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Catherine Mitchell
Manager of Policy and Communications
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association

Every investment in strategic infrastructure creates new opportunities for Manitobans. Opportunity for the Indigenous father who can now support his family with a good-paying job in a northern mine; opportunity for the newcomer in suburban Winnipeg who gets a new promotion at her local manufacturing company; and opportunity for the multigenerational family farm that can access new markets and thrive after years of adversity. The same roads we travel to work carry the foundational elements of our economy, and we must make sure they are maintained and safe.

Since becoming Premier of Manitoba, our PC government has made infrastructure a top priority. Our 5-year plan, released this spring, outlines our commitment to growing the economy through a historic investment of \$14 billion in new schools, hospitals, roads, housing, parks, airports, and water infrastructure. This includes a minimum of \$500 million annually into our provincial highways.

The majority of this targeted funding is dedicated to bolstering Manitoba's capacity for international trade as we respond to global economic uncertainties. Amidst rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, and international conflicts like the Ukraine crisis, international businesses see Manitoba as a stable place to invest. They are drawn by our historic tax cuts, low electricity rates, and record mineral exploration investments. Most importantly, they see Manitoba's transformation into a globally recognized trade and transportation hub. Our strategic geographic location at the heart of North America, coupled with access to tidewater at the Port of Churchill, give us, and them, unique advantages. We are harnessing these advantages with investments that improve our highway system and strengthen our supply chains.

At the core of our 5-year plan is a commitment to stable and predictable infrastructure investments so that our industry partners can build the capacity to meet future construction demands. This includes developing national trade corridors, an improved trade and commerce grid, and the transformation of Winnipeg's Perimeter Highway into a true freeway, mirroring the U.S. Interstate model. The National Trade Corridors Strategy within our plan prioritizes the safety and efficiency of Manitoba's critical trade routes, beginning with the twinning of Highway 1 from Falcon Lake to the Ontario border – a long overdue project that will enhance safety and trade capacity. In the coming years, we aim to develop a sustainable northern economic corridor through to the Hudson Bay coast, enabling the export of key resources from across Western Canada.

Our 5-year plan aligns with our vision of making Manitoba a global destination for trade and investment. This vision includes the development of two ports to facilitate global trade. We have already invested \$40 million to expand CentrePort, North America's largest inland port and foreign trade zone, which will attract more than \$1 billion in investment once completed. Additionally, we have invested \$74 million in the Hudson Bay rail line to the Port of Churchill, unlocking the potential to transport Western Canadian commodities to European markets. We are also supporting the redevelopment of the Thompson airport with a \$20-million investment, the only provincial government to do so in over 25 years.

Over the past year, our government has established the Manitoba Strategic Corridors Advisory Council to inform and support our approach to advancing economic growth with the first-hand expertise and experience of industry. This work supports the memorandum of understanding signed with Alberta and Saskatchewan to advance economic corridors and support the movement of goods and services within Western Canada. Nationally, I have proudly led efforts in advocating for more federal investments in Manitoba's strategic infrastructure. In July, I joined with premiers across Canada to urge the Prime Minister to convene a First Ministers' Meeting to discuss a national infrastructure strategy and funding. We can only get our commodities and products to market more efficiently than ever before by working together.

As the provincial election nears, I urge you to reflect on which leader, and which party, you trust to invest in the critical infrastructure that will power our economy. Our government is listening, we're taking action, and we're getting the job done for your industry. Through our continued partnership, I am confident we will grow our economy and create endless opportunities for all Manitobans.

Yours sincerely,



Premier Heather Stefanson
Leader, PC Party of Manitoba

SURVEY ANSWERS

1. Should you be Premier after October 3, will you embrace as general guidelines the Seven Pillars set out by the six leading business organizations to support economic growth?

- a. Fiscal Competitiveness**
- b. Venture Capital**
- c. Global Trade**
- d. Infrastructure Investment**
- e. Indigenous Engagement**
- f. Skilled Workforce**
- g. New Fiscal Deal for Municipalities**

A re-elected PC government will continue to advance and champion these seven pillars as the foundation of Manitoba's economic growth, just as we have done over the past four years. We have already made significant progress to strengthen each of these pillars. We've reduced income taxes and raised payroll tax thresholds to make Manitoba a more affordable and competitive place to work and start a business. Moreover, we've allocated \$100 million to the Manitoba First venture capital fund, a signal that Manitoba is open for business. This new fund will attract private sector investments and help Manitoba businesses access capital at all stages of business growth.

We have also made a strategic investment of \$73.8 million in the Hudson Bay railway, a critical piece of infrastructure to expand economic development, employment, and tourism opportunities in Northern Manitoba. By facilitating the transport of key commodities from across Western Canada to tidewater and international markets, this investment holds incredible potential to generate ongoing investment and high-quality jobs for both northerners and all residents of Manitoba. Further, we have committed more than \$2.5 billion over the next five years to improve highways and help farms and businesses throughout Manitoba to get their products to market. This builds on other investments we have made to expand direct flight connectivity, twin Highway 1 from Falcon Lake to the Ontario border, upgrade the Pembina Port of Entry, and expand CentrePort to ensure our trade infrastructure is poised to handle generational new opportunities for economic development.

At the same time, we have signed historic agreements with seven First Nations to share timber due revenues, invested in our skilled workforce by increasing training seats in healthcare, manufacturing, and the trades, and increased basket funding for municipalities across the province. A re-elected PC government will continue to advance these initiatives to make Manitoba the best place to do business in Canada.

2. Investment in Manitoba's transportation system is critical to sustaining existing and supporting new economic growth. Do you commit to building upon the current level of forecasted investment in the highways (five-year investment plan of a minimum of \$500 million annually) based upon a public assessment of the system's current condition and projected future needs?

Between 2007 and 2016, the NDP underspent on necessary infrastructure by around \$1 billion, and necessary upgrades and maintenance were deferred for no good reason.

Our PC government has been committed to cleaning up their mess, which is why for the first-time ever, we outlined a 5-year plan for Manitoba, which the transportation industry has been advocating for, and we are delivering.

A re-elected PC government is committed to investing a minimum \$500-million annually into our highways as identified in the 5-year plan, and will look to build upon this through comprehensive and ongoing assessments of emerging and projected future needs.

3. Trade accounts for 53% of Manitoba's GDP. But if you can't move it, you can't sell it. Do you agree strategic transportation infrastructure investment is central to economic growth, as it is intrinsically links to trade?

Yes, every investment in strategic, trade-enabling infrastructure creates new opportunities for Manitobans — for the Indigenous father who can now support his family with a good paying job in a northern mine; for the newcomer in suburban Winnipeg who gets a new promotion at her local manufacturing company; for the multigenerational family farm that can access new markets and thrive after years of adversity. That's why we established the Strategic Corridors Advisory Council, which consists of Manitobans with first-hand expertise and experience related to transportation and our supply chain.

4. The proposed Canada Trade Infrastructure Plan (see attached) asks the federal government to work with the provinces and private sector to create a long-term trade corridor investment strategy, anchored by set criteria for prioritizing projects with the highest return to GDP, to elevate Canada's trade productivity and global profile. Do you commit to continue Manitoba's support for CTIP?

Yes, which is why our PC government has proudly led national efforts in advocating for investments in strategic infrastructure. In July, Premier Heather Stefanson and other premiers urged the Prime Minister to convene a First Ministers' Meeting to discuss a national infrastructure strategy and funding. We've earmarked historic funding to boost Manitoba's trade capacity at a critical time for the global economy.

Now, the federal government must come to the table to help Manitoba build national trade corridors, enhance our trade and commerce grid, and transform Winnipeg's Perimeter Highway into a true freeway.

5. CentrePort Canada, North America's largest inland FTZ port, has already attracted more than \$1 billion in private investment, is in the process of developing its Rail Park and CentrePort South footprint. Given CentrePort Canada's demonstrated importance to Manitoba's domestic and global trade profile, do you commit to continuing to support the full buildout of CentrePort Canada?

Yes, which is why our PC government unveiled a comprehensive 5-year infrastructure plan to support our vision of Manitoba as a thriving global hub for trade and investment. CentrePort plays a pivotal role in realizing this vision, as it will be instrumental in sustaining our economic growth. To this end, we've committed a substantial \$40 million investment towards its expansion and development, ensuring that CentrePort is well-prepared to attract ongoing investment and create high-quality employment opportunities for both Winnipeg and all residents of Manitoba.

6. Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure plays a key role in the province's economic growth strategy, moving goods to market and people to jobs. Do you commit to upgrading Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure's mandate to be central to the province's economic growth strategy, aligning investment plans to trade corridors and gateways?

A re-elected PC government is committed to further strengthening the mandate of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure, and ensuring that planned infrastructure investments are closely aligned with the actions outlined in our Economic Growth Action Plan. We will remain focused on leveraging our trade infrastructure as a catalyst for growth and prosperity in Manitoba, and we will continue to prioritize and fund projects that contribute to the economic prosperity and development of our province.

7. Benjamin Franklin was quoted to say that "if you fail to plan, you are planning for failure." For the greatest return to the GDP, investment in the transportation network must be planned, multi-year and strategic, allowing industry(s) to plan necessary HR, supplies and capital acquisition, for competitive bidding, which elicits highest value to the highways capital program budget. Do you commit to moving MTI's highways capital budget to a planned annual and five-year program?

Our PC government unveiled the first-ever 5-year capital program this year with historic levels of funding — \$14 billion over the next five years, including over \$2.5 billion for highway infrastructure, \$560 million to improve Manitoba's key trade and commerce routes grid, and nearly \$280 million to upgrade

Winnipeg's Perimeter Highway to freeway standards. This ensures our industry partners have appropriate opportunity to plan for upcoming projects while informing the public about the timing and location of upcoming work.

8. Municipalities struggle to raise revenues sufficient to meet the increased demand for expanded core services and for new services. They receive 10 cents of every tax dollar raised, yet are burdened with a disproportionate funding responsibility for those services – including infrastructure – that most immediately touch upon the standard and quality of life in communities. Would your government commit to negotiate a 'new funding deal' that

- a. contemplates greater sharing of growth taxes**
- b. contemplates new sources of revenue raising for municipalities**
- c. most importantly, undertakes to reposition municipalities with fiscal power and flexibility to deliver quality services?**

A re-elected PC government will work with local governments to ensure sustainable funding growth for local operational spending and capital projects.

We have started to work toward that goal this year by providing municipalities with \$217 million in total operating funding – \$47 million more than last year and the largest increase in a decade. Our government listened to municipalities and have ensured they have the flexibility they need to spend this operating funding as they see fit. We also provided \$160 million in capital funding, a 17% increase, to support local priorities – water and wastewater projects, roads and bridges, public transit, recreation and other projects.

This funding basket is in addition to \$140-million in one-time capital investments in water and wastewater projects we provided to municipalities in January 2023, and in addition to an increase of \$54.1-million to support cost-shared strategic infrastructure projects under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

If re-elected, a PC government would again invest in municipalities and continue on our path to developing a simple, predictable, and stable funding formula for municipalities.