



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Room 204
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

March 3, 2020

Honourable Scott Fielding
Minister of Finance
103 – 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 Finance, you will continue our work to restore the fiscal integrity of the province, clean up our books, increase transparency and move to a balanced budget. You will do so by eliminating waste, duplication and overlap in government spending. Your focus should be on fostering economic growth and prosperity, tax relief and competitiveness, reducing our deficits and debt, and ensuring that front line public services are protected.

As Minister of Finance, you are the lead in fulfilling the following commitments:

- Balancing our budget;
- Implementing the tax relief we promised Manitoba families, including:
 - Maintaining the lower 7% provincial sales tax (PST), and the indexation of personal income tax brackets and the basic personal exemption;
 - Removing the PST from home insurance premiums, haircuts, and fees for Will and tax return preparation;
 - Preparing for the phase-out of education property taxes over 10 years, beginning in the last two years of our mandate, and ensuring that Manitobans see those savings on their kitchen table;
 - Reducing Manitoba's unfair tax interest surcharge;
 - Working with your colleague, the Minister of Justice, to eliminate probate fees; and
 - Working with your colleague, the Minister of Crown Services, to reverse past hikes to vehicle registration fees.
- Maintaining our annual investment in strategic infrastructure at no less than \$1 billion while developing a larger commitment that includes capital spending across summary government;
- Ensuring our Budget 2020 has sufficient resiliency to help protect Manitobans from the effects of possible flooding and other emergencies;
- Taking more steps to improve the transparency of our summary budget, estimates of expenditure and public accounts and integrate the reporting entities that add needless complexity;
- Reviewing our balance sheet to address liabilities that were previously ignored and assets that are without value;
- Continuing to reduce volatility and risk in government finances, and preparing for a rainy day;
- Capitalizing tens of millions of 'fake funds' that were left unfunded by previous governments;
- Reforming the Public Utilities Board to make it more effective and less expensive for ratepayers;
- Integrating the Office of the Provincial Controller into Treasury Board to align a single summary budget with our public accounts;

- Continuing to reduce red tape with the goal of eliminating at least 50,000 antiquated or unnecessary regulatory requirements that hinder Manitoba residents and the operations of local governments, non-profits, and businesses;
- Continuing our efforts to reduce obsolete agencies, boards and commissions;
- Implementing Balanced Scorecard measures including development of department- level measures;
- Introducing legislation to enhance integration of summary government budgeting and financial reporting to Public Sector Accounting Board standards;
- Reviewing the implications of urban reserves to ensure equitable treatment of taxpayers and to protect revenues needed to pay for health care and other provincial services;
- Taking steps to ensure the federal government provides adequate funds for services we provide to indigenous Manitobans consistent with Jordan's Principle;
- Working with the Manitoba Securities Commission to proclaim the Real Estate Services Act by January 1, 2021 which will update and enhance the industry's regulatory framework;
- Exploring the pros and cons of Manitoba joining the organizational committee for a national Cooperative Capital Markets Regulator (CCMR);
- Encouraging better coordination of the fragmented Manitoba pension investment model to reduce our management fees, improve disclosure and enhance returns to pensioners;
- Re-introducing amendments to The Workplace Safety and Health Act, The Labour Relations Act, and The Business Registration, Supervision and Ownership Transparency Act;
- Implementing reforms recommended by the Legislative Review Committee of The Workers Compensation Act; and
- Eliminating Sunday and holiday shopping restrictions while preserving the right of municipalities to create local retail hour restrictions in their communities.

Open Government:

- Leveraging the new OpenMB portal to increase the engagement with Manitobans, including increasing the amount of information on EngageMB, DataMB and InfoMB;
- Enhancing the coordination of communications expenses across summary government, including the major Crown Corporations, Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation, Efficiency Manitoba, the Liquor, Cannabis and Gaming Authority, Shared Health, and the Regional Health Authorities, to reduce spending and ensure value for money;
- Developing a single, whole-of-government, service-focused and user-centred revitalization of Manitoba.ca; and
- Modernize our Freedom of Information legislation to enhance proactive disclosures.

In addition to these commitments, you are the lead Minister responsible for maintaining the savings we have found by:

- Reducing communications and advertising budgets;
- Flattening management within the public service across summary government; and
- Maintaining oversight on spending on travel and hospitality.

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