

***Manitoba's Northern
Development Strategy
Report to the Community:
Progress and Renewal***





Moving Northern Manitoba Forward

Northern Manitoba is a land rich in resources and opportunity. The Northern Development Strategy (NDS) was created in 2000 as a vision to realize the potential of Manitoba's vast north for the benefit of northerners and all Manitobans. The priority of the NDS is to improve the quality of life in northern Manitoba by working with northerners in five areas:

- Education and training
- Economic development and partnerships
- Transportation
- Health services
- Partnerships to improve housing

Through strategic investments, a strong economic climate, and a commitment to partnerships with local residents and communities in all major projects, the NDS is moving northern Manitoba forward.

New eco-tourism initiatives will attract tourists to northern Manitoba, including the First Nation-led UNESCO World Heritage Project.



Economic Development

The Manitoba government is moving forward in partnership with First Nations, Metis, northern employers and communities to create a strong economic climate for Northerners. This includes providing more skills training and support for towns and cities while creating a favourable tax environment for businesses. Specific projects include:

- The Wuskwatim Generating Station, the first-ever equity partnership between Manitoba Hydro and a First Nation which has trained and employed many local residents.
- Making Manitoba's mining tax regime among the most competitive in Canada by reducing the mining tax rate and extending the Manitoba Mineral Exploration Tax Credit. Significant mining projects are being planned for Lalor Lake, Snow Lake and Red Sucker Lake.
- The Community Economic Development Fund, the First Peoples Economic Growth Fund and the newly created Métis Economic Development Fund, offer grants or loans directly to northern businesses and entrepreneurs to develop regional industries and projects.

Moving Forward

- The Keeyask and Conawapa generating projects are currently being planned in partnership with local First Nations.
- New eco-tourism initiatives will attract tourists to northern Manitoba, including the First Nation-led UNESCO World Heritage Project on the east side of Lake Winnipeg and two new protected areas at Neultin Lake and Colvin Lake in partnership with the Northlands Dene First Nation.
- The Arctic Gateway transportation corridor is underway as well as improvements to the Port of Churchill and the Hudson Bay rail line.
- A Memorandum of Understanding will strengthen relations with Nunavut.

Transportation

Reliable roads are essential to maintaining and improving the quality of life in northern communities. Since 2007 over \$200 million has been invested in northern highways and winter roads such as Highways 6, 10, 39, 373 and 374. This exceeds the investments made during the previous decade.

Under the NDS, Manitoba, in partnership with other levels of government, has invested significantly in road projects make remote communities more accessible, such as the bridge to Cross Lake, and the road and ferry that provide all-season access to South Indian Lake.

Moving Forward

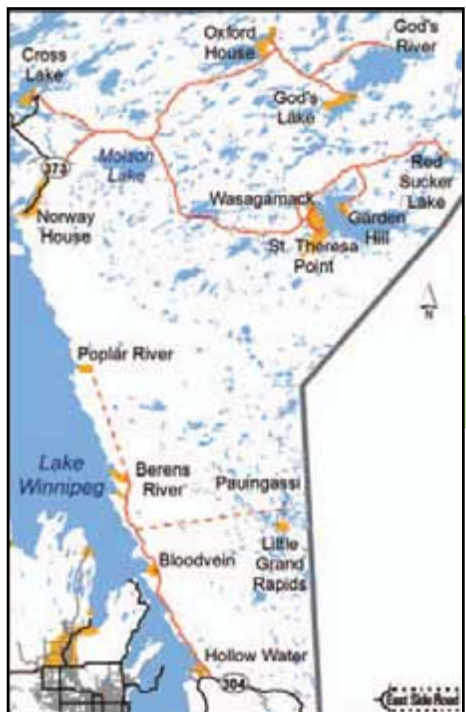
As winter roads become more unreliable, Manitoba is moving forward with the East Side Transportation Initiative – all-season roads on the east side of Lake Winnipeg:

- An east-west link connecting Garden Hill, St. Theresa Point, Wasagamack, Red Sucker Lake, God's Lake, Manto Sipi and Bunbonabee to PR 373 at Norway House.
- A southern link connecting Bloodvein, Berens River, Poplar River, Little Grand Rapids and Paungassi to PR 304 at Hollow Water.

Community Benefits Agreements are being reached with east side First Nations to ensure local residents benefit from job training and economic opportunities related to construction of these all-weather roads.

In 2011, planned road improvements for sections of Highway 6, Highway 373, Highway 10, PR 280, and PR 384 will also be completed.

Proposed all-season roads
for the east side
of Lake Winnipeg.



Health

Manitoba's commitment to health services has resulted in new and renovated health facilities throughout the North including:

- Dialysis treatment centres in Garden Hill and Norway House, dialysis expansion in The Pas and Flin Flon and new facilities under construction in Berens River and Peguis.
- Upgrades to the Thompson General Hospital Emergency Department, St. Anthony's Hospital in The Pas and the Flin Flon General Hospital.
- New personal care home and Addictions Foundation Manitoba facility in Thompson.

Moving Forward

Several initiatives are also underway to address the need for more doctors in the North including:

- A family-medicine residence program that recruits and retains more doctors in northern and remote communities as part of the provincial government plan to ensure every Manitoban has access to a family doctor and primary care team by 2015.
- A new grant program to fully cover medical school tuition of students who agree to work in communities where they are needed most.

Work is also underway to expand Telehealth services and implement an electronic health record system that will help northerners access specialty services available in larger centres without having to leave home.





Housing

- Manitoba continues to improve northern housing by investing \$11 million to renovate approximately 540 Manitoba Housing units in 30 northern communities.
- In 2010 renovations to 130 units in Churchill, The Pas, and Thompson were completed in partnership with the federal government.

Moving Forward

- Over \$16 million dedicated to build twenty-four family housing units for both the University College of the North Thompson campus and The Pas campus.
- The new Housing and Community Development Northern Region Office has opened in Thompson to improve program delivery, add new housing services and increase local involvement in housing matters.

Education and Training

The Manitoba government is committed to ensuring quality education and training is accessible to northerners. Under the NDS, Manitoba has:

- Established the University College of the North with two main campuses in The Pas and Thompson and 12 satellite sites to meet the unique education and training needs of the North.
- Launched a Rural and Northern Bursary to cover costs of relocating and commuting to attend college or university.
- Substantially increased education funding and capital funding to public schools across the North.

Moving Forward

The provincial government is committed to building on the success of these initiatives by:

- Creating a Youth Corps with a northern component to provide workplace preparation and mentoring opportunities for youth in school and those involved with youth organizations.
- Creating Flin Flon's Northern Mining Academy to train workers for mining jobs throughout northern Manitoba.





Bridge construction at God's Lake Narrows.

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