



Premier of Manitoba

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

October 19, 2023

Dear Minister Fontaine,

I am honoured that you have agreed to serve Manitobans as Minister of Families, the Minister Responsible for Accessibility, and the Minister responsible for Gender Equity.

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.

As the Minister of Families you are responsible for helping all Manitobans access the services and supports they need to thrive. Your role is critical to fostering safe and healthy families and communities across our province and growing our economy by increasing participation in the workforce.

Given the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the Child and Family welfare system, it is integral that you develop strong relationships with Indigenous governments, organizations and communities including the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Southern Chiefs Organization, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and the voices of Inuit communities.

In particular, I ask that you work with your Cabinet colleagues and through legislative, regulatory and department processes to deliver on these immediate priorities:

- Collaborate with Indigenous governments and communities to transfer responsibility of child welfare back to the nations and families where it belongs.
- Fund new wheelchair repair technician positions so Manitobans can have timely access to the services they need to live their lives to the fullest.
- Work with organizations like the National Association of Friendship Centres to create new 24/7 drop-in centres for Indigenous women girls and two-spirit people starting in Winnipeg and Thompson.

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

- Increase wages for the disability support workers who care for Manitobans.
- Ensure Manitobans with disabilities have a voice in the design of our disability support programs.
- Improve employment opportunities for Manitobans with disabilities.
- Appoint a Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issues to support directly the work of the Ministry responsible for Gender equity.
- Remove barriers to work and strengthen EIA and Rent Assist to help Manitobans.

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 frontline 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.

Miiigwech, Merci, Thank you,

Premier of Manitoba

Original signed by:

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