

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

Proud to serve
Manitobans

NEW SCHOOL FOR NORTHWEST WINNIPEG

October 12, 2018



One of Winnipeg's fastest-growing neighbourhoods will benefit from a new kindergarten to Grade 8 school in Waterford Green, details of which were announced this week by Premier Brian Pallister and Kildonan MLA Nic Curry at an event held at Meadows West School.

"We made a promise to families throughout Manitoba that we would catch up with the need for new schools and we are following through on our promise," said Pallister. "We share the enthusiasm with students and families in the community as this project moves forward."

The 76,430-sq.-ft. school will be built on Jefferson Avenue east of King Edward Street and is expected to be ready in time for the 2020 school year.

The dual-track facility will be designed and constructed for 600 English and French immersion students, with the potential to accommodate nine additional classrooms or 225 additional students. It will feature a child-care centre with 54 preschool and 20 infant spaces, and additional space for a nursery school program. Other features include two science laboratories, a science, technology, electronics and mathematics (STEM) lab, a large gymnasium open to the community, an art room, home economics lab and industrial arts lab.

"Families in this growing neighbourhood can look forward to a high-quality, modern learning environment," said Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen. "With seven new school projects underway across the province, we are building the most schools ever in Manitoba in such a short time period."

Goertzen noted by enhancing its traditional finance approach, the province bundled school design services together with the new kindergarten to Grade 5 school in the Seven Oaks School Division, which saved \$400,000. Design work is nearing completion and the province plans to release the tender for construction November 30.

PROVINCE PLANS UPGRADES TO SOUTH PERIMETER



Work to support safety and improve traffic flow on the South Perimeter Highway will take place over the next three years as part of the South Perimeter Highway Safety Plan, Infrastructure Minister Ron Schuler announced this week.

“Our government is focused on safety above all else, and the South Perimeter Highway Safety Plan is a key part of that focus,” Schuler said. “The south Perimeter is one of the most important economic corridors in Manitoba and increased traffic movement means steps must be taken to improve safety.”

The South Perimeter Highway Safety Plan will improve safety by reducing collisions and near misses while also improving traffic flow along the highway and in local areas, Schuler said. Once work is completed, locations that continue to record high collision frequency will be examined on an ongoing basis for further safety mitigation and operational improvement options, he added.

For more details on the South Perimeter Highway Safety Plan, please visit:

<https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=44684&posted=2018-10-12>

ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NDP’S STADIUM FINANCING FIASCO

This week in the Manitoba Legislature, Interlake MLA Derek Johnson asked Finance Minister Scott Fielding about the stadium financing mess left by the NDP.

Here’s the transcript from Hansard:



Mr. Johnson: The NDP leader, the member for Fort Rouge (Mr. Kinew), threw his own caucus and party under the bus. He admitted that the NDP's shell game to finance the Investors Group Field was a disaster.

Can the Minister of Finance please help Manitobans understand how we are cleaning up this NDP mess for the taxpayers of this great province?



Hon. Scott Fielding (Minister of Finance): Finally, we can agree with the leader of the opposition on an issue.

What I can say is that Investors Group Field was a complicated deal put together by the NDP, a complicated scheme put together by the NDP government, to hide the true cost of the stadium. We agree with the comptroller, we agree with the Auditor General that believes—that was doubtful that we would ever get the money back.

We, Madam Speaker, are putting—to work with the Bombers to protect taxpayers as best we can to get as much money back.

And let me be perfectly clear: we're not cutting a cheque for this. No one is off the hook, Madam Speaker. We're going to work with the Bombers to collect, on behalf of taxpayers, the bad debt that was put forward by the NDP on a complicated deal.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

MANITOBA PREPARES FOR FEDERAL CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

The Manitoba government is preparing for the legalization of non-medicinal cannabis across Canada Oct. 17. This week, the province officially launched its public education campaign on cannabis with a focus on public health and safety, announced Justice Minister Cliff Cullen, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen, Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen, and Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen.

“While the federal government has fast-tracked cannabis legalization, our government has worked hard to ensure measures are in place public health and safety to protect the health and safety of Manitobans,” said Cullen. “Educating the public on risky behaviours associated with non-medicinal cannabis and implementing legislation to keep people safe are key to readying Manitobans for legalization.”

The public education campaign will expand on those responsibilities and educate Manitobans on risky cannabis behaviours, Cullen said. Messages include “cannabis can be addictive”, “cannabis can cause depression and anxiety” and “street cannabis isn’t worth the risk”.

“First and foremost, we are concerned about the health and safety of Manitobans. We have taken steps to make health the priority as we prepare for the federal legalization of cannabis,” said Friesen. “This includes legislative changes such as updates to The Non-Smokers Health Protection and Vapour Products Act to protect against second-hand smoke as well as public education initiatives.”

The Manitoba government has developed an overarching framework for cannabis sales, use and safety pending federal cannabis legalization Oct. 17.

In the development of the framework, government considered issues related to retail cannabis, the health impacts of cannabis use, the policing and enforcement of new laws, as well as cannabis and youth.

“Manitoba has introduced a hybrid model for the retail of non-medicinal cannabis, which means a combination of government oversight and privately-run stores,” said Pedersen. “Our goal is to eliminate the illicit market. We believe cannabis sourced from federally licensed producers and sold by provincially licensed and regulated retailers will better protect the health and safety of Manitobans.”

Manitobans are asked to familiarize themselves with the laws around non-medicinal cannabis including use and possession laws. For example, individuals must be 19 years of age or older to possess and use cannabis. They can only buy from licensed retailers and carry up to 30 grams in public. They also cannot use cannabis in public places and cannot grow it at home.

“It is generally accepted that young people are more likely to experience harm from regular use of cannabis before the age of 25,” said Goertzen. “Our government has taken steps to ensure that parents have the tools they need to talk to their children about cannabis use and its potential consequences, and we’ve targeted this awareness campaign to youth to help get that message across.”

The education minister noted cannabis information and resources are available through Manitoba Education and Training by visiting the following link:
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/physhlth/index.html.

To learn more about cannabis in Manitoba, visit www.gov.mb.ca/cannabis.