVID-19,” said Premier Brian Pallister.

The Manitoba Economic Support Centre is a 24/7 call centre that was established to help Manitoba businesses, charities and non-profits navigate federal and provincial programs that they may qualify for. The focus of this service will be to assist and support organizations in applying for programs like the Manitoba Gap Protection Program (MGPP).

The Manitoba government is allocating \$120 million to the MGPP, which is available to approximately 120,000 small- and medium-sized businesses in Manitoba that fail to qualify for federal COVID-19 assistance programs. The MGPP provides a one-time \$6,000 non-interest-bearing forgivable loan.

So far, 2300 businesses in Manitoba have been approved for payment, resulting in nearly \$14 million in financial support given out by the Provincial Government.

For more information on economic support programs, call 1-888-805-7554 or visit manitoba.ca/supportforbusiness.

\$45 MILLION IN DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MANITOBA SENIORS



The Province of Manitoba is providing \$45 million in direct financial support to 225,000 Manitoba seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic through the new Seniors Economic Recovery Credit — which will deliver \$200 to each individual.

“Manitobans are working together to navigate this challenging time and seniors throughout our province deserve our help and support,” said Premier Brian Pallister. “Senior citizens across the province are facing increased financial hardships because they now have to pay extra for grocery deliveries, or purchasing and learning to use technology at home so they can communicate with their family members and the loved ones they miss.”

Created through an expansion of the Manitoba Protection Plan for the public health crisis, the Seniors Economic Recovery Credit will support every Manitoban aged 65 and older.

The Manitoba government knows that seniors are a segment of the population facing additional costs due to COVID-19. There are few support programs specific to their needs. Seniors throughout our province deserve our help and support.

Pallister noted that while we cannot relieve all of the stresses to seniors during the pandemic, the province can make it more affordable.

PROVINCE TAKING PROACTIVE APPROACH TO PPE PROCUREMENT

The acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPE) is a top priority for the Manitoba government to ensure the safety of those working on the frontlines amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The global demand for PPE due to COVID-19 has made it more difficult to acquire. However, the Provincial government has taken proactive measures for PPE procurement by signing a joint agreement with the federal government — committing \$400 million to purchase medical supplies that will aid Manitoba’s COVID-19 response. In late April, the province also announced an agreement to purchase up to 1 million reusable Made-in-Manitoba N-95 masks from a local supplier.

The province is also taking the necessary steps in re-directing resources: “We are working together with management, public-sector unions and our frontline workers within government departments and our outside reporting entities, to find creative ways to redirect resources to where they’re needed most and innovative ways to adjust our service delivery models given the new realities caused by COVID-19” said Finance Minister Scott Fielding.

Guidelines for PPE are continually adapted based on evidence, advice from public health officials, and local clinical guidance.

The Manitoba government remains committed to providing frontline staff with the required PPE so they can safely help us through this crisis, while preserving supplies over the long term and for any increase in demand that would accompany a rise in COVID-19 cases.