



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Room 204
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

March 3, 2020

Honourable Blaine Pedersen
Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development
165 – 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 Agriculture and Resource Development, you will issue a mandate letter for the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation (MASC), emphasizing the need for continuous progress on reducing administrative costs, integrating them into our budgeting process and finding ways to collaborate on procurement, accommodations, and other matters of mutual interest. You will ask MASC to report on measures to ensure the sustainability of their loan portfolio, and work to remove the qualification of their audit in a manner that preserves a trust structure that protects producers' money.

You will lead the following actions to enhance our agricultural industry and advance the sustainable use and development of our natural resources:

- Providing leadership to accelerate innovation and increase Manitoba's agri-food exports;
- Partnering with protein industry stakeholders to implement the Manitoba Protein Advantage strategy to be featured at the 2020 Protein Summit;
- Appointing a task force to review the Forage Insurance programs offered to Manitoba farmers in order to determine if changes to the program are required to better support producers. In recent years, natural perils have contributed to poor hay and forage crops;
- In consultation with producers and other governments, reviewing AgriStability, AgriInsurance and AgriInvest programs and the AgriRisk and AgriRecovery framework to make them more effective and predictable;
- Working with your colleague, the Minister of Economic Development and Training and in partnership with Manitoba's canola and soybean industry, to increase market diversification opportunities and value, and to support on and off-farm processing investment and jobs resulting from Manitoba's commitment to increase biodiesel content from 2% to 5%;
- Working with your colleague the Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living, to introduce amendments to the Public Health Act to better harmonize food safety regulation between provincial departments and with the federal regulators;
- Reviewing and responding to recommendations made by the independent review of the Animal Welfare Program to enhance animal welfare;
- Improving our resiliency and preparedness for animal disease outbreaks, including adequate veterinary diagnostic services;
- Reviewing our Food Development Centre to ensure alignment with our protein strategy, economic development in the food industry and value for money;
- Working with your colleague, the Minister of Justice, to review legislation and enforcement policies relating to on-farm trespassing;
- In honour of Manitoba's pioneering farm families and in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Manitoba, creating a Legacy Farm Award category to celebrate farm families achieving 150 consecutive years of ownership

With your colleagues and the advice of Expert Advisory Council established under The Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act, leading the development of a comprehensive provincial water management strategy to conserve wetlands, enhance resiliency, improve surface water quality, manage nutrients, protect biodiversity and sustain economic development. As part of that process, specifically consider how natural infrastructure solutions can be applied to support climate change adaptation, environmental sustainability and agricultural productivity;

- Advancing the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (Grow) program to support natural infrastructure including wetland conservation, shelterbelt establishment, water quality and carbon storage, and flood and drought resiliency to protect our communities, businesses, and investments;
- Advancing a meaningful and respectful approach to shared management that works collaboratively with First Nations, Metis, landowners, licensed hunters, fishers and anglers to provide local communities a greater voice and ensure long-term sustainability of our fish and wildlife, forestry and other resources;
- Working with your colleague, the Minister of Economic Development and Training, continuing our progress on Look North by:
 - Redirecting up to 6% of future mineral taxes to bolster the Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF) to encourage mineral exploration and economic development;
 - Engaging at least eight First Nations in our new mineral development protocol process;
 - Continuing to work with the federal government on a proposal to support Indigenous capacity building and participation in the mining sector;
- Working to ensure the continued responsible development of our petroleum and mineral resources including working with the Mining Liaison Committee;
- Implementing and publishing innovative fish and game surveys on DataMB that engage Manitobans in the collection and interpretation of the data and enhance the quality and transparency of population data for biologists;
- Developing and implementing a strategy to secure the sustainability and certification of Manitoba's commercial fisheries;
- Reviewing our approach to management of our peatland resources;
- Working with your colleague, the Minister of Conservation and Climate, to reduce red tape for landowners, hunters, anglers, outfitters, trappers and assist with implementing on-line licensing for outdoor enthusiasts;
- Modernizing management of our Agricultural Crown Lands Program in a fair and transparent manner;
- Working with our neighbors in the Province of Saskatchewan to identify and mitigate the effects of upstream drainage on Manitobans;
- Working strategically with partners to enhance management and sustainable use in our wildlife management areas;

- Redirecting resources within the Manitoba Geographical Names Program to complete the naming of more than 8,000 geographic features in honour of known World War I fatal Manitoba casualties; and
- As part of Manitoba 150, naming Wildlife Management Areas to memorialize Manitobans who have made notable contributions to conservation.

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