



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Room 204
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

October 18, 2018

Honourable Cliff Cullen
Minister of Justice and Attorney-General
Keeper of the Great Seal of the Province of Manitoba
Room 104, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Dear Colleague:

The people of this great province gave us a mandate two years ago to build a better Manitoba. As a government, we have listened, and we have learned. We have made real progress on the mandates we issued in May of 2016 to begin fixing our finances, repairing our services and rebuilding our economy.

The old way of doing things, where government just got bigger and more expensive is over.

For the first time in nearly two decades, our government is serving the interests of the people instead of the people working to serve the interests of government.

There is much more to do. I expect progress to continue as we work together on behalf of Manitoba taxpayers. Our government is about building safer, greener and more prosperous communities and our government must continue to earn the people's trust every hour of the day, every day of the week and every month of the year.

This mandate letter is an opportunity to renew and refresh our commitment to a better, more affordable government for Manitobans. I expect each Cabinet Minister will provide leadership and effective management of their respective portfolios.

Not only will our ministers reflect the values of hard-working Manitobans, they will apply the kind of frugality, dedication and honesty the people expect from their elected representatives.

Our mandate from Manitobans includes a commitment to improve in key areas:

- Most improved job creation and economic growth.
- Most improved partnerships with business and industry.
- Most improved province in achieving outcomes from the delivery of quality services.
- Most improved province in public finances.

Your Mandate

As Minister of Justice and Attorney General, you are responsible for delivering on the following commitments:

- Advancing the government's Criminal Justice System Modernization agenda focusing on crime prevention, serious criminal cases, more effective use of restorative justice and responsible reintegration of offenders to create safe communities and timely justice;
- Working with the Minister of Health, Seniors & Active Living and community-based partners such as the Community Safety and Wellness Alliance to modernize and improve the delivery of addictions and mental health services in Manitoba and reverse patterns of substance abuse and criminal involvement, with an emphasis on strengthening services for crystal meth addictions;
- Undertaking a comprehensive review of policing services with a focus on service delivery and innovation;
- Working with your colleague, the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to enhance supports for victims of domestic violence;
- Reforming our Family Law to make it more accessible, efficient and effective for families and children, giving them an alternative to our adversarial, complex, and expensive court-based system;
- Working with your colleagues, leading our efforts to ensure public safety for Manitobans who choose to use cannabis and for those that do not;
- Implementing additional law enforcement mechanisms to remove impaired and distracted drivers from our roads and streets;
- Modernizing our Court Registry System to reduce administrative errors and make it more efficient,
- Working with the Minister of Families, introducing innovative business, social and community partnerships financed by Social Innovation Bonds to advance objectives within your mandate such as reducing recidivism rates;
- Continuing our efforts towards more Open Government, including proactive disclosures, tendering procedures, accountability and ethics across government;
- Responding to recommendations from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to strengthen the legislation governing conflict of interest for members of the Legislative Assembly;
- Enhancing disclosures required of candidates seeking election to our Legislative Assembly;
- Restoring Manitobans' right to vote on major policy decisions by introducing stand-alone referendum legislation;

- Allowing the Auditor General to hire auditors independently; and
- Reviewing the rules relating to government advertising and Legislative Assembly mail outs and publications, to ensure they are nonpartisan and information-based.

As part of our Cabinet team, you will assist your colleagues in fulfilling the following commitments:

- Implementing our economic development strategy, led by the Minister of Growth, Enterprise and Trade.
- Fixing our finances, reducing red tape, transforming government and reporting outcomes, led by the Minister of Finance;
- Delivering our Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, led by the Minister of Sustainable Development; and
- Advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Manitobans, led by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations.

I expect you to consult with your Deputy Minister and other senior officials in your department to ensure that decisions are based on the best advice and facts available. The province's professional public servants are a rich resource that is to be respected and nurtured under your leadership. In return, you should expect accurate and timely information to assist you in making the best decisions possible.

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.

The ability to fulfil our platform is predicated on that mutual respect. That respect will be extended to all members of Cabinet, Caucus and the Legislature. We must all display the highest ethical standards and individual ministers will maintain a professional, collegial tone.

I expect you to be knowledgeable about your files and ready to explain decisions to colleagues and citizens alike. We must never forget that citizens have placed their trust in us to carry out the duties as their elected officials, and the added responsibility of high office places an even greater burden on you to lead by example.

As a government, we have signaled our intention to be accountable for all of our summary government, including many of the government entities outside of your core departments that have lacked direction over the past decades. They are very much part of our government team and Manitobans have the same expectations of achievement of outcomes in the other services that these entities provide.

Our government works as a team, and you must listen carefully to your colleagues within Caucus. I remind you that it is equally critical to reach out beyond the walls of the Legislature so that our decisions are informed by Manitobans.

There will be no room for arrogance, presumption and high-handedness in our government. Ministers must remain connected to communities and understand their concerns. You will communicate our decisions and policies clearly, regularly and transparently.

The mandate I am setting out for you is not just a series of goals, they are the crucial building blocks for a better Manitoba. We promised a prosperous future for Manitobans – and with your dedication and passion we will succeed in delivering it to them.

We have been entrusted with the rare privilege of serving our province. I know you are as grateful as I am for this opportunity. Let us work hard every day to fulfil that responsibility.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brian Pallister