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# **Conservation and Climate**

## **Minister's Briefing**

2021 Premier Transition

November 2021

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# MANITOBA AT A GLANCE

## DEMOGRAPHICS

 **Population 1,383,765**  
(as at July 2021) – 5<sup>th</sup> highest in Canada

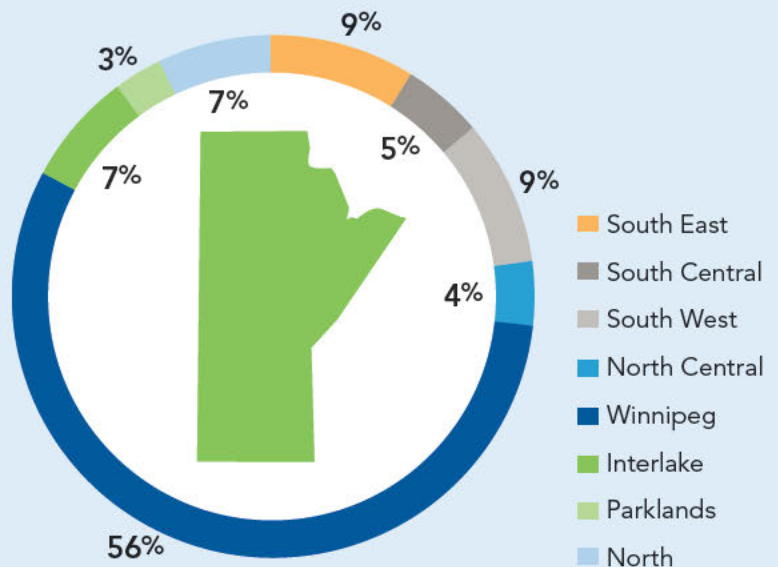
 **49.7%**  
Male

 **50.3%**  
Female


**Median Age 37.8 years**

Manitoba is the **youngest province**; third youngest including the territories. The **Indigenous population is 29.3 years on average**, approximately 8.5 years younger than the provincial median age.

### Population by Economic Region



## KEY ECONOMIC MEASURES

 **Real GDP is projected to grow 4.9%** in 2021, fully offsetting the worst economic downturn in Manitoba's history

**Real GDP at market prices - \$64,454 million**



**Debt-to-GDP**

**37.7%**

A ratio below 40 percent is desirable.



**Manitoba has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest greenhouse gas emissions out of 10 provinces**

## LABOUR FORCE



**Unemployment Rate**

**5.6%**

(lowest in Canada)

**Youth unemployment 9.9%**



**Participation Rate**

**66.6%**

(3<sup>rd</sup> best out of provinces)

# MANITOBA AT A GLANCE *cont.*

## HOUSEHOLD FINANCES

### Median Income

**\$68,147**

(5<sup>th</sup> among the provinces - 2015)

### Consumer Price Index

**+4.7%** from 2020

### Shelter Cost

**+7.3%** from 2020

(2<sup>nd</sup> highest increase in Canada)



### Average Weekly Earnings

**\$1,023.26**

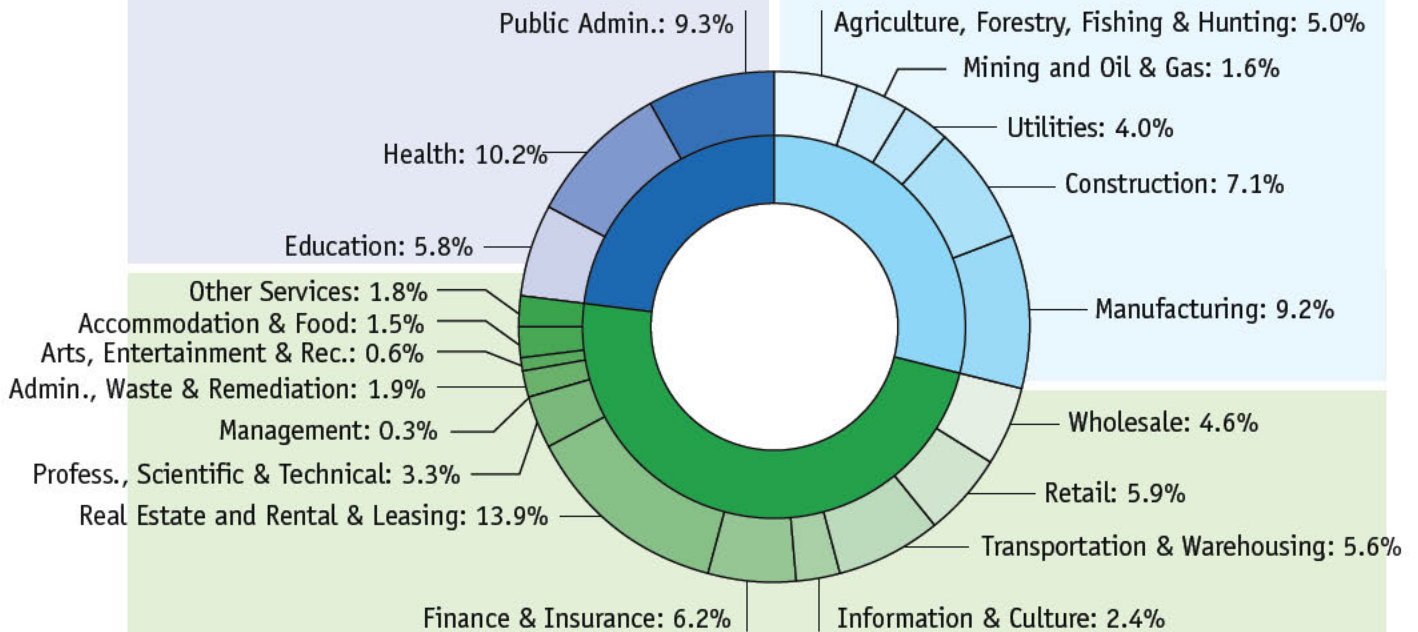
(7<sup>th</sup> in Canada)

## LEADING SECTORS

### Manitoba's Economic Diversity

Public Services: **25%**

Goods-Producing: **27%**



Private Services: **48%**

# STATE OF MANITOBA - PANDEMIC IMPACTS

**THE ECONOMY IS REBOUNDING, but there are major areas of concern – mental health and addictions, housing, youth learning loss, increasing labour slack, a significant backlog of medical treatments, and more.**

Manitoba may be close to a return to pre-pandemic metrics on growth and jobs, but still far behind pre-pandemic projections for 2022 – the province is facing a “growth gap”.

Vulnerable Manitobans have, in many ways, fallen further behind. This has increased the existing gap in wellbeing for many demographics.

## HEALTH

- Based on self-reported data gathered during the second wave, **40% of Manitoba respondents indicated their mental health deteriorated since the onset of the pandemic.** There is increasing evidence of a mental health “echo pandemic”.

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- Median wait times at Winnipeg emergency departments and urgent care centres are the highest in at least the past seven years.

## EDUCATION

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- Manitoba consistently ranks among the bottom of provinces and OECD countries in reading, math, and science scores.

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## COMMUNITY

- African, Filipino, Latin American, Indigenous and South Asian communities in Manitoba were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with both more cases of, and deaths from, the disease.
- Immigration numbers plummeted in 2020 as the world locked down. **Manitoba welcomed 8,628 immigrants, a decrease of 54 percent from 2019.** Low immigration causes strain on the labour market, tax base, post-secondary sector, and economy as a whole.
- A recent Winnipeg survey found 424 people experiencing absolute homelessness (not using shelters) – an 84% increase since 2018.
- Manitoba’s Crime Severity Index (CSI) score indicates a decrease in both violent and non-violent crimes by 11 percent and 10 percent respectively through the pandemic, a greater decrease than the national average. Across Canada, the CSI decreased by 8 percent in 2020 compared to 2019.

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- In 2020, Manitoba household net savings was roughly \$6 billion.
- Manitoba has **the second-highest low-income persistence rate out of all provinces**, and a higher low-income immobility rate than the Canadian average.



# PANDEMIC IMPACTS *cont.*

## ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

- Across the board, key macroeconomic indicators in Manitoba are trending upwards in 2021, providing **early evidence of a strong recovery**.
- **The number of active businesses recovered** by May 2021, exceeding the pre-pandemic count in February 2020 by 130 businesses. The number has since fallen 0.3 percent and remains down 21 businesses compared to the pre-pandemic level.
- **Small businesses represent 98 percent of employers in Manitoba.** The majority (if not all) of the volatility in active business numbers can be attributed to small businesses.

## GOVERNMENT

- The pandemic required significant unplanned spending, resulting in an actual deficit of \$2.1 billion in 2020/21, compared to the budgeted a deficit of \$220 million. **The First Quarter Report in 2021/22 forecasts a \$1.6 billion deficit for this year.**
- Own-source revenues fell by over \$1.1 billion.
- Government is required to balance the budget by 2028/29 under the Balanced Budget Legislation.

## LABOUR

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- Labour slack: **over 89,651 Manitobans are looking for work or want to work more than they currently do.** While Manitoba's unemployment rate has returned to 5.6% (up 0.5 points from Feb 2020), labour slack has returned to 12.8% (up 1.4 points from Feb 2020).
- **Transportation & Warehousing is experiencing the highest job vacancy rate** in Manitoba at 6.4%. In contrast: nationally, the Accommodation & Food and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation sectors are experiencing considerably higher job vacancy rates at 9.0% and 8.4%.

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# STATE OF MANITOBA – MANITOBA 2050

**PLANNING FOR MANITOBA 2050** requires responding to the province's immediate needs while anticipating the demands of the future.

The medium- to long-term outlook for Manitoba is informed by factors that are reasonably certain, such as the growth and aging of the population, as well as more enigmatic factors such as climate change. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic is a reminder that disruptors of unknown scope and scale can occur at any time.

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## POPULATION

- By 2050, **Manitoba's population could grow to between 1.7 million and 2 million residents**, compared to 1.3 million in 2021.
- In ten years, **21% of Manitoba's population will be First Nations or Métis.**
- Despite the overall young age of the province, the fastest growing age group is seniors.** Projections show that, over time, the number of seniors will increase from 27 to 34 for every 100 workers, increasing demand for public services while reducing the tax base.
- Immigrant attraction and retention will be crucial** to offsetting population loss to other provinces and a stagnant birth rate. **Manitoba's 5-year retention rate for the 2018 tax-year was 75%, ranking fifth nationally and below Canada's rate of 87%.**

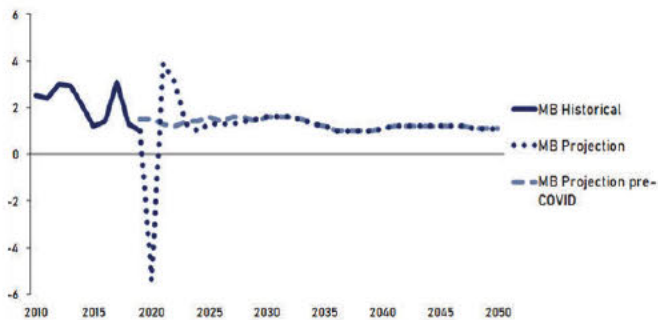


# MANITOBA 2050 *cont.*

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

- The pandemic is not anticipated to have persisting impacts on Manitoba's economy in the longer term.

### Real Economic Growth (%), Manitoba, Past & Projected



Data Source: Stokes Economics

- Over the next three decades, **Canada's economy is projected to slightly outperform Manitoba's economy.**
- **Manitoba is the only province with more potential labour market entrants than potential retirees** and Manitoba will likely continue to have an **unemployment rate between 5 and 6%**, which is currently consistently among the lowest in Canada.
- The sectors with the greatest growth projections are, **transportation and warehousing, other services** (e.g. maintenance and repairs, personal and pet care, funerals, religious activities, and advocacy) and **health and social services sectors.**

## CLIMATE CHANGE

- The **largest contributors to provincial emissions are transportation, agriculture, and stationary combustion.**
- **The Prairies, and Western Canada generally, have had the strongest warming to-date across southern Canada, especially in winter.**

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## GOVERNMENT



- An aging population **will increase demand for services**, particularly in healthcare.
- Provincial government expenditures are projected to outpace revenue under current conditions.

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# MANITOBA 2050 *cont.*

## AN INDIGENOUS DRIVEN FUTURE

- **Manitoba has a high Indigenous population compared to other provinces**, and Winnipeg has more Indigenous residents per capita (11.1%) than any other major Canadian city.
- **First Nations communities in Manitoba have the lowest average Community Well-Being scores in Canada**, at 49.3 points. The score for non-Indigenous communities in Manitoba is 78 points.
- In 2016, **Indigenous people spent \$9.3 billion in Manitoba**. The bulk of that spending was by Indigenous businesses and created over 35,700 jobs, contributed \$2.3 billion to Manitoba's GDP and **\$231 million in taxes to federal and provincial governments**.
- Closing the significant opportunity gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians which, if addressed, would **boost Manitoba's economy by nearly \$3 billion annually**.
- The Indigenous population in Canada is young and growing. Since 2006, the Indigenous population across the country has grown at more than four times the rate of the non-Indigenous population.

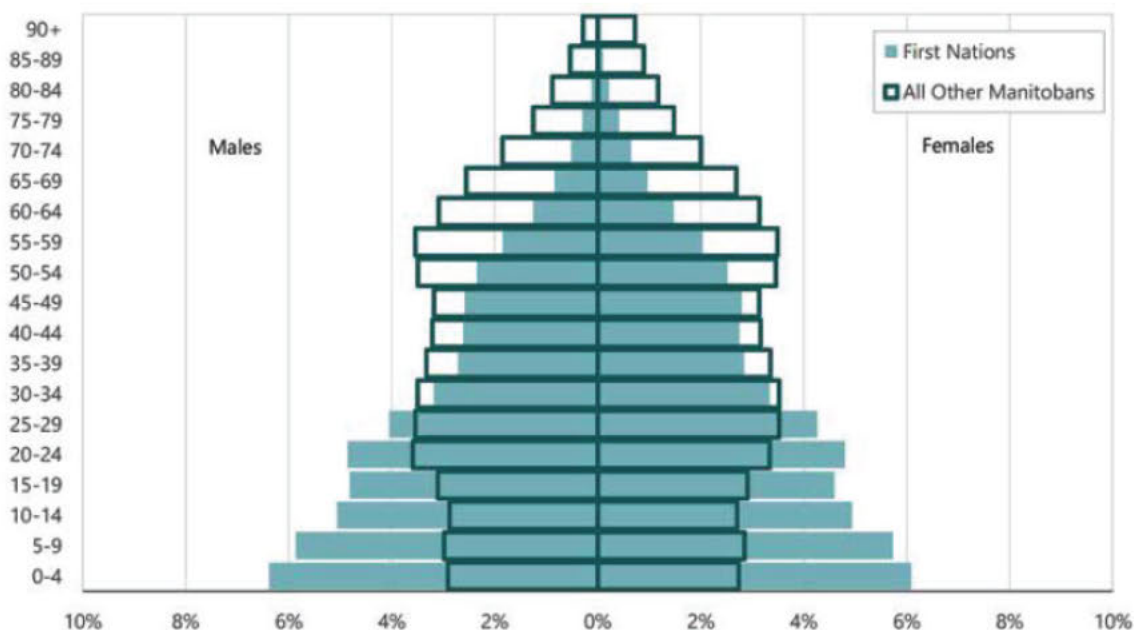


### Age and Sex Distribution for Manitoba

Age Profile of Manitoba, 2016

First Nations: 141,965

All Other Manitobans: 1,209,214



Source: Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Autumn 2019

# I. Machinery of Government Summary

## **Machinery of Government**

This section focuses on the existing structure, machinery, and procedure of government.

### **Premier's Office**

Partisan political staff occupy 'technical' (non-civil service) positions in the Premier's Office and provide policy advice and support. Key staff and functional areas of support include the Principal Secretary, Chief of Staff, Communications and Stakeholder Relations, and the Premier's Secretariat.

### **Executive Council**

The Executive Council is the central, senior executive authority in government. It is the Premier's Ministry – 'department of the premier'. Its mission is to support the Premier and Cabinet in fulfilling their commitments and undertakings. Within Executive Council, members from the public service work in tandem with the Premier's Office to support the Premier and Cabinet and the achievement of the government's priorities.

#### Office of the Clerk of the Executive Council

Composed exclusively of public servants, the Office of the Clerk is responsible for supporting the work of the Clerk and of Cabinet. The Executive Council Office is comprised of three primary division: Cabinet Operations and Planning Division, Policy and Research Division, and the Communications and Engagement Division. The Cabinet Operations and Planning Division supports the Clerk on the planning and delivery of government's agenda as Cabinet Secretary. The Policy and Research Division advances strategic, long-term policy work across departments in alignment with overarching government priorities and whole-of-government thinking. Lastly, the Communications and Engagement Division is in the ECO and serves the whole-of-government in communicating to and from Manitobans.

#### Ministerial Office Staff

Administrative staff in Ministerial offices (e.g., Correspondence Secretaries, Assistants to Ministers, Appointment Secretaries) are public servants. Their experience and knowledge are critical to the effective operation of Minister Offices and departments. On a day-to-day basis, they function within the parameters set by ministers and their staff.

### **Cabinet**

Cabinet is a forum for Ministerial consultation and coordination. It is the highest decision-making body in government. It offers the premier and Ministers the opportunity to meet with colleagues to make proposals, outline interests or concerns, and collectively contribute to the decision-

making of government. Fundamental Cabinet principles are confidentiality, consensus, and solidarity.

## **Cabinet Committees**

### Priorities and Planning (P&P)

Mandate: Advises on policy direction and priorities to Cabinet and oversees the implementation of government's priorities.

### Treasury Board (TB)

Mandate: Treasury Board's role is to make resource allocation decisions within the context of Cabinet's direction. In fulfilling this objective, Treasury Board provides a forum for the specific review of the financial and human resources required to fulfill departmental proposals. Generally, even policy issues requiring Cabinet review would be considered first by Treasury Board from a resource requirement perspective prior to referral to Cabinet.

### Regulatory Accountability Committee (RAC)

Mandate: RAC was established by legislation to oversee and promote regulatory accountability and red tape reduction across government. Its mandate has expanded to include review of all legislative proposals. RAC is mandated to oversee the modernization of regulatory development practices within government. This is accomplished by promoting alternatives to regulation and current best practices with departments and government agencies, encouraging simple, high quality, efficient regulatory requirements. The goal of these efforts is to reduce the administrative burden on external stakeholders associated with regulatory requirements and to reduce internal costs for government.

### All Aboard (Poverty Reduction)

Mandate: Responsible for advising on poverty-related policies, programs and services. Provides advice on the poverty reduction strategy, monitors implementation, and facilitates community involvement in strategy development.

### Public Sector Compensation Committee (PSCC)

Mandate: Review and consider public sector management and labour relations issues and resulting strategic options in a fiscally responsible and sustainable manner. Review and direct specific public sector compensation mandates for bargaining purposes, ensuring necessary oversight and consistency. Align direction with broader fiscal challenges and imperatives, ensuring that mandates reflect government's ability to pay. Ensure mandates reflect Manitoba's relative economic position within Canada. Ensure overall direction balances and supports government's priorities as to service delivery, through retention and recruitment of qualified and competent employees.

### Economic Growth Committee of Cabinet (EGCC)

Mandate: Oversee a whole-of-government approach to growing the provincial economy and to deliver on the Economic Growth Action Plan's key outcomes. Mandate is to ensure that the government's approach towards economic development is comprehensive and strategically aligned across provincial departments and agencies.

### Gender Based Violence Committee of Cabinet (GBVCC)

Mandate: Integrate services and takes a whole of government approach to co-ordinate policies, legislation and initiatives on pervasive issues such as domestic and sexual violence and harassment.

## **Central Agencies, Departments, and Supporting Bodies**

### Treasury Board Secretariat

Situated within Manitoba Finance, the Treasury Board Secretariat provides financial and analytical support and advice to the Chair of Treasury Board (normally the Minister of Finance) and to Treasury Board in fulfilling expenditure management responsibilities.

### The Department of Finance

The department is responsible for managing the province's fiscal and financial resources, allocating funds to other governmental departments, labour relations and employment standards, consumer protection, business services and promoting an open government and engaged Manitobans.

### The Regulatory Accountability Secretariat (RAS)

Currently located within the responsibility of Legislative and Public Affairs, the Regulatory Accountability Secretariat (RAS) provides analytical and operational support to the Regulatory Accountability Committee of Cabinet. The RAS also acts as the provincial government's representative on pan-Canadian forums to remove trade barriers that impede the free flow of labour, capital and goods and services amongst provinces.

### Civil Service Commission

The Civil Service Commission (CSC) provides human resource services and management for the Manitoba government consistent with the provisions of The Civil Service Act. This organization reflects the consolidation of responsibility for the human resource function from departments to the CSC which occurred in 2010.

### Intergovernmental and International Affairs

Intergovernmental Affairs provides strategic advice, analysis, and support to the Premier of Manitoba on matters of intergovernmental and international significance to Manitoba. This includes matters concerning Manitoba's relationships with the federal government, other provincial and territorial governments, as well as on Manitoba's international relations, activities, and interests, including trade agreements.

### Central Services

The Department of Central Services was established in 2019 to focus on modernization of government services including procurement, Information Technology (IT), and capital management with the mandate to be the service delivery organization for government.

### Legal Services Branch

The Legal Services Branch, situated within the Department of Justice, functions as the law firm to the provincial government. It provides legal services to all government departments, agencies, boards, commissions, committees and government corporations that do not have their own legal counsel. The role of the Legal Services Branch flows from the constitutional and statutory responsibilities of the Attorney General as the chief legal advisor to government and the guardian of the public interest.

### Legislative Counsel

Legislative Counsel, situated in the Department of Justice, prepares all Manitoba bills, acts and regulations in English and French as well as consolidations of current acts and regulations. The office also provides advice and assistance as the Law Officer of the Legislative Assembly in the manner contemplated by the Rules of the Assembly. Publishes acts and regulations on the Manitoba Laws website, and provides French translation services to the Legislative Assembly.

### Protocol Office

The Manitoba protocol office facilitates official visits to Manitoba; acts as Manitoba's principal point of contact for the numerous countries that comprise Winnipeg's Consular Corps; serves as the secretariat to the Order of Manitoba Advisory Council; provides event and travel support for the Premier's (or Deputy Premier's) office; provides logistical support for Cabinet Shuffles and ceremonial aspects of the Cabinet Swearing in event; and organizes ceremonial aspects of the Speech from the Throne Ceremony, among other responsibilities. Formally with Intergovernmental Affairs, it is now situated in the Office of the Minister of Legislative and Public Affairs.

## **Existing Departments**

1. Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration (AESI)
2. Agriculture and Resource Development (ARD)
3. Central Services (CEN)
4. Civil Service Commission (CSC)
5. Conservation and Climate (C&C)
6. Crown Services (CS)
7. Economic Development and Jobs (EDJ)
8. Education (ED)
9. Families (FAM)
10. Finance (FIN)
11. Health and Seniors Care (HSAL)
12. Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations (IRNR)
13. Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA)
14. Justice (JUS)
15. Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA)
16. Manitoba Infrastructure (MI)
17. Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery (MHWR)
18. Municipal Relations (MR)

## 19. Sport, Culture and Heritage (SCH)

### **Secretariats and Special Offices**

1. Accessibility Compliance Secretariat
2. Francophone Affairs Secretariat
3. Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat (MSW)
4. Multiculturalism Secretariat
5. Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office
6. Social Innovation Office

### **Deputy Ministers**

The highest ranking public servants, namely the Deputy Ministers and the Clerk of the Executive Council, are appointed by Order in Council. Deputy Ministers are appointed on advice of the Clerk of the Executive Council. The Deputy Minister is the principal source of support for a Minister in fulfilling his or her collective and individual responsibilities and respecting his or her accountability to the Legislature.

### **Machinery of Government and Procedural Matters**

#### Cabinet Committees – Protocols and Procedures

Traditionally, Cabinet has met in the Executive Council Chamber (Room 208) on Wednesdays, weekly when the House is sitting and less often when it is not, with attendance restricted to Cabinet members, a small number of Executive Council Office and Premier's Office staff, none of whom participate in discussions unless specifically requested to do so.

Discussions at Cabinet are open and confidential, with Ministers bringing to the table proposals within their area of responsibility. Decisions are made by consensus and reflected in Cabinet "minutes", distributed to Ministers and departments by the Clerk of the Executive Council.

#### Setting Priorities

Mandate Letters: Since 2016 in Manitoba, the assignment of responsibilities to Ministers has been formalized through the issuance of a mandate letter from the Premier to the Minister. This confirms the responsibilities assigned to each minister, policy goals, performance expectations, and commitments. The letters are published on the government's external website.

Traditionally, these have been drawn from the party's electoral platform.

### **Officers of the Legislative Assembly**

Officers of the Legislative Assembly (OLAs) are responsible for upholding and promoting the fundamental principles of democracy, fairness, transparency and sound governance. Each OLA is assigned a specific mandate through statute to oversee that these principles are respected in the operations of executive government.

There are currently six OLAs in Manitoba, two of which (Conflict of Interest Commissioner and Information and Privacy Adjudicator) are combined operationally:

1. Auditor General
2. Chief Electoral Officer
3. Children's Advocate
4. Conflict of Interest Commissioner
5. Information and Privacy Adjudicator
6. Ombudsman

## II. Department Organization

### A. Department Responsibilities and Mandate

Conservation and Climate's principal role within government is to sustainably manage the province's resources, protect its environment and rich biodiversity, and manage the provincial parks system for the benefit of all Manitobans. In support of this role, the department continually aims to balance the social and economic needs of Manitobans with environmental protection by working cooperatively with the public, Indigenous communities, other governments, and stakeholders. The following highlights the department's strategic vision, mission, values, and its key roles and responsibilities.

#### Vision

A healthy and resilient natural environment and economy where current and future generations will prosper.

#### Mission

To be leaders in environmental stewardship while supporting sustainable development for all Manitobans and our communities.

#### Values

**Responsive** - A responsive workforce serves both our internal and external clients with a sense of urgency grounded in mutual respect. We recognize the importance of timely, solutions focused service to these clients in building public confidence and trust.

**Collaborative** - We recognize the value of hearing and respecting one another's perspectives and strive to integrate our work with others through partnerships and relationships that recognize the value this diversity provides. By working together openly through respectful dialogue, we build trust, understanding and commitment. We work across government, leveraging our collective abilities and knowledge to serve Manitobans effectively and efficiently.

**Accountable** - Being accountable means taking responsibility for decisions and actions. It also means being answerable by using good judgment to make decisions and being transparent as to how decisions are made.

**Respectful** - We respect our role as public servants in delivering the government's mandate and the impact our day-to-day decisions have on the clients we serve. We conduct our work with respect for diverse perspectives and disciplines, recognizing the value this diversity brings. We are inclusive of all abilities, genders, sexual orientations, and ethnicities, and design our programs and services for all Manitobans. We are committed to reconciling our relationship with Indigenous peoples.

**Integrated** - We use a whole-of-government approach, working across our department and with other departments to provide efficient and balanced programs, services, and advice.

**Dynamic** - An engaged workforce strives for innovative approaches, takes initiative, and consistently adopts a flexible, adaptive mindset to problem-solving, program delivery and client service. We proactively identify issues, assess impacts, and adapt our approaches to meet the needs of our clients and the needs of our environment.

The department carries out its vision and mission through:

- Developing and administering legislation and regulations that apply to natural resources, environmental protection, pollution prevention, and climate change.
- Monitoring and allocating sustainable natural resource uses.
- Ensuring environmental protection by leading the review, assessment, approval, licensing and appeals processes for development activities.
- Managing and monitoring environmental and water quality.
- Administrating grant funding programs that support departmental and whole-of-government priorities.
- Respecting and upholding the honour of the Crown with respect to the rights of Indigenous peoples and reconciling relationships.

Conservation and Climate ensures compliance with legislation through education, voluntary action, negotiation, audit and enforcement. The department contributes to the economic development and well-being of Manitobans through managing commercial use of natural resources; providing recreational, land, water and resource based opportunities; managing the provincial parks system; and supporting community initiatives through grant funding programs. The department is responsible for ensuring the sustainability of natural resources for all Manitobans, and for the continuance of the rights of Indigenous peoples. The department also protects people, property, and resource values from wildfires and the adverse effects of other natural and human-caused occurrences.

## B. Organizational Structure

Conservation and Climate's executive team, which includes the Deputy Minister and four assistant deputy ministers (ADMs), are responsible for the department's strategic direction and operations. This Executive Management Committee (EMC), which also includes the Director of Legislation, Policy, and Coordination, meets every two weeks, and focuses on the implementation of the department's strategic plan, balanced scorecard and department mandate. EMC is chaired by the Deputy Minister.

The Corporate Management Committee (CMC) meets every week and includes ADMs, the Director of Legislation, Policy, and Coordination, and the Human Resources Manager. CMC is focused on the financial administration and operation of the department. Items discussed at CMC include staffing, finances, departmental policies and procedures, and The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). CMC is chaired by the Executive Financial Officer who is also the ADM of Finance and Shared Services.

The Directors Management Committee (DMC) is a forum for senior leaders in the department – directors and senior managers – to share information and updates, receive direction from EMC and CMC, and collaborate on department-wide initiatives. The committee typically meets once a month.

### Department Divisions and Branches

The department is comprised of four divisions, each led by an ADM. These include Finance and Shared Services, Parks and Resource Protection, Environmental Stewardship, and the Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office (CGPIO).

### Finance and Shared Services Division

The Finance and Shared Services division provides executive management of programs and management services for the department. The division is comprised of the Financial Services branch; Process Improvement and Technology unit; Shared Services and Risk Management unit; and the Legislation, Policy, and Coordination branch.

The Financial Services branch develops and monitors the department's financial policies, systems, and procedures. This includes ensuring the effective operation of departmental financial functions in compliance with requirements of the department, Treasury Board, the department of Finance, and the Office of the Auditor General. The branch is also responsible for the department's comptrollership function as it relates to procurement, contracts, and grants.

The Process Improvement and Technology unit provides information technology and business process improvement services across the department. This includes providing strategic business analysis to identify ways to leverage technology to improve process outcomes. This unit also serves as the department's liaison for information technology.

The Shared Services and Risk Management unit provides risk management services for the department, as well as client and public information services. This includes coordination of

requests for access to information under FIPPA; business continuity planning; and department wide insurance, risk management and incident resolution. The unit also coordinates services offered through the Manitoba licensing system in collaboration with the department of Agriculture and Resource Development.

The Legislation, Policy, and Coordination branch leads the development and integration of high priority policy for the department, particularly in areas that cross divisions and departments. This includes supporting the department's EMC in the planning and implementation of department and government mandates, identifying and developing strategic legislative priorities and initiatives, and working with the Deputy Minister's and Minister's offices to resolve high profile issues. This branch also administers the Protected Areas Initiative and Resource Tourism Operators Program.

### Parks and Resource Protection Division

The Parks and Resource Protection division is comprised of three branches, including the Parks and Protected Spaces branch, the Manitoba Wildfire Service, and the Drainage and Water Rights Licensing branch.

The Parks and Protected Spaces branch manages provincial parks, ecological reserves, and the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. These lands help protect unique natural, cultural and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities to approximately five million visitors each year. This branch is also leading the development of Manitoba's Trails Strategy.

The Manitoba Wildfire Service is responsible for the prevention, detection and suppression of wildfires across 23 million hectares of the province. The Wildfire Service oversees all human, aircraft, equipment, and supplies needed for fighting wildfires. Divisional staff monitor weather patterns, lightning strikes, soil moisture, and forest conditions to determine the probability and location of wildfires, and to develop prevention and mitigation strategies.

The Drainage and Water Rights Licensing branch administers and enforces The Water Rights Act as it relates to water control works, water use, and diversion. Construction and maintenance of water control works such as surface and subsurface drainage, dams, dykes, and works causing changes to water flow direction or volume requires authorization under The Water Rights Act.

### Environmental Stewardship Division

The Environmental Stewardship division administers regulatory frameworks focused on environmental protection, public health, and waste diversion and recycling. The division also supports waste diversion and recycling program grants aimed at meeting provincial targets related to greenhouse gas emissions, local circular economy, and extended producer responsibility. This work is coordinated through four branches, which includes the Environmental Approvals branch, the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement branch, the Office of Drinking Water, and the Environmental Programs and Remediation branch.

The Environmental Approvals branch is responsible for the assessment of proposals and requests that require environmental approvals, permits, and licences. The goal is to ensure that projects do not adversely affect human health and the environment while still supporting sustainable economic development for their immediate and long-term benefit. The branch is also responsible for water power licensing and the provincial air quality program.

The Environmental Compliance and Enforcement branch is responsible for inspections and enforcement to ensure regulatory compliance with environmental legislation and licences. The branch is the liaison with licensees in explaining the parameters of licences and assisting with interpretations. It is also responsible for the coordination of environmental emergencies.

The Office of Drinking Water monitors the construction and operation of licensed public and semi-public water systems, applies progressive risk-based enforcement, and facilitates water system compliance and the addressing of long-term boil water advisories through educational and technical support to result in safe drinking water for Manitobans.

The Environmental Programs and Remediation branch administers two programs. The Waste Diversion and Recycling Program develops and implements provincial programming related to waste diversion, recycling, and composting. Overarching objectives include management of extended producer responsibility organizations and the allocation of an annual \$8.7M budget to support waste diversion efforts across the province. Secondly, the branch administers the Environmental Remediation Program, which includes the remediation and monitoring of orphaned and abandoned mines, and contaminated sites.

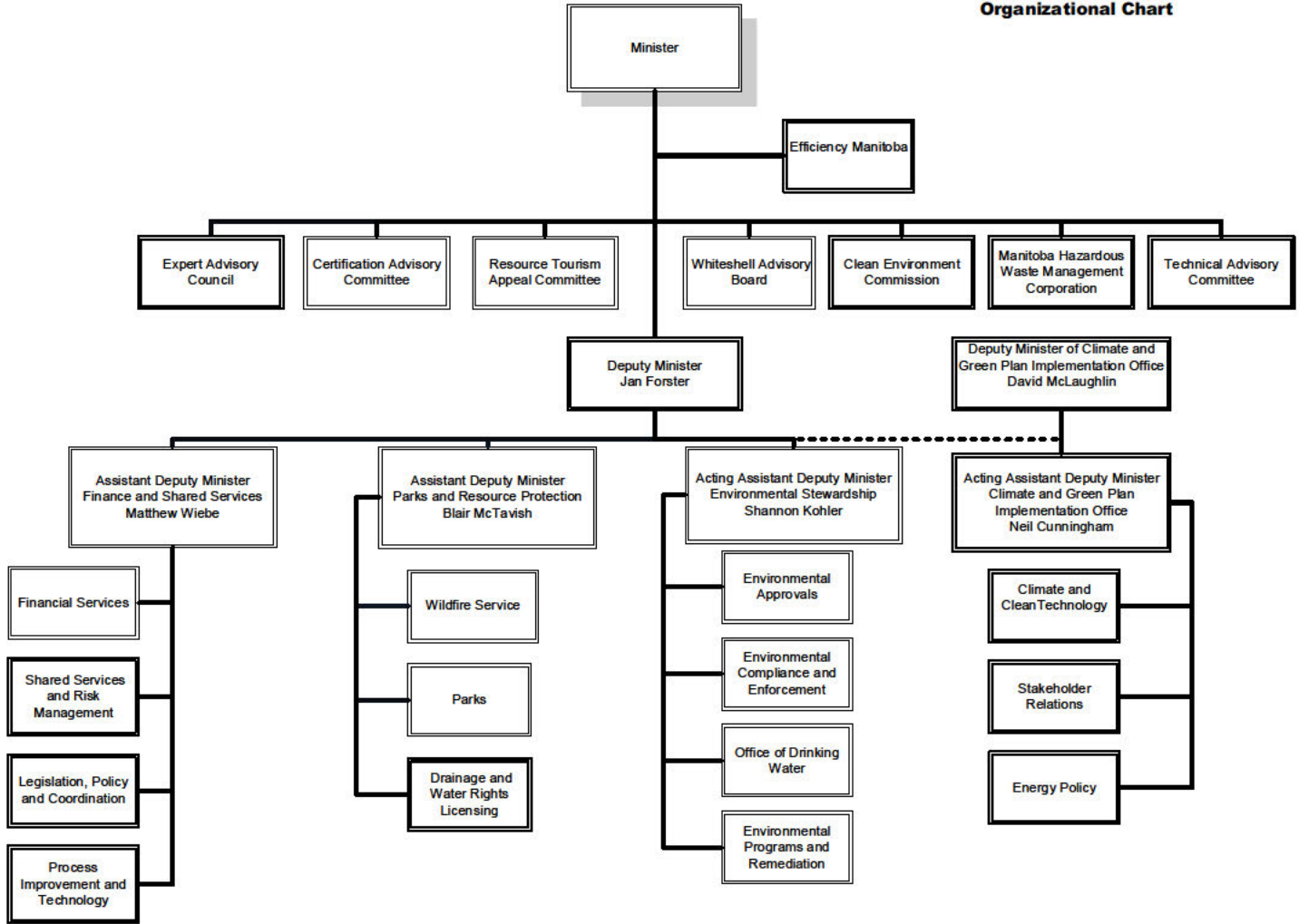
#### Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office (CGPIO)

CGPIO was established in January 2019 to lead and coordinate implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures including those in the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan. CGPIO includes policy units focused on energy, clean technology, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. CGPIO also includes the Low Carbon Government Office, which focuses on the climate change and sustainability leadership, practices, and reporting of the Government Reporting Entities.

CGPIO reports centrally to a management committee chaired by the Clerk of Executive Council, Principal Secretary, and the Deputy Minister of Conservation and Climate. In accordance with this reporting structure, CGPIO will provide a separate ministerial briefing book identifying key issues and strategic opportunities related to the Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan.

C. Organizational Chart and Senior Leadership

**Manitoba Conservation and Climate  
Organizational Chart**



Conservation and Climate Senior Leadership

**Deputy Minister: Jan Forster**



**Assistant Deputy Minister: Matt Wiebe, Finance and Shared Services**



**Assistant Deputy Minister: Blair McTavish, Parks and Resource Protection**



**Acting Assistant Deputy Minister: Shannon Kohler, Environmental Stewardship**



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**Acting Assistant Deputy Minister: Neil Cunningham, Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office**



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### III. Strategic Overview

#### A. Urgent and Pending Issues

**1. Issue Title:** City of Winnipeg Environment Act licences for North End Waste Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC), South End Waste Water Pollution Control Centre (SEWPCC), and Combined Sewer Overflow compliance.

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)


**High Level Summary:** The department continues to work across government to promote the City of Winnipeg's compliance with its Environment Act licence conditions for the NEWPCC, SEWPCC, and Combined Sewer Overflow project (updating of old sewer systems to prevent overflow discharges into the rivers). The effluent discharge from the NEWPC is the single largest point source of nutrients to Lake Winnipeg.

**Current Status:**

- 23(1)(a) In October 2020, the Manitoba government approved year two (2021) of the upgrade schedule but not beyond. The City agreed to a constructability review which will determine if there are opportunities to overlap the three individual phases of the upgrades, particularly phase two (biosolids facilities) and phase three (nutrient removal facilities) to complete the project 23(1)(a). In May 2021, the department approved an interim phosphorus reduction plan while plant upgrades continue.
- Funding from Manitoba (\$96.7M) and Canada (\$116.1M) for the headworks project was announced in July 2021, through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, with an additional \$143M in City funding. The City has contracted with Red River Solutions to complete the headworks project 23(1)(a). The City and Manitoba are currently investigating the optimal procurement methodology for the biosolids and nutrient removal facilities. The entire NEWPCC upgrades are projected to be completed 23(1)(a). Central Services, in collaboration with Municipal Relations, oversees the funding, procurement and completion of the projects themselves, while Conservation and Climate is focused on the environmental licensing.
- The City is also completing upgrades at the SEWPCC to ensure compliance with effluent standards. The licence requires the construction and commissioning the new plant by December 31, 2020 (original date of 2015). In December 2020, the City submitted a Notice of Alteration (NOA) to extend the date without a clear plan on when upgrades would be completed. In March 2021, the department denied the request and requested the City to submit a revised NOA by September 30, 2021. The City requested an extension of the September 30, 2021 date to November 30, 2021, which the department approved.
- Work is underway to further review the City's compliance with the Combined and Sewer Overflow Environment Act Licence and further action may be required once the review is completed.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)



**Options and Recommendation:**

- The department will be engaging with Agriculture and Resource Development, Central Services, and Municipal Relations to discuss the status of the licences and activities underway and to discuss next steps. A status update along with any recommendations for next steps will be prepared for the Minister's review.

**Contact Person:** Shannon Kohler, A/ADM, Environmental Stewardship Division (204-792-9074).

## 2. Issue Title: CanWhite Sands extraction – Environment Act licence and public hearing.

### Timeline for Action: 23(1)(a)

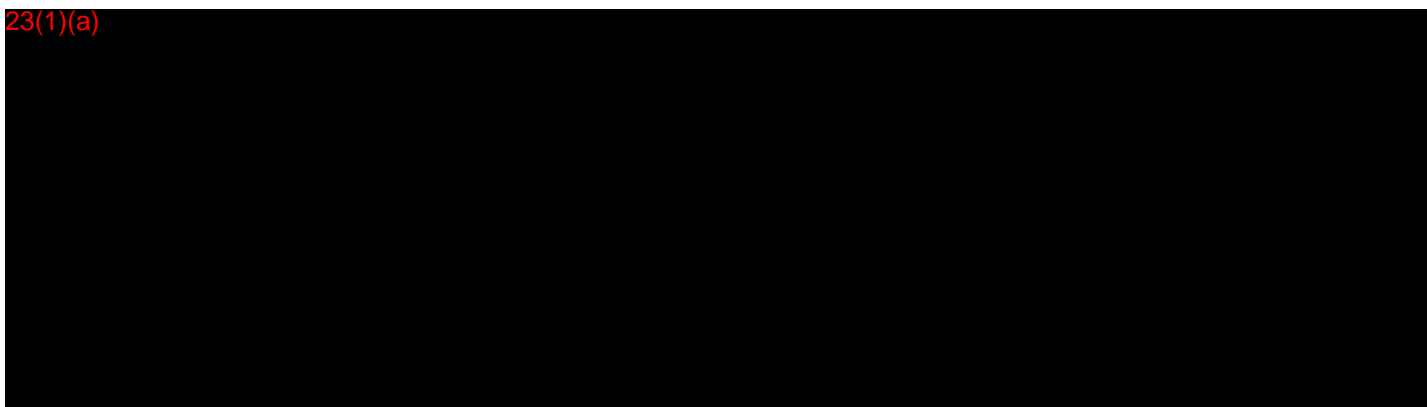
**High Level Summary:** As part of The Environment Act licensing process, the public and an interdepartmental technical advisory committee is provided an opportunity to comment on Environment Act proposals. On August 3, 2021, CanWhite Sands Corp. submitted an Environment Act Proposal for a silica sand extraction project in the Rural Municipality of Springfield. This proposed project consists of the sequential installation, operation, and decommissioning of silica sand extraction wells to remove water and silica sand from groundwater at various locations on private lands. It also includes returning treated water back underground.

### Current Status:

- The department has extended the typical one-month public and technical review period to two-months to ensure that the public and provincial technical team has adequate time to review all the materials provided by CanWhite. The review period ended on October 7, 2021.
- The department has received a number of concerns regarding the proposed method of sand extraction and possible impacts to the aquifer. This includes requests from members of the public and surrounding rural municipalities to the Minister, seeking that the Clean Environment Commission conduct a hearing.
- As part of the environmental assessment process, when public opposition to a development is heard, it triggers a requirement that the Director of the Environment Act make a decision within 30 days of the public comment period ending on whether or not to recommend to the Minister that a public hearing be held. If a public hearing is called by the Minister, the proponent could be directed to cover the costs which are approximately \$40K plus participant honourariums. The process can take four to six additional months, in addition to the six to 12 month average environmental licensing timeline. The director has until November 8 to decide if they will recommend to the Minister that a Clean Environment Commission Hearing should be held.
- Agriculture and Resource Development is currently reviewing the proposed project and assessing the potential scope of Section 35 Consultations.
- CanWhite Sands submitted a separate Environment Act proposal in 2020 for a sand processing facility, and the environmental assessment and licensing process is nearly complete.

### Confidential Advice to Minister:

23(1)(a)



**Options and Recommendation:**

- The department will prepare briefing materials for the Minister on this matter once the public and technical review periods for the Environment Act proposal have ended.

**Contact Person:** Shannon Kohler, A/ADM, Environmental Stewardship Division (204-792-9074).

**3. Issue Title:** Provincial parks cottage service and lease fee modernization project.

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** 19(1)(a), 23(1)(a)

This assessment model would replace the existing rent and service fee model and is similar to assessment models used for properties outside of provincial parks.

**Current Status:**


- The department has been working with Municipal Relations to develop options for implementing this direction to assess the approximately 6,200 cottage properties in provincial parks.
- The department has had several discussions with the Manitoba Provincial Park Cabin Owners Association (MPPCOA), who had developed an alternative approach that could be considered for assessing fees.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)

**Options and Recommendation:**

23(1)(a)



**Contact Person:** Blair McTavish, ADM, Parks & Resource Protection (204-945-4842).

**4. Issue Title:** Development of a provincial parks strategy.

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** The current ministerial mandate letter directs the department to develop a new provincial parks strategy, including the following objectives: enhance visitor experience and better integrate parks with local communities; achieve a more sustainable financial model for Manitoba parks; partner with other organizations on capital investment requirements and deliver an improved parks experience; develop opportunities for corporate/private sponsorship investment in parks including naming rights; develop agreements with municipalities and First Nations to develop cottage lots, expand campgrounds, and operate and maintain these areas to provide new tax, lease or fee revenue opportunities; and create dedicated funds/revenue accounts for provincial parks, which will allow private donations to flow to specific projects and parks (the Provincial Parks Endowment Funds were announced in the spring of 2021).


**Current Status:**

- Manitoba Parks is working with Travel Manitoba to develop this strategy, given the significant opportunity for Manitoba's provincial parks to attract national and international tourists as the pandemic eases. Travel Manitoba hired a consultant to evaluate Manitoba's parks, 23(1)(a)
- 23(1)(a)
- The department has been doing initial work towards the development of a parks strategy framework, and it is anticipated that there will be significant opportunity for truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in the new approach.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**


23(1)(a)

23(1)(a)



**Options and Recommendation:**

23(1)(a)



**Contact Person:** Blair McTavish, ADM, Parks & Resource Protection (204-945-4842).

**5. Issue Title:** Waste diversion and recycling framework review.

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** Conservation and Climate is considering options to modernize and enhance waste diversion and recycling in Manitoba in accordance with the current Ministerial mandate letter to support the growth of a local circular economy and drive innovation and green products, while reducing waste sent to landfills. To support this process, an external consultant was selected through a competitive tender process to conduct a review of Manitoba's waste diversion and recycling programs and regulatory framework.

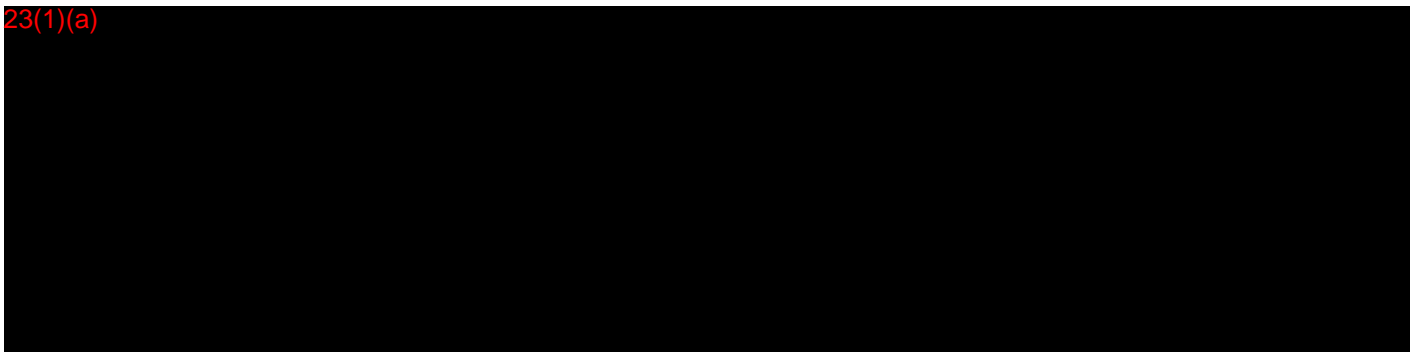
The department is currently analyzing the results of the consultant's final report and is working to develop an action plan to strengthen waste diversion and recycling in Manitoba with a focus on reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills, particularly from organic sources. Organic materials are the largest category of waste that can be diverted from landfills, making organics diversion essential to reaching provincial waste diversion goals. Organics diversion is also the largest opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the waste management sector. The action plan will also integrate aspects of the proposed 'cleanest and greenest' and the regulatory refresh strategies that the department has been working on.

**Current Status:**

- The consultant's final report was shared with the public in the summer of 2021. The department has begun drafting an action plan to modernize waste diversion and recycling based on the framework review's recommendations.
- The department is meeting with internal and external stakeholders to discuss the review's recommendations.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)



**Options and Recommendation:**

- It is recommended that the Minister continue to advance waste diversion and recycling in Manitoba by supporting the development and implementation of the action plan.

**Contact Person:** Shannon Kohler, A/ADM, Environmental Stewardship Division (204-792-9074).

## B. Strategic Priorities and Opportunities

### 1. Issue Title: Advance Truth and Reconciliation

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** Conservation and Climate is working to integrate reconciliation into all priority work. There are a number of significant opportunities to advance this work.

**Current Status:**

- Conservation and Climate has been leading a whole-of-government effort to develop a large area planning approach in Manitoba. This approach would see Indigenous communities as partners to proactively plan and review opportunities for both enhancing conservation as well as economic development in the North.
- Large area planning aligns with the priorities of Agriculture and Resource Development, Municipal Relations, Manitoba Infrastructure, Economic Development and Jobs, and Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations. Representatives from each of these departments sit on a senior level large area planning working group, which is chaired by Conservation and Climate. Representatives from the Priorities and Planning secretariat and Clean Environment Commission also sit on this committee.
- The department has issued a request for proposals for a consultant to help develop the large area planning framework. 23(1)(a)

• 23(1)(a)

• 23(1)(a)

• 23(1)(a)

- The department has a unique and well respected training program on advancing truth and reconciliation, and is focused on increasing the number of staff that take the program (this is a balanced scorecard item).

**Options and Recommendation:**

- The department continues to identify opportunities to advance truth and reconciliation, incorporating this view into its ongoing policy and operational analysis.

**Contact Person:** Kristin Hayward, Director of Legislation, Policy, and Coordination (204-619-0179)

**2. Issue Title:** Orphaned and abandoned mines and contaminated sites rehabilitation programs.

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** The department is responsible for advancing the remediation of orphaned and abandoned mines (OAM) and contaminated sites while holding polluters accountable. The total environmental liability held by government for orphaned and abandoned mines is \$225M, and \$53M for contaminated sites. High-risk sites, including the Sherridon OAM, Ruttan OAM, and Carberry contaminated site, have been prioritized for remediation in 2021/22.

The Clean Environment Commission conducted a review of legislation and programs to provide options for a polluter pays approach to reduce future environmental liabilities for government. The Commission's final report was completed in December 2020 and includes recommendations to strengthen Manitoba's approach, including amendments to The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act.

**Current Status:**

- Remediation at the Sherridon Mine OAM site was completed in fall 2021. Remediation at the Ruttan Mine OAM site is 70 per cent complete. Carberry site remediation began in 2021 and will run for approximately 10 years. A review of liabilities was completed at 104 OAM sites and 118 contaminated sites to inform next steps as it relates to advancing the remediation of high risk sites and the financial liability of the portfolio. 19(1)(a), 23(1)(a)

- 19(1)(a); 23(1)(a)

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)

**Options and Recommendation:**

23(1)(a)

**Contact Person:** Shannon Kohler, A/ADM, Environmental Stewardship Division (204-792-9074).

**3. Issue Title:** Review of The Water Power Act and renewal licensing guidelines.

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** The Water Power Act and associated regulations have origins dating back to the 1930s when Manitoba Hydro did not exist as a Crown Corporation, and does not address socioeconomic and environmental issues. This is particularly important for water power legacy projects, which pre-date The Environment Act which does consider socioeconomic and environmental issues as part of its licensing framework.

**Current Status:**

- 23(1)(a)
- The final licences for the Churchill River Diversion, Lake Winnipeg Regulation, and Jenpeg Generating Station, issued in May 2021, include new licensing conditions that respond to socioeconomic and environmental impacts heard during respective section 35 consultations, laying the groundwork for water power licences to include these aspects going forward.
- Modernization of The Water Power Act and The Environment Act, including development of renewal licensing procedures, was announced at the same time as the above three final licences. The government has also communicated this to Indigenous communities and Manitoba Hydro directly.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)

**Options and Recommendation:**

- The department will move forward with a review of The Water Power Act and development of a renewal licensing procedure to address the backlog in renewal licences.

23(1)(a)

**Contact Person:** Shannon Kohler, A/ADM, Environmental Stewardship Division (204-792-9074).

#### 4. Issue Title: Development of a Provincial Trails Strategy.

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** To meet the increasing demand from trail users and the public, the department has worked with internal and external partners to draft a comprehensive Provincial Trails Strategy. The draft strategy addresses the current ministerial mandate letter item to lead the development and maintenance of a provincial trail network for hiking, biking, snowmobiles and off-road vehicles. The draft strategy identifies numerous strategic actions intended to increase and support partnerships with trail stakeholder organizations, foster a culture of trail stewardship in Manitoba, ensure the financial and environmental sustainability of the province's trail network, and drive trail tourism and associated economic benefits. The strategy was prepared with input from numerous provincial departments, stakeholder groups, the public, and other interested parties. This process included a public survey, which garnered over 2,000 responses.

The Provincial Trails Strategy is a key initiative that supports the department's balanced scorecard objective to "sustain Manitoba's unparalleled natural environment". Further, this draft strategy aligns with government's goals to promote a "green" post-pandemic economic recovery, recognizing that trails can be an important economic development driver for local communities. New or improved trail networks can promote tourism and enhance communities' quality of place, directly supporting local businesses that provide accommodations, equipment, hospitality amenities, and other services to trail users.

#### **Current Status:**

- During the pandemic, as many Manitobans have sought to connect with nature, the increase in trail use has resulted in concerns regarding high levels of traffic. This includes challenges related to parking at trailheads, ongoing maintenance, and infrastructure. The draft strategy is expected to be a key driver in mitigating these issues, while ensuring a coordinated approach to enhancing Manitoba's trail network to better align with increasing demand.
- The draft trails strategy is currently under review by a small external Trails Strategy Partner Group to confirm key stakeholder support and endorsement of the draft strategy. 23(1)(a)

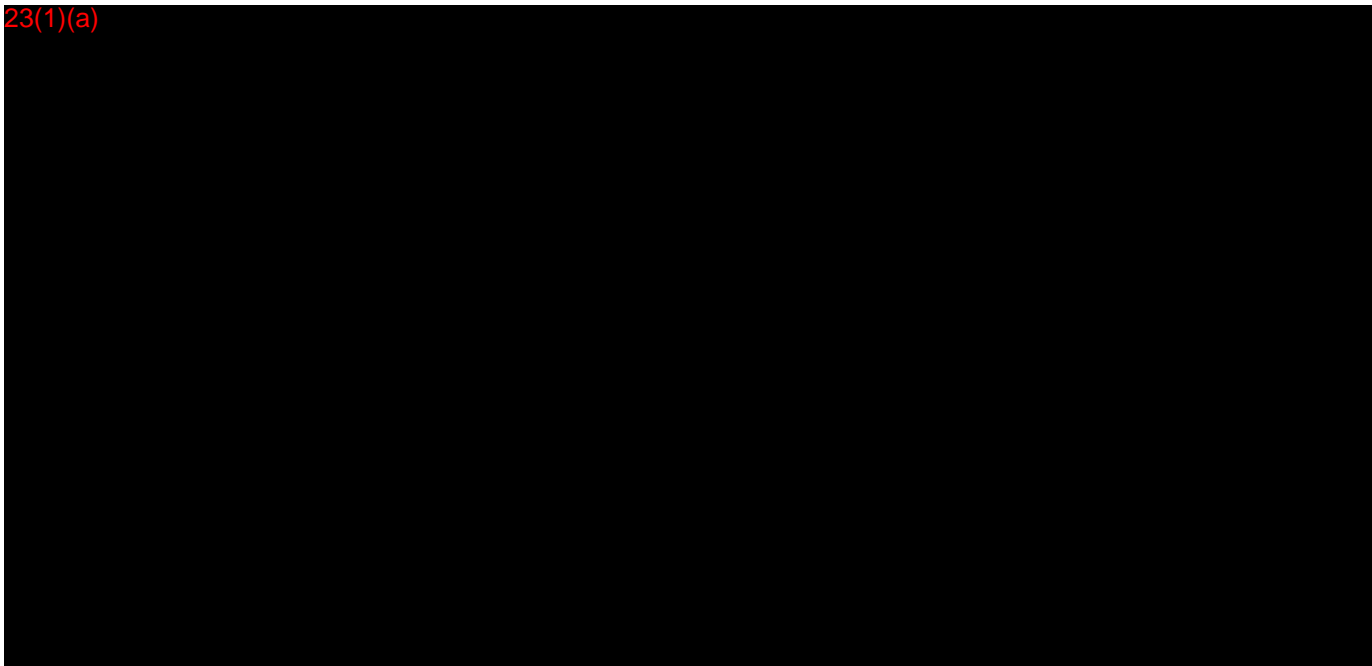


- While the draft strategy is still in development, the following identifies some specific opportunities and initiatives to enhance user experiences in the province:
  - Significant improvements to several trails and trail staging areas in Whiteshell Provincial Park in response to high levels of use and demand. This includes development of an improved staging area at the Hunt Lake Trail; expansion of the parking lot at Pine Point Rapids Trail; and development of the Blue Highway mountain bike trail network, which is being led by the South Whiteshell Trails Association.

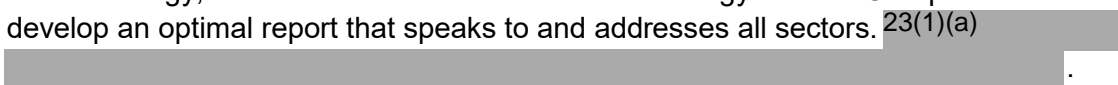
- Increased collaboration with trail stakeholder groups such as the Cross Country Ski Association of Manitoba, the Manitoba Mountain Biking Association, and the Manitoba Association of Trail Runners. This has resulted in improved communication between the department and trail users, as well as enhanced stewardship of trails via the creation of trail clean-up and maintenance activities.
- Funding for a wide variety of trail development and maintenance activities across the province, through the new Trails Manitoba grant program. This program was established by Manitoba via the creation of an endowment fund with The Winnipeg Foundation.
- Continued improvements to backcountry campsites on the Caddy Lake/Winnipeg River route in Whiteshell Provincial Park, with increased funding for site maintenance.
- The development of backcountry campsites along the Centennial Trail in Whiteshell Provincial Park, and promotion of this trail as a long distance hiking route.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)



**Options and Recommendation:**

- The recommended approach is to continue the revisions process of the draft Provincial Trails Strategy, and work with the external Trails Strategy Partner Group in order to develop an optimal report that speaks to and addresses all sectors. 23(1)(a)
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**Contact Person:** Blair McTavish, ADM, Parks & Resource Protection (204-945-4842)

## 5. Issue Title: Enhancements to the Parks Reservation Service

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** Spurred by an extraordinary uptake in demand for camping reservations in 2021, the volume of reservations and number of devices trying to access the system at the same time was unprecedented during the 2021 launch, resulting in dropped tickets, slowdowns, and irregular system behaviour. The department is exploring short-term fixes and potential rule changes to improve the 2022 reservation launch experience, as well as options for major changes to PRS, 23(1)(a) This initiative aims to enhance client services in the province.

### Current Status:

- The department is currently exploring options for major changes to PRS, 23(1)(a) Work is also underway on the existing system for short-term fixes and potential rule changes to improve the 2022 reservation launch experience.
- On September 28, 2021, the Manitoba government launched a public engagement process through EngageMB.ca, seeking input from campers and provincial park users on ways to improve the process and experience for people using the PRS to make campground reservations.

### Confidential Advice to Minister:

23(1)(a)

### Options and Recommendation:

- It is recommended that the department continue to develop long-term options to improve the PRS. It is further recommended the department work in collaboration with Communications and Engagement in preparing the 'What We Heard' report following the public engagement process, ensuring that messaging highlights Conservation and Climate's goal to improve services to Manitobans.

**Contact Person:** Blair McTavish, ADM, Parks & Resource Protection (204-945-4842).

## 6. Issue Title: Organics Green Impact Bond

**Timeline for Action:** 2020/21 to 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:** Green Impact Bonds are outcomes-based financing tools used to fund impact-driven projects that enable government to rapidly innovate and implement new solutions, while sharing risk with the private sector. The Organics Green Impact Bond, the first of its kind in Manitoba, was developed to address government priorities, drive innovation, reduce organic waste going to landfills, increase green jobs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It was announced publicly and referenced in the 2021 budget speech. It supports the department's balanced score card objective to sustain Manitoba's unparalleled natural environment.

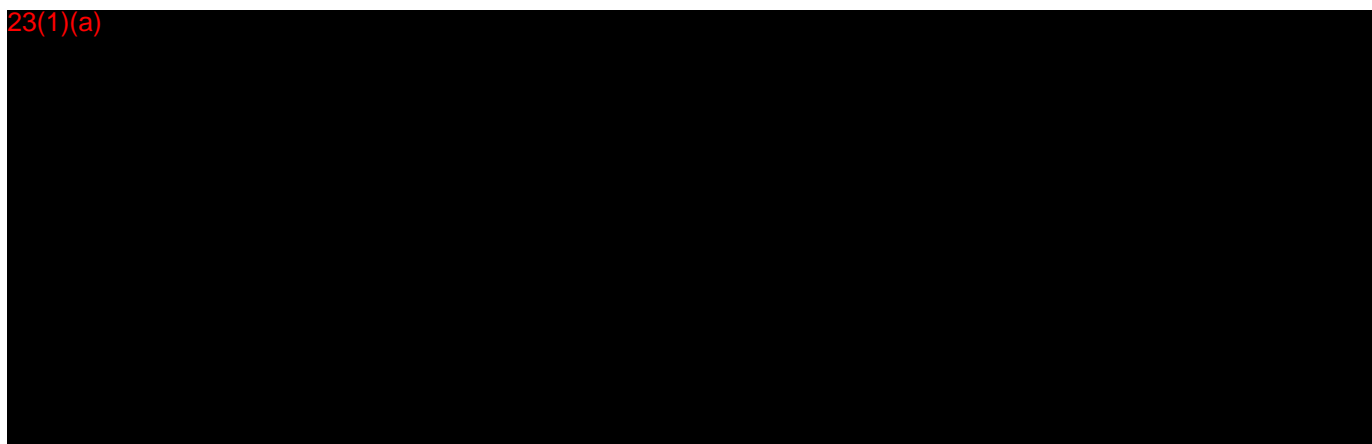
A local waste-to-energy company was selected as the service provider for the initiative through a competitive screening process. Conservation and Climate is collaborating with the Department of Families' Social Innovation Office on delivery of the Organics Green Impact Bond.

### **Current Status:**

- The Organics Green Impact Bond was approved in February 2021.

### **Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)



### **Options and Recommendation:**

- It is recommended that the Minister continue to support the Organics Green Impact Bond moving forward and delivering on outcomes.

**Contact Person:** Shannon Kohler, A/ADM, Environmental Stewardship Division (204-792-9074).

**7. Issue Title:** Response to the recommendations within the Office of the Auditor General's Report titled *Provincial Oversight of Drinking Water Safety*

**Timeline for Action:** 23(1)(a)

**High Level Summary:**

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) released its report *Provincial Oversight of Drinking Water Safety* in September 2020. The report examined departmental processes related to its licensing of drinking water systems, monitoring of drinking water system compliance with licensing and other requirements, and strategic planning and performance measurement. A total of 18 recommendations were provided within the report that have implications for multiple departments. An interdepartmental ADM oversight steering committee is working to implement the recommendations to ensure a whole-of-government approach.

Health Canada updated the national guideline for lead in drinking water on March 8, 2019, lowering the maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) from 0.01 mg/L to 0.005 mg/L. Manitoba adopted these guidelines in 2020.

**Current Status:**

- The interdepartmental ADM oversight steering committee developed a multi-year plan to address the 18 recommendations. The committee will meet quarterly in year 2. The year 1 activities to address recommendations are all completed or well underway. Some of the activities involving Health and Seniors Care are delayed due to COVID-19. Year 2 activities are starting.
- In summer 2021, the department, in collaboration with Education and Families, extended the 2019/20 Lead in Drinking Water Testing Program (\$500K) and launched a mitigation grant program (\$1.645M) for public and independent schools and licensed child care centres to advance the OAG's recommendations.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)

**Options and Recommendation:**

- The department will be working with Education and Families to prepare a framework and communications strategy to publicly report the outcomes from the lead in drinking water testing program and remediation grant program.

**Contact Person:** Shannon Kohler, A/ADM, Environmental Stewardship Division; 204-792-9074


## IV. Impact of COVID -19 and Response Measures

### Operational Impacts

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the department has re-deployed 134 staff either full- or part-time (ranging from senior leaders, managers, policy, and operational staff) to support government's COVID-19 response, which has resulted in operational impacts across all areas of the department. This includes pausing or re-prioritizing key mandate items and strategic priorities to accommodate reduced staffing compliments. As the COVID-19 response winds down and staff continue to return to their regular positions, the department will refocus on advancing key priorities. Departmental staff worked in COVID-19 vaccine clinics within work hours when possible and outside of work hours which has resulted in overtime salary financial pressures.

COVID-19 has also affected compliance and enforcement activities. In October 2020, environment officers (including drinking water officers) were trained to support inspections and enforcement of the public health orders (PHO) put in place to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. All 28 field staff from the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement branch and Environmental Approvals branch received PHO training. 22 of these staff (80 per cent) have been actively involved in PHO enforcement through to May 2021 and may be called upon again if enhanced resources for COVID-19 enforcement is needed.

23(1)(a)

 To mitigate resource pressures, the Environmental Compliance and Enforcement branch has acquired three term staff on a backfill basis (three full-time equivalent staff).

The Office of Drinking Water maintained priority inspections throughout the pandemic. The branch supported water suppliers throughout the province to ensure that water treatment facilities continued to be safely operated and provide safe drinking water to Manitobans.

The Lead in Drinking Water Monitoring Program that was being rolled out was deferred due to COVID-19 as it involved municipalities entering individual residences to sample the water. The program is being restarted in several communities in 2021 and 2022, with COVID-19 protocols in place.

### Temporary Emergency Measures

A number of COVID-19 relief measures were provided to stakeholders through temporary provincial orders issued under The Emergency Measures Act and through amendments to regulations. These measures included temporary (i.e., few months to less than one year) extensions of:

- Licence, permit, or certification renewal requirements for resource tourism operators, petroleum technicians, onsite system installers, sewage haulers, and water and wastewater operators.
- Payment of fees or application of interest for various park leases and permits.
- Reporting requirements under various statutes.

Remote Work

As of April 2021, 23(1)(a) [redacted], with 24 per cent of Conservation and Climate staff engaged in some degree of remote work. Moving to remote work has had broad implications.

23(1)(a) [redacted]

Moving forward, the department is planning to have staff return to the office either full-time or on a hybrid work arrangement in accordance with the provincial Flexible Work Policy, beginning in November 2021. This plan is subject to the evolving public health situation, and could be revised pending changes to public health orders or direction.

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23(1)(a) [redacted]

## V. Status of Throne and Budget Speech Commitments

### Priorities Identified in the October 7, 2020 Speech from the Throne

*Dedicate over \$268 million as a first contribution to upgrading the North End Winnipeg Sewage Treatment Plant, on a priority basis under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan.*

Conservation and Climate is working with the City of Winnipeg on improvements to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre to reduce nutrients and meet other standards including ammonia, biochemical oxygen demand, and total suspended solids. This includes assisting the City in meeting the Environment Act licence requirements, including approval of an interim phosphorous reduction plan intended to immediately take action to reduce phosphorus while awaiting the facility's full upgrade (projected to be completed by 2032).

### Priorities Identified in Budget 2021, Released April 7, 2021

*Establishing a new \$1 million Organics Green Impact Bond, the first of its kind in Manitoba, to divert organic waste from landfills, create green jobs and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions*

The Organics Green Impact Bond was approved in February 2021. <sup>23(1)(a)</sup>

*Placing \$20 million into an endowment fund to invest in our provincial parks, so Manitobans can enjoy them for generations to come, because Manitoba's parks are not for sale.*

The Provincial Park Endowment Funds are a series of funds established in 2021 for the purpose of enhancing the ecological integrity and/or public experiences in Manitoba Provincial Parks. The first projects supported by the endowment funds will be implemented in the fall and winter of 2021/22 and include upgrades to trails, campgrounds, beach areas, and accessibility improvements to park facilities. A public engagement strategy to identify future project areas to be funded is currently being developed and is expected to launch in late November 2021.

*Committing nearly \$4 million to protect the health and safety needs of Northern Affairs communities and improve water and wastewater treatment and disposal sites.*

A joint working group has been created between Conservation and Climate and the department of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations to develop plans to address compliance issues.

## VI. Intergovernmental Affairs Overview

### Intergovernmental committees:

**The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)** is the primary intergovernmental forum in Canada for Ministerial discussion and joint action on environmental issues of national and international concern. Membership on the Council of Ministers is comprised of the federal, provincial, and territorial Ministers responsible for the Environment.

**The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM)** provides a forum for federal, provincial and territorial governments to discuss and exchange information, provide leadership and promote action on common forest and forestry-related issues of Canadian public and international concern. Agriculture and Resource Development is the Manitoba government's representative on the CCFM, however Conservation and Climate supports work on the CCFM's Wildland Fire Management Working Group.

**The Conservation, Wildlife, and Biodiversity (CWB) forum** provides an ad-hoc mechanism for ministerial and deputy level discussions on key CWB issues. There are also well-established mechanisms at the ADM and working level to advance collaborative work in these areas. There are no senior officials' meetings scheduled for 2021.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
October 13, 2021	CCME Deputy Ministers Council. Meeting is to finalize the agenda and topics for the Ministers' meeting in December.	Videoconference
Monday, December 13, 2021	CCME Council of Ministers Meeting. The tentative agenda for the December meeting includes: separate meeting with National Indigenous Organization leaders; climate change and green economic recovery; a presentation on extended producer responsibility.	Videoconference
Date to be confirmed sometime in November 2021	CCFM – Ministers Meeting. The Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development is anticipated to attend this meeting, however Conservation and Climate staff will contribute to materials regarding National Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Action Plan and other wildfire related items.  The November CCFM meeting is yet to be finalized but a tentative agenda was circulated in August 2021. The agenda includes a presentation on the Wildland Fire Prevention and Mitigation Action plan, progress made, and potential launch of a national engagement campaign.	Videoconference

Other current intergovernmental issues:

The Canada-Manitoba Environmental Occurrences Notification Agreement, which formalizes reporting requirements to Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding environmental accidents, has expired. 23(1)(a)

## VII. Fiscal Overview and Status of Special Operating Agencies/ Other Operating Agencies

In 2021/22, Conservation and Climate has 475.25 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff positions employed across five divisions. The department's budgeted expenditures total \$128,789, with projected revenues totaling \$170,704. The department forecasts it will be overspent by approximately \$46,193. This is largely due to \$43,400 in Emergency Expenditures required for increased wildfire suppression costs due to drought conditions and extremely high fire season. As well, \$1,751 was required for parks expenditures, due to a busy parks and campground season, which includes unbudgeted COVID-19 pandemic expenditures and the unbudgeted \$500 dollars for Provincial Parks Endowment Fund expenditures.

Special Operating Agencies (SOA) that report as part of the department's summary budget include Efficiency Manitoba and The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation. The following provides an overview of Conservation and Climate's financial position in 2021/22.

<b>Conservation and Climate</b>		
<b>2021/22 Summary - By Main Appropriation</b>		
Main Appropriations	FTEs	2021/22 Printed Vote
12.1 - Finance and Shared Services	70.00	6,573
12.2 - Parks and Resource Protection	185.60	33,707
12.3 - Environmental Stewardship	134.00	26,009
12.4 - Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office	29.00	3,416
12.5 - Wildfire Service	56.65	48,698
12.6 - Cost Related to Capital Assets (Non-Vote)		10,386
<b>12 - Conservation and Climate Total</b>	<b>475.25</b>	<b>128,789</b>

<b>Expense by Type</b>		
	2021/22	2020/21
	\$(000s)	\$(000s)
Salaries And Employee Benefits	52,769	52,769
Other Expenditures	65,204	65,709
Grant Assistance	430	430
Amortization	10,386	10,297
<b>Total</b>	<b>128,789</b>	<b>129,205</b>

<b>Expenditure Forecast</b>	
<b>BA26 GRANTS - ENABLING APPROPRIATIONS - Vote 26</b>	
<b>Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Fund</b>	
	2021/22
<b>Grant Recipients</b>	<b>Print</b>
<b><u>Agriculture and Resource Development</u></b>	
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation - NAWMP	518
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>518</b>
<b><u>Conservation and Climate</u></b>	
International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD)	1,299
LCEF - Heavy Duty Vehicle Emissions Reduction	1,954
Building Resiliency Adaptation Capacity & Expertise (B.R.A.C.E)	730
Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Study	200
Conservation & Climate Fund	1,000
ClimateWest	170
Pending Climate and Green Plan Implementation	500

Total Allocation

6,371

**Conservation and Climate 2021/22 Revenue Summary**

SOURCE	YEAR END	2021/22	OVER/(UNDER)		EXPL.
	PROJECTION	ESTIMATED			
	\$000s	\$000s	\$000s	%	
<b>Government of Canada Revenue</b>					
Climate Change Initiatives	3,307	3,307	-	-	
<b>Government of Canada - Revenue</b>	<b>3,307</b>	<b>3,307</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b><u>Other Revenue:</u></b>					
Clean Environment Commission Cost Recovery	100	100	-	-	
Environment Fees and Sundry	9,275	9,275	-	-	
Parks Fees	21,007	17,887	3,120	17.4	1
Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery	5,321	5,320	1	0.0	
Water Power Rentals	131,000	131,000	-	-	
Water Resources Sundry	299	466	(167)	(35.8)	2
Land Sales	-	-	-	-	
Sundry	395	370	25	6.8	3
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<b>167,397</b>	<b>164,418</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>1.8</b>	
<b>Total Departmental Revenues</b>	<b>170,704</b>	<b>167,725</b>	<b>2,979</b>	<b>1.8</b>	

**Note:** Government of Canada Revenue of \$3.307 million, is projected to be received in 2021/22 for the following Federally Shared Agreements: Building Regional Adaptation Capacity and Expertise, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Low Carbon Economy Fund (LEEF).

**Explanations:**

1. **\$3,120 Park Fees:** Higher revenue expected for Parks Camping fees \$396, Park Vehicle Permit fees \$2,749, Vacation Cabin and Yurts Rentals \$66; offset by reduction in revenue from Land Use Permits because of on-going vacancies \$(51) and Baudry Park refunds \$(36), other Miscellaneous variances \$(4).
2. **\$(167) Water Resource Sundry:** Lower revenue expected for Water Rights application fees because of COVID-19 restrictions \$(167).
3. **\$25 Sundry:** Higher revenue due to revenue expected from Employee Board, Lodging and Meals \$30, Miscellaneous revenue \$10; offset by waiver of the Resource Tourism Operators' license and permit fees for 2021/22 \$(15).

<b>Conservation and Climate 2021/22 Spending Projections</b>									
PROGRAM	YEAR END Projections \$000s	2021/22 RESTATED PRINT \$000s	ENABLING VOTE ALLOCATIONS			Virement \$000	2021/22 ESTIMATED \$000s	OVER/(UNDER) \$000s	EXPL.
			Retirement \$000	ISA \$000	Covid \$000				
12-1 Finance and Shared Services	6,754	6,573		171	10		6,754	-	
12-2 Parks and Resource Protection	35,745	33,707	129		158		33,994	1,751	1
12-3 Environmental Stewardship	26,819	26,009	46		244		26,299	520	2
12-4 Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office	3,416	3,416					3,416	-	
12-5 Wildfire Service	92,244	48,698	62		84		48,844	43,400	3

12-6 Costs Related to Capital Assets	10,908	10,386					10,386	522	4
<b>Total:</b>	<b>175,886</b>	<b>128,789</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>129,693</b>	<b>46,193</b>	

**Note:** 2021/22 Authority includes \$904 from BA26.2b Internal Service Allocation Appropriation for:

- Retirement severance \$237 - in 12-2 Parks and Resource Protection \$129, in 12-3 Environmental Stewardship \$46 and in 12-5 Wildfire Service \$62
- Recovery from Idea Fund – E-licensing project costs in 12-1 Finance and Shared Services \$171
- COVID-19 expenses \$496 - in 12-1 Finance and Shared Service \$10, in 12-2 Parks and Resource Protection \$158, in 12-3 Environmental Stewardship \$244 and in 12-5 Wildfire Service \$84 per TB 25C/2020-7(d).

### Explanations:

1. **\$1,751 Parks and Resource Protection:** \$1.751M required for parks expenditures, due to a busy parks and campground season, which includes unbudgeted COVID-19 pandemic expenditures and the unbudgeted half-million dollars for Provincial Parks Endowment Fund expenditures, which see revenue returns from The Winnipeg Foundation Fund.
2. **\$520 Environmental Stewardship:** \$520 is required for various unbudgeted Environmental Consulting contracts.
3. **\$ 43,400 Wildfire Service:** \$43.4M Emergency Expenditures required for increased wildfire suppression costs due to drought conditions and extremely high fire season.
4. **\$522 Costs Related to Capita Assets:** Higher Amortization related to General Assets due to a number of projects not anticipated to be finished were completed in 2020/21 – Falcon Lake Shop, Marchand and Paint Lake Bunkhouses, Air Mobile Monitoring unit, upgrades to avionics on CL-415 water bombers.

### Status of Special Operating Agencies/ Other Operating Agencies

<b>Efficiency Manitoba Q1 2021-22 Forecast</b>				
(\$000s)	<b>2021/22 Budget</b>	<b>2021/22 Forecast</b>	<b>Inc/(Dec)</b>	<b>% change</b>
REVENUES	74,020	64,253	-9,767	-13%
EXPENSES	73,031	63,366	-9,665	-13%
<b>Net Income or (Loss)</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>(103)</b>	<b>-10%</b>

**Notes:** Entity is fully funded by MB Hydro. Revenue impacts are driven by Operating expenditures changes. Salaries are reduced to reflect the planned staging of hiring for the remaining vacant positions. Customer payments are still being impacted by reduced customer participation due to the pandemic.

### Efficiency Manitoba 2021-22 Estimate

(\$000s)	2021/22 Budget			
REVENUES	74,020			
EXPENSES	73,031			
<b>Net Income or (Loss)</b>	<b>989</b>			

**Notes:** Entity is fully funded by MB Hydro. Revenue impacts are driven by Operating expenditures changes. Higher Program expenses to reach the approved 2021-22 plan targets.

### Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Q1 2021-22 Forecast


(\$000s)	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Forecast	Inc/(Dec)	% change
REVENUES	94	91	- 3	-3%
EXPENSES	37	25	- 12	-32%
<b>Net Income or (Loss)</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16%</b>

## VIII. Internal Structural Pressures

### Increasing the Budget for the Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Rehabilitation Program to Support Economic Recovery

The department has the mandate to advance remediation of orphaned and abandoned mines in Manitoba. The Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Rehabilitation Program is advancing work at high risk sites and is in the process of reviewing liabilities and project work at 109 remaining sites. Currently, the program has four staff that manage 11 ongoing contracts. Contracts are paid for using existing funds set aside for each site in government's central liability fund.


19(1)(e); 23(1)(a)



There is a slight cost savings for government in terms of covering the annual inflation associated with the booked costs for clean-up and monitoring at these sites, meaning the faster they are cleaned up, the lower the annual inflation costs will be.

### Financial Pressures Facing the Office of Drinking Water

The Office of Drinking Water has financial pressures to continue to meet existing budget allocations. Expenses such as water testing, including subsidies to water systems, continue to increase as the cost of testing and the number of systems regulated by Office of Drinking Water increases. 19(1)(e); 23(1)(a)



### Fiscal Realities and Aging Infrastructure in Manitoba Parks

The department has adapted to lower budget and staffing levels over the past number of years and managed within budgeted resources while addressing priorities. The restraint in the context of growing costs overall and aging infrastructure in parks has meant less flexibility to respond to in-year pressures and to maintain assets to a level that meets park user expectations.

### Escalating Costs and Demand for Wildfire Services

Manitoba's Wildfire Service is facing escalating costs and operational capacity challenges in response to increasing risks for wildfires. Manitoba's changing climate is expected to produce more extreme weather events, including prolonged periods of drought and more severe thunderstorms. These types of events are expected to increase the frequency and severity of wildfires moving forward, resulting in increasing pressures and a rapidly shifting

operating environment for Manitoba's Wildfire Service. 19(1)(e); 23(1)(a)

#### Underfunding of Beach Safety Program

19(1)(e); 23(1)(a)

#### Large Area Planning

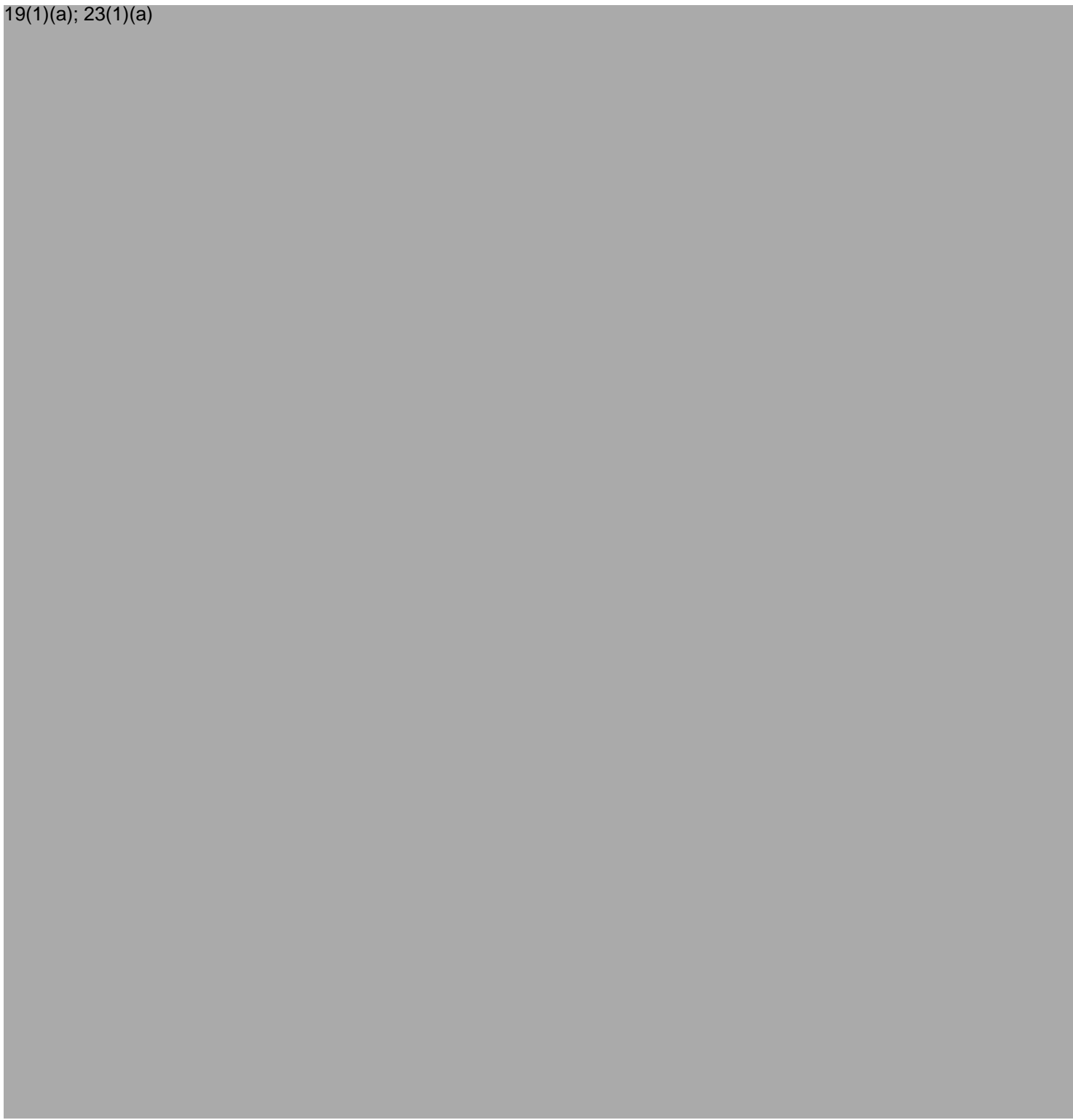
Conservation and Climate is leading the development of a large area planning program for non-municipal and Northern Manitoba. Large area planning is also strongly tied to the priorities of other departments, with linkages to Agriculture and Resource Development, Municipal Relations, Manitoba Infrastructure, Economic Development and Jobs, and Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations. 23(1)(a)

#### Inflationary Pressures

23(1)(a)

Specifically, the Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Rehabilitation Program is required to pay an annual inflation. This is for annual increases in direct costs for clean-up efforts.

19(1)(a); 23(1)(a)





## X. Agencies, Boards, and Commissions Appointment

**The Certification Advisory Committee** Chair Wayne Wall whose term expired January 31, 2021.

**Efficiency Manitoba Board** – no vacancies. Chair Jeannette Montufa and vice-chair George Orle appointments expire on August 10, 2024.

**Manitoba Clean Environment Commission** - no vacancies. New Chair Jonathan Scarth appointed effective January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2026.

**Whiteshell Advisory Board** – all board memberships have expired.

**Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Board** - no vacancies. Chair Harvey Miller and Vice-Chair Gilbert Sabourin appointments expire on August 10, 2022.

## XI. Appendices

### A. List of Departmental / Cross-Departmental Committees and/or Advisory Committees

COMMITTEE	FUNCTION	MEMBERSHIP
Certification Advisory Committee	To provide advice to the minister on training and certification of water and wastewater facility operators. Must include various persons who have experience with the regulation, management or operation of water and wastewater facilities	Internal: Conservation and Climate  External: representation from owners and operators  Chair: Wayne Wall  All memberships have expired.
Conservation and Climate; and Health and Seniors Care Joint Steering Committee	To advance joint initiatives and policy development that have an environmental and public health component.	Chaired by ADM of Conservation and Climate and ADM of Health and Seniors Care, with staff representation.
Construction, Renovation and Demolition Working Group	Support Deputy Ministers in their involvement in the Task Force proposed by the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region and Manitoba Heavy Construction Association. The Task Force will develop recommendations to promote the recycling of construction, renovation, and demolition waste in Manitoba.	Municipal Relations, Manitoba Infrastructure, Conservation and Climate.
Endangered Species, Ecosystems and Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee	To provide advice and recommendations to the minister on the designation, protection and management of species, ecosystems and ecological reserves. Majority of members to be professional scientists who have expertise in	Interdepartmental and public/stakeholder committee  Internal: Conservation and Climate, Agriculture and Resource Development  External:

	the field related to species and biodiversity conservation.	Appointments have not yet been made to the revamped committee.
Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Drinking Water (CDW)	Created in the 1970's and reporting to the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Committee on Health and the Environment (CHE), the primary purpose of CDW is to protect public health through the development of the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, including scientific, health-based guideline technical documents, as well as guidance documents for safe drinking water.	CDW includes participants from federal, provincial and territorial agencies responsible for drinking water quality in their jurisdiction. The Director of the Office of Drinking Water represents Manitoba.
Interdepartmental ADM Oversight Steering Committee for OAG Drinking Water Report	To oversee implementation of the responses to the Office of the Auditor General's audit on provincial oversight of drinking water safety.	ADMs from Conservation and Climate, Health and Seniors Care, Families, Education, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations, Municipal Relations, and Central Services.
Large Area Planning Steering Committee	Large Area Planning is identified in the minister's 2020-mandate letter, is a new approach to integrated land use planning in non-municipal Manitoba that will require a structured implementation framework built around a collaborative governance model. The LAP framework aims to advance sustainable development objectives by balancing environmental protection and economic development in key resource sectors like agriculture, mining, forestry and hydro-electricity.	ADMs from Agriculture and Resource Development, Municipal Relations, Manitoba Infrastructure, Economic Development and Jobs, and Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations. Representatives from the Priorities and Planning secretariat and Clean Environment Commission also sit on this committee.  Conservation and Climate chairs the Large Area Planning Steering Committee.

Licencing Advisory Committee	Internal cross-departmental committee that reviews Tourism Operator licence applications and makes recommendations to the administrator of resource tourism regarding issuance of licences.	Interdepartmental committee  Department membership: Conservation and Climate, Agriculture and Resource Development, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations, Economic Development and Jobs, and Health and Seniors Care  Chair: Kristin Hayward (CC)  Memberships expired in 2020.
National Orphaned and Abandoned Mines Initiative	National advisory committee for the rehabilitation of orphaned/abandoned mine sites.	Conservation and Climate
Polluter Pays Contaminated Sites Working Group	Advance the recommendations of the Clean Environment Commission's report on the polluter pays approach in Manitoba.	Conservation and Climate, Agriculture and Resource Development.
Resource Tourism Appeal Committee	Hears appeals on application decisions regarding resource tourism operators licensing. Must include representatives from departments, industry, and the private sector.	Interdepartmental and public/stakeholder committee  Department membership: Conservation and Climate, Agriculture and Resource Development, and Economic Development and Jobs.  External membership: Manitoba Lodge and Outfitters Association, Manitoba Wildlife Federation and various private sector members.  Chair: Vacant  Last membership renewal was in 2015.

Technical Advisory Committee	Inter-departmental technical review of Environment Act Proposals to inform licensing decisions and conditions.	Municipal Relations, Manitoba Infrastructure, Agriculture and Resource Development, Sport Culture and Heritage, Economic Development and Training, Health and Seniors Care, Conservation and Climate
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## B. Statutory Responsibilities of the Minister / Legal Framework

<b>STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER</b>
<b>The Biofuels Act</b> , chapter B40
<b>The Climate and Green Plan Act</b> , chapter C134
<b>The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act</b> , chapter C205
<b>The Crown Corporations Governance and Accountability Act</b> [as it relates to Efficiency Manitoba], chapter C336
<b>The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act</b> , chapter D12
<b>The Drinking Water Safety Act</b> , chapter D101
<b>The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act</b> , chapter E3
<b>The Ecological Reserves Act</b> , chapter E5
<b>The Efficiency Manitoba Act</b> , chapter E15
<b>The Energy Act</b> , chapter E112
<b>The Environment Act</b> , chapter E125
<b>The Gas Pipeline Act</b> , chapter G50
<b>The Gas Allocation Act</b> , chapter G52
<b>The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act</b> , chapter H15
<b>The International Peace Garden Act</b> , chapter I70
<b>The Ozone Depleting Substances Act</b> , chapter O80
<b>The Provincial Parks Act</b> , chapter P20 [except section 16, subsection 21(1), sections 22 and 30, clauses 32(b), (f), (i), (j) and (k), 33(u) and sub-section 34(1), and the Debt Certificate Regulation M.R. 140/96]]
<b>The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund Act</b> , chapter P70
<b>The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act</b> , chapter R10
<b>The Renewable Energy Jobs Act</b> , chapter R85
<b>The Resource Tourism Operators Act</b> , chapter R119.5

**The Upper Fort Garry Heritage Provincial Park Act**, chapter U80

**The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act**, chapter W40

**The Water Power Act**, chapter W60

[except as it relates to the planning, construction or operation of provincial water control works]

**The Water Rights Act**, chapter W80

[except as it relates to the planning, construction or operation of provincial water control works]

**The Wildfires Act**, chapter W128