



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Room 204
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

March 3, 2020

Honourable Jeff Wharton
Minister of Crown Services
314 – 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Dear Colleague:

The people of Manitoba have given us the honour of a second mandate to move Manitoba forward. Our commitments are clear and ambitious.

All Ministers will work as a team to achieve the Five Point Guarantee as set out in our 2019 platform. We will work hard to create 40,000 new jobs, reduce taxes and invest in a health care system that delivers better care sooner. We will complete the construction of 20 new schools to provide better environments for our children to learn. We will deliver our Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan to achieve our vision of the cleanest, greenest and most climate resilient province.

We will build a better, more efficient, responsive and open government that provides quality services to communities throughout Manitoba.

Manitobans deserve a government that reflects their values: honesty, integrity and a commitment to hard work. I expect all ministers to work as a team to achieve our platform commitments and to hold themselves to the highest ethical standards. Manitoba became the most improved province in Canada in our first term. That record of achievement and success will provide a strong foundation for an equally ambitious second mandate. We are a government that keeps its word. We have a record of public trust that cannot be compromised by conflicts of interest, complacency or entitlement.

As Minister of Crown Services, you will refresh mandate letters for Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Public Insurance and Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, emphasizing the need for continuous progress on reducing administrative costs, eliminating red tape, integrating them into our budgeting process and finding ways to collaborate on procurement, accommodations, fleet vehicles, and other matters of mutual interest.

Specifically with respect to individual Crowns:

Manitoba Hydro:

- Renewing Manitoba Hydro's strategic plan in concert with the work of your colleague, the Minister of Conservation and Climate, on a provincial energy strategy that builds on Manitoba's significant clean renewable electricity assets;
- Responding to the recommendations from the forthcoming review of the planning and decision-making processes related to the Keeyask Generating Station and the recently completed Bipole III; and
- Supporting the Departments of Municipal Relations and Finance in better aligning Manitoba Hydro with economic development through the permit review and reforms to the Public Utilities Board.

Manitoba Public Insurance:

- Modernizing the retailing of Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) products in a manner that leverages the best of the public and private sector;
- Introducing legislation to streamline MPI's claims dispute process to improve timeliness of service and reduce red tape;
- Working with the Minister of Conservation and Climate on on-line permitting of snowmobiles and off-road vehicles as part of our trails initiative;
- Reversing past hikes to vehicle registration fees to reduce costs to vehicle owners; and
- Supporting the Department of Finance in developing reforms to the Public Utilities Board.

Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries:

- Increasing its dividend returns to Manitobans to catch up with past years of failing to keep pace with inflation and population growth;
- Prohibiting smoking in all gaming facilities;
- Commissioning a Provincial Gaming Review which will assess the structure and size of the gaming industry in Manitoba, in the meantime pausing any expansion of gaming pending this review;
- Continuing to look for ways to modernize our wine, beer and liquor retailing system in a manner that enhances the role of the private sector and provides a safe, enjoyable experience for customers and staff;
- Moving to an open retail market for cannabis to displace the black market; and

- Reducing red tape and regulatory barriers for liquor retailers and craft distillers, cideries, and brewers.

You will work collaboratively with the public service, stakeholders and citizens to keep our promises. We are committed to ensuring all employees are treated with dignity and respect. There is no place for harassment of any kind in the civil service or any workplace, you must remain vigilant in ensuring there is no wrong door and not sit silent if you see others around you falling short of these standards.

We have established Ideas Funds across summary government to encourage front line service providers to come forward with innovative proposals to modernize and improve the way we deliver services Manitobans need. You will encourage your front line service providers to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Both with your department and the entities that receive our financial support, you will emphasize the need for continuous progress on spending within our budgets, reducing administrative costs and finding ways to ensure value for taxpayers' money.

As a member of Executive Council, you will continue to support our work to transform the public service, including the deployment of balanced scorecards to report on our progress and ensure Manitobans understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. As elected representatives of the people, we must always ensure that we remain transparent and accountable for our actions. Manitobans expect nothing less.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brian Pallister