



Premier of Manitoba
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

October 19, 2023

Dear Minister Smith,

I am honoured that you have agreed to serve Manitobans as the Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness and the Minister Responsible for Mental Health.

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 Housing, Addictions and Homelessness, your goal is simple but the task is immense – to solve the challenge that we see each and every day across Manitoba, when we drive by bridges and bus shelters, when we visit downtown Winnipeg, Brandon or even the suburbs. You will lead our government's response to the humanitarian crisis we see on our streets with dignity and compassion.

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

- Work with municipalities to end chronic homelessness in two terms of government by connecting people with housing and wrap-around supports, with children as the first priority.

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

- Work with the Federal government to build more social and affordable housing.
- Work with the department of Justice to hire 100 mental health workers to work alongside law enforcement and community organizations.
- Expand detox beds and treatment options so Manitobans have the support they need to overcome addiction.
- Listen to public health experts and take a harm reduction approach to the addictions crisis.

- Work with health care workers and the department of Health to reduce child mortality over two terms doubling the Manitoba prenatal benefit, implementing a province-wide suicide prevention strategy which will include a focus on 2SLGBTQ+ youth.
- Establish a supervised consumption site in downtown Winnipeg to save lives and connect Manitobans with health care and social supports.
- Work with experts to create systems for testing toxic drugs to help save lives.

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:

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