

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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MANITOBA BACKS EXPANSION OF HYLIFE FOODS

September 21, 2018



The Manitoba government is supporting an expansion project at HyLife Foods Ltd., Premier Brian Pallister announced in Neepawa last Friday.

“Our economy is growing here in Neepawa and throughout Manitoba, thanks to record levels of private-sector investment,” said Pallister. “Support for the expansion aligns with our priority of building on Manitoba’s industrial strengths. The growth we are seeing at HyLife helps position Manitoba pork as a high-quality, high-value commodity in a growing global market.”

The province is supporting the expansion in Neepawa and a new feed mill in the R.M. of Killarney-Turtle Mountain through tax increment financing (TIF) estimated at \$9.5 million over 22 years. Manitoba and the Government of Canada provided an additional \$2 million to the expansion through Growing Forward 2, a joint-funding program that ensures Canadian producers and processors are able to innovate and capitalize on emerging market opportunities.

“HyLife’s expansion is strengthening our rural economy, creating jobs in the agri-food industry and enhancing Manitoba’s position as a leader in pork and protein processing,” said Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton, who attended the announcement along with Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler, and Indigenous and Northern Relations Minister Eileen Clarke.

Wharton noted the support for HyLife’s expansion aligns with Manitoba’s new TIF framework currently in development. Tax increment financing is a financing tool that governments use to encourage economic growth and development through incremental taxes created by significant new development. Manitoba is currently working on a new TIF framework focusing on economic growth, value for money and limiting risk, which will benefit municipalities and communities across Manitoba.

MANITOBA MAKING PROGRESS IN REDUCING RED TAPE

Manitoba is making progress in modernizing its regulatory system and reducing red tape, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced this week as he released the province's first regulatory accountability report.

"Improving regulatory accountability and reducing red tape lowers the cost of understanding and complying with regulatory requirements for stakeholders, such as municipalities, not-for-profits and businesses," said Fielding. "The work we have been doing is seeing results as we continue to strive toward being the most improved province for regulatory accountability by 2020."

In June 2017, Manitoba passed The Regulatory Accountability Act, which created the most comprehensive framework in North America for managing regulatory requirements. The act requires government to keep track of how many regulatory requirements exist and where they are located.

Between April 1, 2016, and March 31, 2018, the number of regulatory requirements in Manitoba was reduced by 2.6 per cent; to 924,180 from 948,599. Manitoba Families and Manitoba Municipal Relations showed the largest decreases with reductions of 15 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively.

To view the *2018 Manitoba Regulatory Accountability Report* and get more information on our government's efforts to reduce red tape in Manitoba, visit www.gov.mb.ca/reduceredtape/index.html.

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CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT

The provincially appointed legislative review committee on child welfare submitted its final report and recommendations to government, Families Minister Heather Stefanson announced this week.

"This is the first critical review in 15 years and we commend the committee for undertaking its intensive, four-month consultation with more than 1,500 people, agencies, authorities and other stakeholders across Manitoba," said Stefanson.

In October 2017, the province announced plans to reform the delivery of Child and Family Services (CFS) in Manitoba to reduce the number of children and youth in care, reduce the number of days spent in care, foster more lifelong connections and enable greater coordination of services.

Chaired by Andrew Micklefield, MLA for Rossmere, the committee brought together a diverse and knowledgeable group of stakeholders to review and recommend transformational changes to The Child and Family Services Act and The Child and Family Services Authorities Act to support these outcomes.

"We spoke with dozens of groups and learned anecdotally from a number of people who have reached out to committee members to share their personal experiences," said Micklefield. "We heard an overwhelming amount of information that we've distilled into this report, which focuses on the salient points and summarizes what we found."

Read the full report and recommendations at www.gov.mb.ca/fs/child_welfare_reform/index.html.

MANITOBA PARTNERS WITH INDIANA ON AGRICULTURE

Indiana Lt.-Gov. Suzanne Crouch met in Winnipeg this week with Deputy Premier Heather Stefanson, Agriculture Minister Ralph Eichler and Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen to discuss the shared interest of both jurisdictions in building on the strong Canada–U.S. trade and investment partnership, fostering economic growth, and encouraging stronger business and research connections.

The Indiana and Manitoba Departments of Agriculture also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) today to foster co-operation in key areas including agricultural research, trade, investment and youth leadership.

“Indiana and Manitoba share common priorities and strengths in the agricultural sector that provide excellent opportunities for more collaboration and information sharing,” said Eichler.

The agricultural sector has been a key driver of trade and economic growth in both Manitoba and Indiana. Through the MOU, the two regions will encourage stronger partnerships between researchers, innovation leaders, businesses and young farmers, and will share information and best practices to help each jurisdiction make the most of new opportunities to drive growth and innovation in agriculture and related sectors.

Manitoba’s ministers also discussed the broader Manitoba–Indiana trade relationship, which encompassed two-way trade worth \$1.1 billion in 2017, an increase of almost 36 per cent since 2013. Indiana is Manitoba’s seventh-largest trading partner among U.S. states, and 189,800 jobs in Indiana depend on trade and investment with Canada.

WOWCHUK INDUCTED INTO THE MANITOBA FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Swan River MLA Rick Wowchuk was honoured as one of the newest members of the Manitoba Football Hall of Fame at an event in Winnipeg this week.

An all-star high school football player and alumni of the University of Manitoba Bisons, Wowchuk went on to coach high school football in the Swan Valley for 30 years.

On behalf of our caucus and of the all of the Manitoba families who benefitted from Rick’s passion and mentorship during his coaching career, we offer our congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

