

# Manitoba PC Caucus



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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### **Progressive Conservative Caucus takes voluntary wage freeze**

*PC MLAs will remit all salary increases amid COVID-19 defence*

Manitoba's Progressive Conservative MLAs have announced they will again voluntarily freeze their wages for the coming fiscal year.

"Now is not the time for political pay bumps," said Premier Brian Pallister, MLA for Fort Whyte. "Manitobans expect us to be using these dollars to fight the COVID-19 pandemic — that's our team's priority."

In Manitoba, MLAs' pay is set by an independent commissioner. The current compensation schedule includes a cost of living increase, which MLAs are set to receive on April 1, 2020. Rather than accepting this increase, each member of the Manitoba PC Caucus will refund the increase to the Government of Manitoba.

Since forming government in 2016, the Manitoba PC Caucus has returned wage increases to the province—for both MLAs and ministers—keeping their salaries consistent since 2016. The combined salary returned by PC MLAs for the coming fiscal year will total over \$149,000.

"These challenging times call for compassion, and Manitobans expect their elected officials to lead by example." said PC Caucus Chair Wayne Ewasko, MLA for Lac du Bonnet. "Additionally, our MLAs are working with their communities to mitigate damage caused by this virus on a grassroots level."