



Sept. 28, 2023

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Dear Ms Saftiuk,

Thank you for engaging with us in this critical election. We appreciate the advocacy from the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and all that your members do to serve Manitoba families and provide good jobs.

We want to work with you to make sure good job opportunities exist to put Manitobans' skills to work and bolster our economy. The Manitoba NDP will take a fiscally responsible approach. Gary Doer showed that you can balance the books and invest in healthcare, education, the economy and services that families need. We'll do the same.

We look forward to further discussion on our shared priorities.

PILLAR 1: Strengthening Economic Competitiveness and Business Confidence

Our economic strategy is to strengthen the areas where our diversified economy is already strong and lean into being a clean energy superpower for tomorrow. Our commitment to supporting local business will use the power of government procurement to help grow the Manitoba economy and support local entrepreneurs.

The Manitoba NDP will:

- Create a Premier's Business and Jobs Council to bring together leaders from business, skilled trades, agriculture, Indigenous communities and labour to provide guidance and advice.
- Develop a Critical Minerals Strategy to sustainably grow our critical minerals sector in partnership with Indigenous Peoples.
- Increase our export sales for agriculture and manufacturing industries, and compete in the American market by appointing Gary Doer as advisor on U.S. Trade.
- Cut the gas tax while inflation remains high and to freeze hydro rates
- Help business owners stay safe and reduce costs with a \$300 rebate for security updates like alarms, doorbell cameras and motion sensor lights.

PILLAR 2: Attracting and Retaining Manitoba's Talent

The shortage of skilled workers across many business sectors must be addressed if Manitoba is to be competitive. The Manitoba NDP agrees that out-migration is a significant problem. It's grown as the

Pallister-Stefanson government cancelled major infrastructure projects and sent jobs to out-of-province companies. And their cuts to healthcare and education have forced many families to seek a better life elsewhere.

An NDP government will reverse the PC cuts and rebuild our healthcare and education systems. We'll invest in infrastructure across the province. And we'll make life more attractive and more affordable for families who want to stay in Manitoba.

The Manitoba NDP will:

- Increase student aid and bursaries and fix the problems at student aid and fund our post-secondary institutions so they can respond to the needs of students and the economy.
- Work with education and business leaders to establish more work-integrated learning programs that help students launch their careers with confidence and help business fill critical vacancies.
- Support immigration and help newcomers work in the careers they trained for by streamlining and accelerating the recognition of international credentials, while creating a Newcomer Workplace Navigator Office in government
- Work with business leaders to develop and implement better sharing of labour market information with other jurisdictions and within the Manitoba government.

PILLAR 3: Facilitating Global Trade and Reducing Barriers

The Manitoba NDP launched CentrePort to take advantage of this province's strategic advantages of geography, a talented labour pool, vast natural resources, low cost energy and a diversified economy. We'll build on that important first step by working with the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, business leaders, labour leaders and our education sector to further develop a robust trade strategy.

The Manitoba NDP will:

- Work with industry partners to invest in restoring and expanding our core infrastructure in a predictable and sustainable way.
- We will work to support Churchill and surrounding communities by prioritizing investment in our trade corridors and building on our local advantages.

PILLAR 4: Building Strong, Resilient and Healthy Communities

Implement all five recommendations with supporting actions from the joint MCC and Doctors Manitoba report titled Manitoba's Physician Shortage: Physician Recruitment and Retention Recommendations from the Rural & Northern Health Summit.

- An NDP government will implement all five recommendations with supporting actions from the joint MCC and Doctors Manitoba report titled Manitoba's Physician Shortage.
- We will work to reverse the damage done to our health-care system by seven years of cuts and austerity under the Pallister-Stefanson government.
- We will build three new ERs in Winnipeg and one in Eriksdale.
- We will undertake the largest recruitment campaign in MB history – 400 doctors, 300 nurses, 200 paramedics.
- We will reverse the PCs cuts to hospital and ICU beds.
- We will increase surgical capacity at Winnipeg hospitals.
- We will build health centres of excellence for heart health, diabetes, women's health, joint surgery, and cancer care.

- In rural areas, we'll hire more doctors, shorten wait times for ambulances and establish better cellphone service, hire more staff to keep rural health centres open, improve health technology to connect families with the best specialists and provide the care seniors need to stay healthy at home.
- We will improve health equity by addressing social determinants of health and following the TRC's calls to action on health care.

Ensure that Manitoba has the necessary supply of trained ECEs by expanding training options, improving access to ECE programs through added financial support, and valuing the work of ECEs by ensuring it is a well-compensated profession with benefits and improved working conditions.

- Early childhood educators are invaluable for the work they do to prepare youngsters to succeed when they enter the public school system. But they have been undervalued by the Pallister-Stefanson government and many have left for better jobs.
- The Manitoba NDP will invest in early childhood education by expanding \$10/day childcare to include before- and after-school care. We will expand \$10/day to include summer holidays and PDs. And we'll add more options with flexible hours for shift-workers.
- Furthermore, we will build more childcare centres across the province. And we'll respect childcare workers and help them pursue more education and training with competitive wages.

Ensure that Manitoba municipalities have the resources and predictable funding they need to create safe communities.

- An NDP government will review Bill 37 and work with municipalities to ensure that local voices are at the decision-making table.
- We will work with the federal government to ensure predictable funding for the RCMP so rural families can be safe in their homes and communities.
- We will end the municipal funding freeze for Manitoba municipalities and work with them to improve services with predictable funding.

Establish a simplified, fair, and predictable funding model for municipalities, and rebate the more than \$25 million in PST paid on an annual basis by Manitoba municipalities.

- The Manitoba NDP will consult and work with municipalities to develop and implement predictable annual funding that allows them to provide the services families depend on.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to respond. The Manitoba NDP looks forward to working with the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and other partners to move towards a shared vision for a thriving and sustainable economy where families can raise their children and enjoy a bright future.

Sincerely,

The Manitoba NDP