

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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PREMIER TOURS NEW DAUPHIN ER SITE WITH MINISTER AND LOCAL MLAS

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A newly renovated and expanded emergency department at the Dauphin Regional Health Centre is three times larger than its current space and promises to improve patient flow when it opens this summer, Premier Brian Pallister announced following a tour of the site this week. The Premier was joined by Health Minister Cameron Friesen and MLAs Brad Michaleski (Dauphin), Greg Nesbitt (Riding Mountain) and Rick Wowchuk (Swan River).

“Better health care mean putting patients first and we are continuing to clean up the mess the previous government left behind,” said Pallister. “This new, modern space will ensure patients can access the consistent and reliable care they need while offering hospital staff an improved facility that allows them to do their work efficiently and quickly.”

The Manitoba government invested \$23.3 million to redevelop the emergency department, which is expected to open to patients this summer, the premier noted. The original emergency department was built in 1985 and last updated in 2001.

Work began in early 2017 to redevelop the new, 16,000-sq.-ft. emergency department in multiple phases. In the first phase of the project, the health centre’s existing emergency department was temporarily relocated within the building to allow for major renovations in the original space.

The pending opening of the new emergency department is only the latest improvement made at the Dauphin Regional Health Centre. Last December, a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner began accepting patients, increasing access and reducing travel times for residents in Manitoba’s Parkland region who require the diagnostic service.

It also builds on other similar major infrastructure work at other health facilities throughout the province, such as last month’s opening of Flin Flon General Hospital’s new \$27.1-million emergency department and the \$43.8-million emergency department expansion of Winnipeg’s Grace Hospital last year.

PROVINCE INVESTS \$2.7 MILLION IN POLICING AND PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGY

The Manitoba government is taking further action to address challenges in the criminal justice system and ensure families feel safe in their homes and communities by investing \$2.7 million in Manitoba's *Policing and Public Safety Strategy*, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced this week.

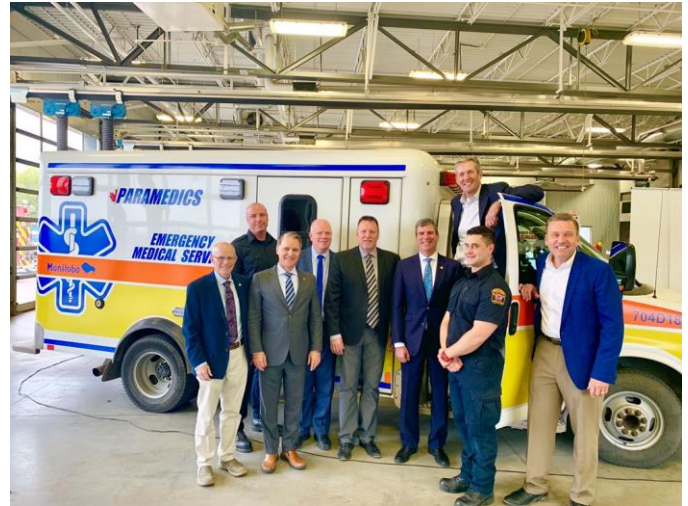
"The Manitoba government is committed to reducing crime and making our communities safer for Manitoba families," said Cullen. "I'm confident the *Policing and Public Safety Strategy* will support greater collaboration between police agencies and Manitoba Justice, improve criminal intelligence and enforcement, and help police combat the illicit drug trade."

The minister noted that Budget 2019 allocated \$2.3 million for initiatives to reduce crime and combat the illicit drug trade. That investment, along with investments from Manitoba's share of the Guns and Gangs Violence Action Fund and the federal Proceeds of Crime Fund will support priority initiatives under the strategy.

The *Policing and Public Safety Strategy* supports existing initiatives to make Manitobans safer, including a mandatory five-year review of The Police Services Act, further development of a Provincial Guns and Gangs Suppression Strategy, support for the tripartite Illicit Drug Task Force and implementation of the immediate roadside prohibition.

The province will also facilitate community-based solutions to crime through police partnerships with Indigenous leadership, public safety education and community mobilization. Manitoba's *Policing and Public Safety Strategy* can be viewed online by visiting: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/pubs/police_publicsafety_strategy.pdf.

INCREASING FULL-TIME PARAMEDICS IN THE PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH REGION



Ten new, full-time paramedic positions in the Prairie Mountain Health region will be filled later this year as the province continues to strengthen the emergency medical services (EMS) system, Premier Brian Pallister announced this week.

"Paramedics are highly skilled, front-line health-care providers who ensure people get the care they need, where they need it," said Pallister. "By investing in 10 full-time positions in the Prairie Mountain Health region, we can build up staffing levels, reduce the system's reliance on on-call staff, and improve patient care and outcomes for people in the Westman and Parkland regions."

Since 2016, Manitoba has increased EMS funding by \$12.1 million to allow for the creation of 149.2 new FTE paramedic positions. The premier noted investments build on the government's commitment to enact recommendations made in the 2013 EMS System Review that, when complete, will ensure response time targets are achieved and a sustainable EMS model is built that supports paramedics being able to work to their full scope of practice.