

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

Proud to serve
Manitobans

THRONE SPEECH LAYS OUT AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING SESSION

November 23, 2018



The Manitoba government remains committed to the important work of fixing the province's finances, repairing services and rebuilding the economy. This message was delivered by Lt.-Gov. Janice C. Filmon as she outlined the government's ambitious plan in the throne speech marking the commencement of the fourth session of the 41st sitting of the legislative assembly.

"We have embarked on an ambitious plan to make Manitoba the most improved province in Canada," said Premier Brian Pallister. "Though we have made good progress over the past two years, much work remains to be done."

The premier noted the province continues to make progress toward returning to balanced budgets, while also providing tax relief for Manitoba families and small businesses. The province is committed to making communities safer, protecting vulnerable Manitobans, and continuing to improve health care, education and social services, he said.

The speech from the throne highlighted key government priorities, including:

- implementing a plan to reduce wait times for procedures such as joint replacement, cataracts and diagnostic imaging;
- supporting seniors by constructing 1,200 additional personal care home beds by 2025;
- launching the Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education and conducting the first in-depth review of Manitoba's child education system in decades

"Manitoba's road to recovery is a long one, requiring both courage and care," said Pallister. "We will continue the work we've begun. We remain committed to improving Manitoba and the lives of all Manitobans."

To read the speech from the throne visit <http://gov.mb.ca/thronespeech>.

MANITOBA INVESTS IN HIP, KNEE AND CATARACT PROCEDURES



The Manitoba government is investing more than \$5.3 million to significantly increase the number of hip replacements, knee replacements and cataract surgeries in Manitoba in 2019, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced this week. Area MLAs James Teitsma (Radisson), Andrew Micklefield (Rossmere), Hon. Cathy Cox (River East), and Blair Yakimoski (Transcona) joined the Minister at the announcement.

“Manitoba patients deserve better health care sooner and that includes reducing the time they wait for priority procedures,” said Friesen. “As we streamline services, co-ordinate better service delivery and adopt innovative ideas that improve patient care, we can invest in additional hip, knee and cataract surgeries for Manitobans.”

More than 4,100 hip and knee replacements and 12,900 cataract surgeries were performed in Manitoba in 2017-18. The new investment will ensure at least 1,000 more hip and knee replacement surgeries are performed in 2019, a number which represents a nearly 25 per cent increase, the minister noted. The new investment will also fund at least 2,000 additional cataract surgeries next year, a 16 per cent increase, he added.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO STRENGTHEN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL CODES OF CONDUCT

The Manitoba government is introducing legislation that would strengthen and standardize council codes of conduct, Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton announced this week.

“We heard a number of requests from municipal councillors regarding the prevention and enforcement mechanisms available in response to harassment and bullying in the workplace,” said Wharton. “As a result, we have undertaken significant and meaningful consultations over the past several months with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, elected officials and municipal administrators to develop the proposed amendments to council code of conduct requirements.”

The Municipal Amendment Act (strengthening codes of conduct for council members) would make a number of changes that would strengthen the legislation around council codes of conduct. These changes would include requiring all members of council to undergo mandatory respectful conduct training within six months of being elected or re-elected.

The minister noted Manitoba would become the first province in Western Canada to require elected municipal councillors to complete mandatory training or face suspension from council.

The bill is the product of a robust consultation process announced at the Manitoba Municipal Administrators Association Conference in April, Wharton said. Consultations with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), elected officials and municipal administrators took place from May to October 2018.

COMMEMORATING THE HOLODOMOR

The Manitoba government is commemorating the 85th anniversary of the end of the Holodomor, a famine genocide that claimed millions of lives in Ukraine between 1932 and 1933.

“We must continue to honour the memories of the lives so senselessly lost and keep shining a light on this very dark chapter in human history,” Cox said. “It is only by remembering the past that we can ensure atrocities such as this are never repeated.”

Manitoba is among jurisdictions around the world that formally commemorate the Holodomor annually on the fourth Saturday of November, known in Manitoba as Ukrainian Famine and Genocide (Holodomor) Memorial Day.

