

# Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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## NEW DATA SHOWS LOWER WAIT TIMES IN WINNIPEG

*November 30, 2018*

New data released Thursday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) shows Manitoba's plan for lowering emergency wait times in Winnipeg is working, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen said this week.

"At a time when emergency wait times are increasing across Canada, we are seeing dramatic across-the-board improvements at hospitals throughout the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority," said Friesen. "We are bringing down wait times, improving patient care and delivering on our promise to heal our health system."

The minister noted no other health region in the country saw a bigger decline in 90th percentile wait times, with the WRHA clocking a 42-minute year-over-year improvement in 2017-18. Additionally, the WRHA saw a dramatic 25.1 per cent improvement in length of stay for admitted patients in emergency departments. The WRHA's time in this category is now better than the Canadian average.

The numbers have continued to improve since the end of the fiscal year, which marked the end of CIHI's reporting period. Since April, 90th percentile wait times have fallen a further 4.5 per cent for emergency care and 12 per cent for length of stay.

"This data shows emergency wait times in Winnipeg are not only at the lowest point in at least the past eight years, but that we are on the right path to ensuring Winnipeg will soon no longer have some of the longest emergency wait times in Canada," said Friesen.

Additionally, the CIHI data showed the WRHA is meeting or beating the Canadian average on 19 of 30 health indicators. The independent organization singled out the region as being a top performer in a number of areas including medical and surgeon readmissions, self-injury hospitalizations and caring for personal care home residents with depression.

"Health-care professionals have always been the strongest part of our health system," said Friesen. "We congratulate them on their continuing hard work and dedication to ensuring their patients receive better health care sooner."

## MAJOR ADDITION AND RENOVATION FOR ÉCOLE NOËL-RITCHOT



MLAs Jon Reyes and Sarah Guillemard joined Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen to announce a major renovation and addition project at École Noël-Ritchot.

“This expansion and renovation will provide French-speaking students in St. Norbert with a refreshed learning space that will support engagement and achievement,” said Goertzen.

“This is great news for the families of southwest Winnipeg,” said Reyes, whose St. Norbert constituency includes École Noël-Ritchot. “I am pleased that our government is making these important investments to enhance education in our community and our growing Franco-Manitoban community.”

“Serving the needs of the ever-growing number of French-speaking students is important to my constituents,” added Guillemard, whose Fort Richmond constituency is also served by École Noël-Ritchot. “I am proud to be part of a government that is working with La Division scolaire franco-manitobaine to deliver on this much-needed project.”

École Noël-Ritchot currently has capacity for 250 kindergarten to Grade 8 students. The expansion will add nearly 30,000 square feet to the school, enabling it to accommodate an additional 200 students. The expansion will add eight new classrooms, a new gymnasium and a new 74-space child-care centre. Nearly 6,000 square feet of the existing structure will be renovated, including the old gymnasium, which will become a multi-purpose room and music room.

## PROVINCE INVESTS IN MITCHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students and families in Mitchell and the surrounding region will soon benefit from five new classrooms, a new library and a new multipurpose room at Mitchell Elementary School, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced this week.

“Our priority is to catch up with the needs of growing areas of the province and this expansion is much needed in Mitchell, where we’ve seen enrolment on the rise for the past 20 years,” said Goertzen. “The school ran out of space and had to create learning environments in the library and hallways as a result. These students deserve a proper place to learn.”

The current enrolment of 450 students has led to overcrowding, with the school using its library as a classroom and with almost no space for resource teaching support or guidance counselling. Enrolment is projected to continue to grow to 600 students by 2028, the minister noted.

The planned addition and renovation project will include five classrooms, a new library, a new multipurpose room and related ancillary spaces. The project will include an estimated 12,600 square feet of new space and 2,000 square feet of existing space will be renovated to provide improved educational support and resource spaces.

## SUPPORTING VICTIMS WITH INVESTMENT IN CANDACE HOUSE



The Manitoba government is investing \$55,000 this year to support Candace House and the services it provides to families of victims going through the criminal justice system, complementing another \$532,300 to support victims throughout the province, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced this week at the organization's grand opening.

"For families who have lost a loved one, having to navigate the criminal justice system can be overwhelming and emotionally exhausting," said Cullen. "For them, Candace House will be a refuge, a safe space to access resources and find compassionate support. Our government is proud to be a partner with Candace House as they officially open their doors today."

Manitoba's investment in Candace House includes \$25,000 for construction costs at their location on Kennedy Street in Winnipeg. Another \$30,000 will be invested in programs offered to families.

For more information on Candace House, visit [www.candacehouse.ca](http://www.candacehouse.ca). For more information on Manitoba's victims services programs, visit [www.gov.mb.ca/justice](http://www.gov.mb.ca/justice).

## MANITOBA INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO CRACK DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS

The Manitoba government has introduced amendments to The Highway Traffic Act that would adopt more serious sanctions for drunk drivers while keeping more police on Manitoba's roads, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced this week.

"There are still too many people who haven't gotten the message about drunk driving and they are taking the lives of too many Manitobans," said Cullen. "Our government is sending a message to all Manitobans with our immediate roadside prohibition legislation – if you drink and drive, you will lose your licence, you will lose your vehicle and you will lose a lot of money."

Under the proposed new law, drivers under the influence of alcohol who register a 'warn' on an approved screening device, suggesting a blood alcohol content (BAC) of between .05 and .08 would face a new monetary penalty of at least \$200 for a first offence, escalating to at least \$400 for a third or subsequent offence, to be established by regulation.

Drivers would also face a vehicle impoundment of between three days for a first offence and 30 days for a third or subsequent offence. Those drivers caught a third or subsequent time would also be required to drive with an ignition interlock for a year. These new sanctions would be on top of existing licence suspensions and other sanctions for 'warn' range drivers.

Representatives from the Winnipeg Police, Brandon Police, RCMP, Manitoba First Nations Police, and MADD Canada have voiced their support for this important legislation.

To learn more, please visit:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=44808&posted=2018-11-29>