

# Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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## PREMIER VISITS CHURCHILL TO PROMOTE GROWTH IN MANITOBA TOURISM

*May 31, 2019*



Tourism Week in Canada is a grassroots initiative to raise awareness of the economic opportunities available through travel and tourism, and Premier Brian Pallister visited the town this week to help advance growth in this important part of the region's economy.

"There is tremendous demand for the types of travel experiences offered here including northern and Indigenous tourism, nature and wildlife, and world-class water-based experiences," said Pallister. "Churchill is the crown jewel of northern Manitoba, and our government is committed to working in partnership with the community to advance sustainable economic and social development in the region."

The premier met with Churchill Chamber of Commerce members to discuss tourism and economic development opportunities. He also visited the Itsanitaq Museum and viewed its collection of Inuit carvings and artifacts, which are among the finest and oldest in the world.

In April, the Manitoba government, Travel Manitoba and the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce launched a new *Provincial Tourism Strategy* aimed at increasing tourist expenditures to \$2.2 billion by 2022. The strategy affirms the importance of continuing to support Churchill as Manitoba's leading global destination for wilderness and wildlife experiences. It notes maximizing direct air access to Churchill and utilizing existing rail infrastructure as ways to improve access for tourism and further develop the sector.

"The community of Churchill has made great strides forward in developing its tourism sector and the authentic experiences that are offered, and we want to keep this momentum growing," said Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen. "With the support of our partners, including Travel Manitoba and the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada, we are working to significantly grow the scope and diversity of Indigenous tourism experiences in the province."

## PROVINCE INVESTS NEARLY \$28 MILLION IN HEALTH CAPITAL PROJECTS

The province is continuing to support capital projects across the health system to ensure consistent, reliable care is available when and where it is needed, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced this week.

“There are hundreds of hospitals and personal care homes across the province, and they need to be built to the highest standards and regularly maintained to ensure the ongoing provision of quality care,” said Friesen. “These investments for new projects and ongoing work will ensure health-care providers across the province will have the tools they need to provide quality care to patients across Manitoba.”

Each year, the regional health authorities, CancerCare Manitoba, Shared Health and the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba submit requests for safety and security projects at sites across the province. Timely equipment replacements, upgrades and repairs ensure services continue to be available for patients.

This year, the province is providing more than \$11.4 million for 13 projects projected to cost more than \$500,000, and \$16.5 million for 104 projects expected to cost less than \$500,000.

Provincial funding is provided to health facilities and regional health authorities for new construction and ongoing maintenance. This includes many multi-year projects from across the health-care system including safety and security projects, specialized equipment purchases and installation, information communication and technology projects, and major infrastructure investments.

A full list of the projects funded through this investment is available online by clicking this link:

[https://news.gov.mb.ca/asset\\_library/en/newslinks/2019/05/BG-Capital\\_Spending-HL.pdf](https://news.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/newslinks/2019/05/BG-Capital_Spending-HL.pdf)

## 25 NEW PARAMEDICS FOR NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN HEALTH REGIONS



Twenty-five new, full-time rural paramedic positions in the northern and southern health regions will be filled later this year as part of the Manitoba government’s continuing efforts to strengthen the emergency medical services (EMS) system and provide a more consistent level of care throughout the province, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen said this week.

“Health care begins the moment paramedics arrive at your door,” said Friesen. “Hiring more rural and northern paramedics will improve the quality and consistency of care Manitobans receive while reducing the health system’s reliance on on-call staff.”

Thirty-five additional full-time equivalent (FTE) positions were previously announced in Budget 2019. Friesen said today that 13 of those positions will be posted and strategically spread out in the Northern Regional Health Authority, while another 12 will be placed in Southern Health-Sante Sud. The remaining 10 new positions have been allocated to the Prairie Mountain Health region and were announced last week.

These new positions will support the 24-7 operation of EMS stations and be available to enhance the quality of care.

## MANITOBA GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS VICTIMS OF CRIME



The province is providing more than \$400,000 to support programs and services that assist victims of crime, including \$100,000 for Candace House, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced this week.

"Our government will always stand up for victims of crime and their families, which is why we are committed to supporting organizations like Candace House," said Cullen. "Feedback about Candace House has been overwhelmingly positive since its launch last year and we are pleased to provide this funding, which will enable them to continue providing needed comfort to the families of homicide victims and others who are navigating the criminal justice system."

In addition to funding for Candace House, the minister noted \$235,000 is being provided to support community social service agencies that provide services to victims of crime including those impacted by sexual exploitation, sexual assault, domestic violence, impaired driving and homicide.

Additional funding of up to \$83,500 will provide enhanced supports for victims of domestic violence and stalking. A further \$25,000 will be earmarked for data analysis of gender-based violence issues, as well as \$65,000 for independent legal counsel costs to help protect the privacy of victims in sexual assault cases.

## BRANDON REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT NOW COMPLETE



The completion of a multi-million dollar redevelopment at Brandon Regional Health Centre (BRHC) will enhance patient care while allowing for the opening of 12 additional medical beds at the facility, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced this week.

"The renovations and redevelopment at Brandon Regional Health Centre are helping health-care providers meet patient needs, enhancing access to high-quality services, and providing a more modern space for patients, visitors and staff," said Friesen. "The completion of this project will give people living in Brandon and the Westman region an improved facility that is well-equipped to provide a high quality of care for years to come."

The province invested nearly \$15.8 million toward the project, with the remaining \$1.1 million for the project coming from the Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation's Rooms for Renewal campaign and Prairie Mountain Health. Since being initially announced, more than \$3 million in additional work was added to the project including mechanical and electrical upgrades, replacement of the roof and waste-water lines, and new sprinklers.