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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
OF CABINET**

The new Economic Development Board of Cabinet – with a supporting secretariat – has been established to drive focused and strategic efforts to improve Manitoba’s economic development activities and increase private-sector investment.

The board will take a ‘whole-of-government’ approach and its membership includes ministers with key portfolios that will help support and accelerate Manitoba’s economic growth and development. Membership includes the departments of economic development, investment and trade; finance; advanced education, skills and immigration; Indigenous reconciliation and northern relations; transportation and infrastructure; natural resources and northern development; and agriculture.

The board will set priorities, reduce barriers to investment and ensure swift action on:

- increasing private-sector investment and expanding capital availability;
- modernizing government policies, regulations, programs and services to spur economic growth and speed up investment;
- co-ordinating government operations to make business investment and growth in Manitoba easier and faster;
- improving opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation and commercialization;
- expanding local and global market opportunities for Manitoba companies through strategic and targeted trade initiatives;
- developing market intelligence and analytical capabilities within government; and
- leveraging government spending to support economic development as appropriate and required.

Michael Swistun, a chartered financial analyst, has been appointed as the secretary to the Economic Development Board. Most recently, Swistun served as the acting CEO of ASBEX Inc., based in Ottawa, where he led a 130-employee speciality trade contractor during their transition of ownership. Previously he served as the managing director of FMI Capital Advisories Inc., where he worked closely with construction company owners on financial advisory, mergers and acquisitions, valuations and ownership transfer issues. Prior to these roles, Swistun served as director of acquisitions for Winnipeg-based Exchange Income Corporation where he led the company’s acquisition efforts in the aerospace and manufacturing and distribution industries throughout North America. Swistun has a bachelor of commerce in finance and marketing from the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba.

The secretariat and its leadership will focus its activities on:

- ensuring action on board decisions,
- managing specific business development opportunities,
- recommending policy to incent greater private investment and promote expanded trade,
- liaising with the Manitoba business community as stakeholders,
- co-ordinating cross-departmental economic development activities to reduce delays in investment decisions,
- providing research and data analysis support, and
- establishing quantitative benchmarks and tracking outcomes.

The premier announced the following changes to deputy ministers to support the government's efforts for a strong economic and social recovery:

- Kathryn Gerrard – deputy minister of economic development, investment and trade;
- Michelle Dubik – acting deputy minister of families and continues in her role as deputy minister of Indigenous reconciliation and northern relations.