



Premier of Manitoba

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

October 19, 2023

Dear Minister Schmidt,

I am honored that you have agreed to serve Manitobans as the Minister for Environment and Climate Change and the Minister responsible for Efficiency Manitoba.

Our government is a listening government. As a Minister, I expect you to respect the excellence and expert advice of the public service and to work with them on our shared mission to serve the people of Manitoba.

Manitobans told us it was time for change. We have promised to deliver a government that builds a shared future for our province. Our platform offered an ambitious and responsible plan to make health care better, lower costs, and grow the economy with good jobs and a balanced budget. Manitobans expect us to fulfill our commitments, and it is my expectation that you deliver on the commitments that pertain to your Ministry. Delivering on our core election commitments within a balanced budget is critical to fulfilling the mandate Manitobans have given us.

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We see the consequences all around us from floods, to wildfires and droughts. As the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, it is your goal to face these challenges head on to address environmental impacts. You will also provide a critical lens to your cabinet colleagues that ensures we measure the environmental impact of our decisions as a government.

Your work will intersect with many other departments as our government strives to mitigate the impacts of climate change in every way possible. You will work closely with the Minister responsible for Hydro to grow our clean energy economy while saving families money. In particular, I ask that you work with your Cabinet colleagues and through legislative, regulatory and department processes to deliver on these top priorities:

- Make Manitoba a leader in clean energy and help our government take bold action when it comes to fighting the climate crisis.
- Work with Indigenous communities on the goal of protecting 30% of Manitoba's diverse landscapes by 2030.
- Implement our Affordable Home Energy Program to help families make the switch to geothermal home heating.
- Work with the department of Finance to introduce an EV rebate for new and used EVs and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

Additionally I ask that you work with your Cabinet colleagues and through legislative, regulatory and department processes to deliver on our other key commitments:

- Create a roadmap to meet net-zero targets by 2050.
- Work toward making our energy grid net-zero by 2035 and attract new low-carbon industries.
- Work with experts and scientists to protect Lake Winnipeg and safeguard the health of all our waterways.
- Protect and invest in our parks and keep them public and affordable for families to enjoy.
- Restore funding to environmental organizations.

In addition to these priorities, I also expect that you uphold your role with integrity, professionalism and a commitment to accountability. That includes working closely with your Deputy Minister and your senior officials to ensure all decisions are made in the public interest. Just like any high-performing organization, our government will set metrics and measurable goals, listen to evidence and front line workers, regularly assess our work and report on our progress in order to deliver on the results Manitobans deserve.

The road ahead will have challenges. Change does not come easily. But we owe it to the people of this great province to deliver on our commitments. I know you are as committed as I am to working hard every day to deliver for the people of Manitoba. Our Cabinet will reflect the values all Manitobans share of honesty, hard work, pragmatism and kindness.

Manitobans can accomplish amazing things when we stand together as one province. I firmly believe there is no challenge that we cannot meet when we are united as one Manitoba.

I know I can count on you to fulfill these important responsibilities. As Premier I promise to support you as a Minister, consult with you as a Manitoban and lean on you as a friend. Together, we will work to honour the trust Manitobans have given us.

Miigwech, Merci, Thank you,

Premier of Manitoba

Original signed by:

Wab Kinew