



# **Legislative and Public Affairs**

## **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

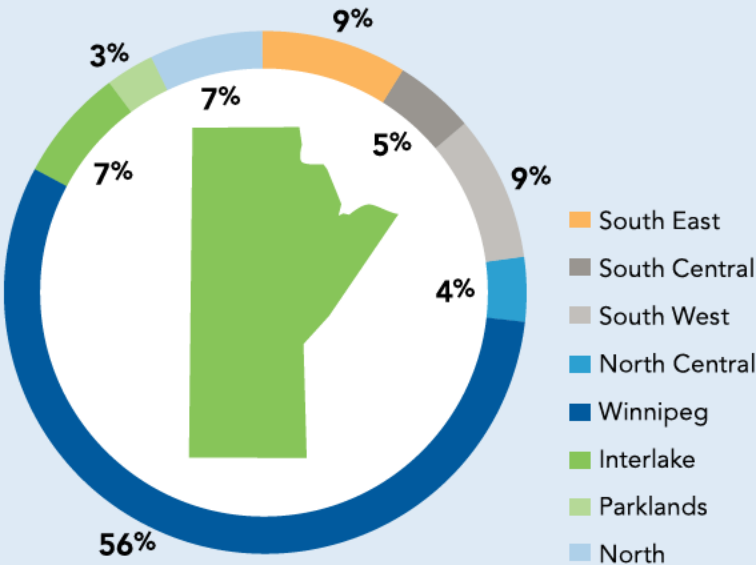


**50.3%**  
Female

**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)



### Average Weekly Earnings

**\$1,023.26**

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



### Consumer Price Index

**+4.7%** from 2020

### Shelter Cost

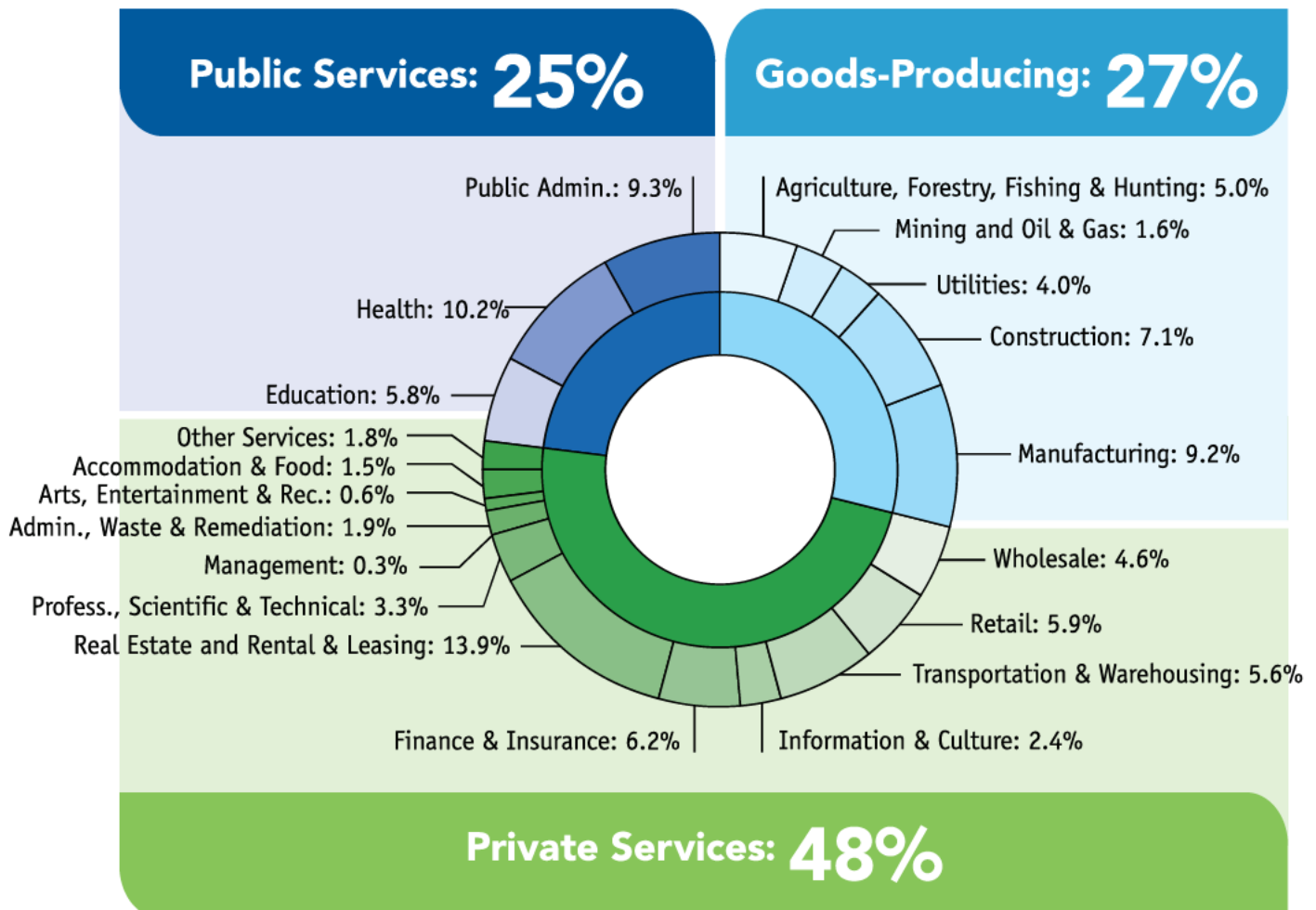
**+7.3%** from 2020

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



## LEADING SECTORS

### Manitoba's Economic Diversity



# 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. 23(1)(a)

## 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. 23(1)(a)
- 23(1)(a)
- 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%.**



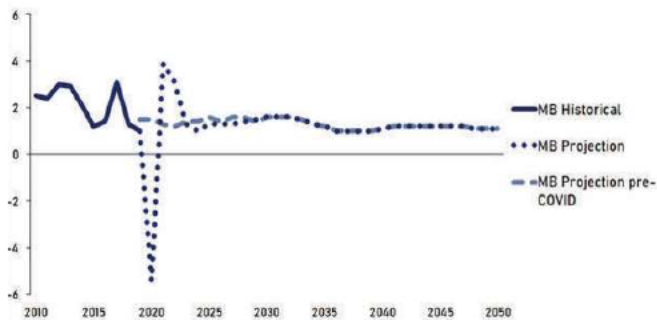


# MANITOBA 2050 *cont.*

## 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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## 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.

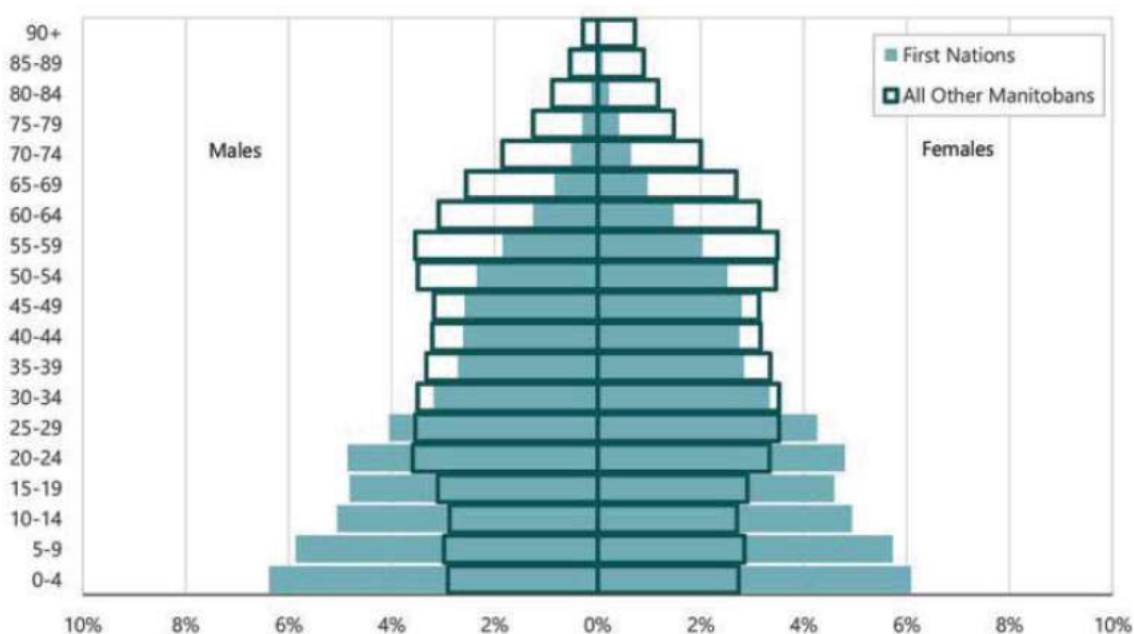


### Age and Sex Distribution for Manitoba

Age Profile of Manitoba, 2016

First Nations: 141,965

All Other Manitobans: 1,209,214



Source: Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Autumn 2019

## II. Machinery of Government

### **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 typically 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

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



### III. Department Organization

#### A. Department Responsibilities and Mandate

The vision and mission for the department are:

**Vision Statement:**

A province where the policy-making process is open, transparent, comprehensive and inclusive for all Manitobans.

**Mission Statement:**

Improve the legislative process and government procedures to increase citizen engagement in policymaking and enhance public access to provincial records.

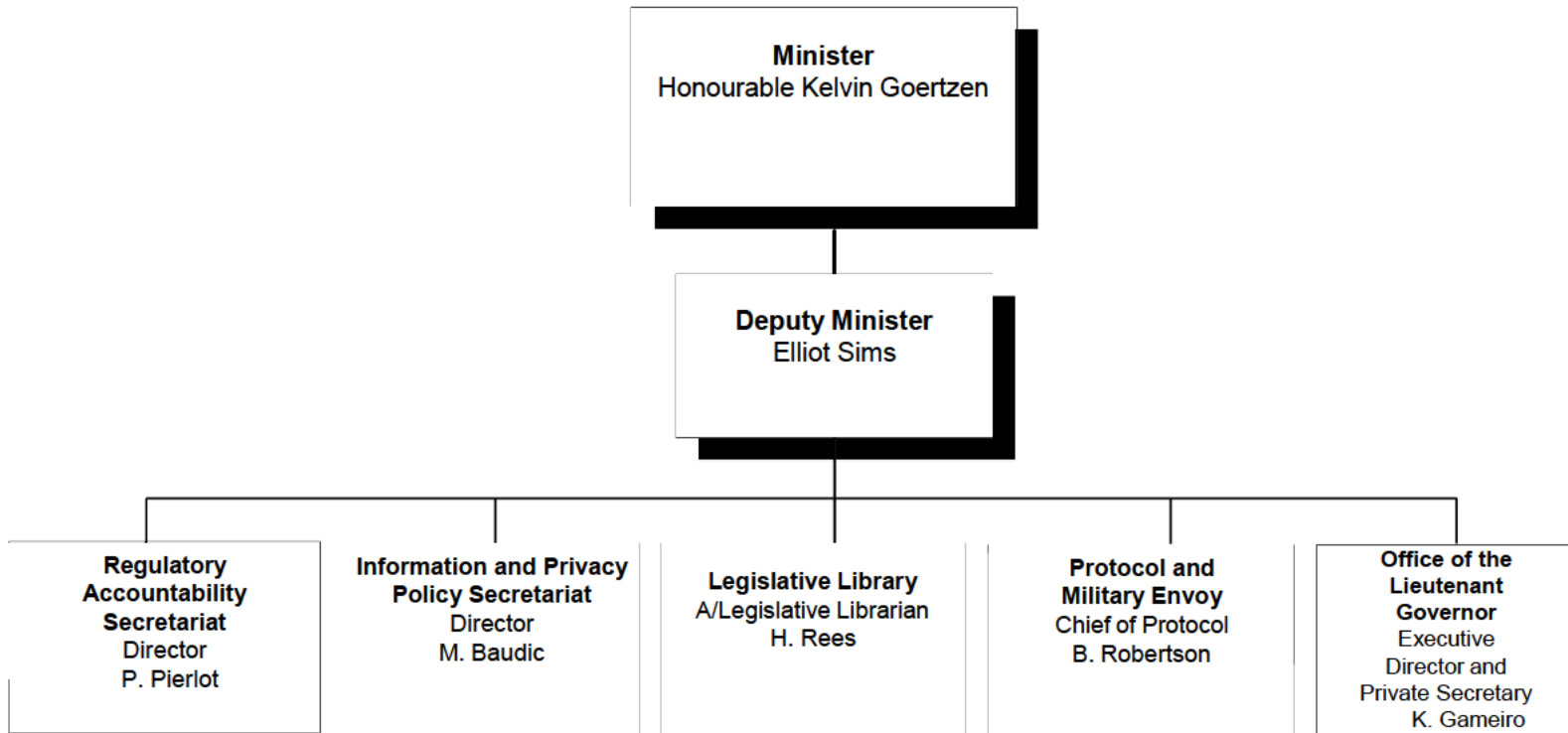
The Minister of Legislative and Public Affairs and the department are responsible for the following activities and strategies:

- Ensuring the cabinet's legislative agenda and annual budget are debated and passed by the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner;
- Supporting the Regulatory Accountability Committee of Cabinet in their development of proposed bills, regulations, and regulatory requirements;
- Assisting departments with removing unnecessary regulatory requirements and reducing the administrative burden of necessary requirements as part of the Regulatory Accountability strategy;
- Organizing all major provincial ceremonial, diplomatic and honours events;
- Supporting the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in the discharge of its constitutional functions;
- Interfacing with the Officers of the Legislative Assembly to support efforts to improve the operations of their legislation and relationships with government;
- Managing tenant relations for occupants of the Manitoba Legislative Building;
- Overseeing the centennial preservation and restoration work of the Manitoba Legislative Building;
- Providing government departments and agencies with support to achieve compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA); and,
- Representing Manitoba on the CFTA's Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table to reduce inter-provincial trade barriers.

## B. Organizational Chart and Senior Leadership

Legislative and Public Affairs

**April 1, 2021**



Honourable Kelvin Goertzen  
Minister of Legislative and Public Affairs



**Elliot Sims , Deputy Minister of Manitoba Legislative and Public Affairs**



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**The department's Executive Management Committee (EMC) includes:**

- Regulatory Accountability Secretariat
- Information and Privacy Policy Secretariat
- Legislative Library
- Protocol
- Finance and Administration (EFO)
- Human Resources (Director)


**Paul Pierlot, Director, Regulatory Accountability Secretariat**

17(1)(2)(e)




**Mike Baudic, Director, Information and Privacy Policy Secretariat**

17(1)(2)(e)




**Heidi Reiss, A/Legislative Librarian, Legislative Library of Manitoba**

17(1)(2)(e)




**Brad Robertson, Chief of Protocol**

17(1)(2)(e)




**Ryan Klos, ADM, Central Finance**

17(1)(2)(e)



**Ana Frias Mira, A/Human Resource Director, Civil Service Commission**

17(1)(2)(e)



## C. Organizational Structure

### **The department is composed of the following branches**

- Regulatory Accountability Secretariat
- Information and Privacy Policy Secretariat
- Legislative Library
- Protocol
- Special Envoy for Military Affairs
- Office of the Lieutenant Governor

### **Description of Branches**

#### Regulatory Accountability Secretariat

Supports the Regulatory Accountability Committee of Cabinet and co-ordinates initiatives to advance regulatory accountability across government and inter-provincially. Facilitates the legislative and regulatory development process and the tracking of regulatory requirements across government.

#### Information and Privacy Policy Secretariat

Provides policy analysis, personal information management advice, and training and support services to government departments, agencies and local public bodies to promote compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and related legislation. Provides information resources about the public right of access to information and the protection of privacy.

#### Legislative Library

Enables the conduct of public affairs and the development of a well-informed society by providing efficient, effective, and impartial access to specialized information resources for members of the Legislative Assembly, executive government, and the people of Manitoba. The organizations ensures current and future access to Manitoba's published heritage by serving as Manitoba's official depositary library.

#### Protocol

Provides leadership and co-ordination of government ceremonial, and diplomatic activities. Organizes and plans official visits and special events. Protocol is the principal point of contact for Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates and serves as the provincial Honours and Awards Secretariat.

Special Envoy for Military Affairs

Leads the Manitoba Government's outreach activities to Military (Active and Reserve Force) and Veteran communities.

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

To provide for the support staff and related expenditures of operations of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.



## IV. Strategic Overview

### A. Urgent and Pending Issues

#### 1. Issue Title: Celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee (QPJ)

##### Timeline for Action (Short and Medium Term):

- 23(1)(a)

##### High Level Summary:

- The Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, which marks the 70th anniversary of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952, is to be celebrated across the Commonwealth in 2022. While the accession occurred in February, the main events being organized in the United Kingdom and elsewhere are planned for June 2022.
- While the Federal Government of Canada and the Office of the Governor General have primary responsibility for QPJ programming, including medal programs and awards ceremonies, provincial governments supplement these activities with localized events and projects.
- Manitoba is home to 6 organization who have Queen Elizabeth II as their patron. These include: Royal Manitoba Theater Centre, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Royal Manitoba Winter Fair, Royal Military Institute of Manitoba, Royal Aviation Museum and the Royal Manitoba Yacht club.

##### Current Status:

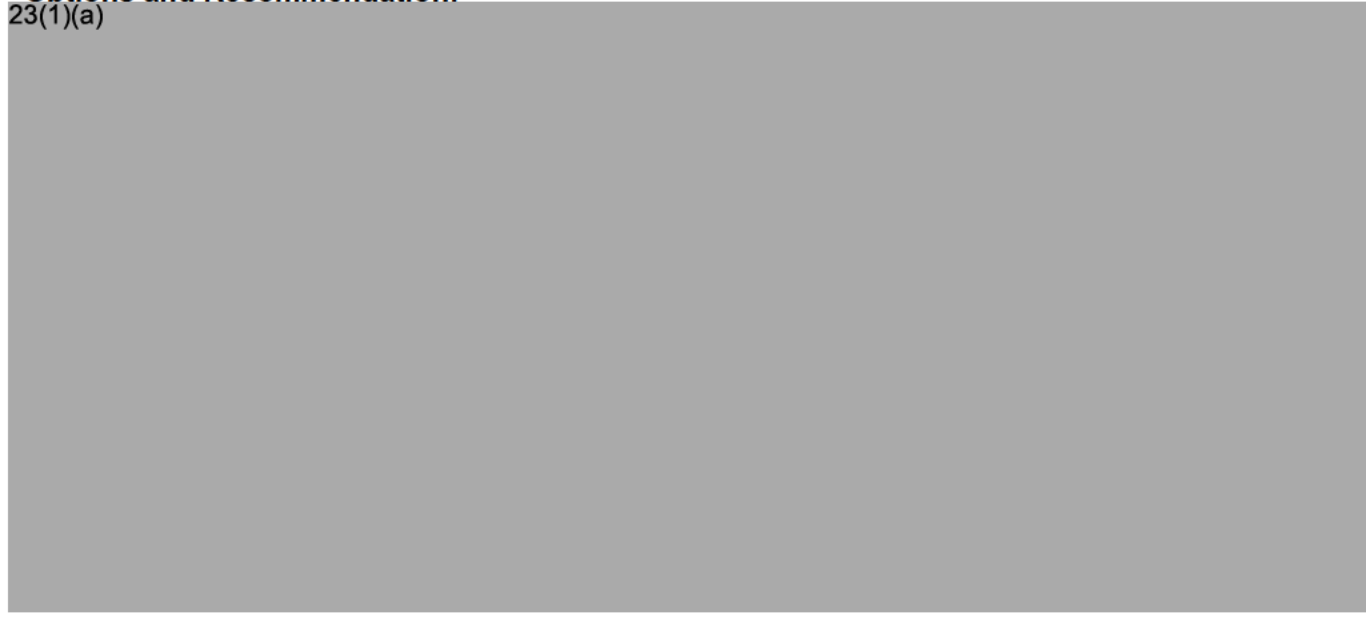
- The statue of Queen Elizabeth II located on the grounds of Government House was vandalized in July 2020. 23(1)(a)
- Manitoba continues to engage with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the federal government to align QPJ programming and initiatives.

##### Confidential Advice to Minister:

23(1)(a)

**Options and Recommendation:**

23(1)(a)



**Contact Person:** Brad Robertson, Chief of Protocol, 204-945-3939

**2. Issue Title:** Passage of Bill 76, The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Amendment Act

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

**High Level Summary:**

- Bill 76 adds the polar bear as an official Manitoba emblem under The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Amendment Act.
- The polar bear would become the second official mammal emblem of Manitoba. In 2014, the North American Plains Bison was recognized as a Manitoba mammal emblem.
- The designation recognizes the existing role the polar bear plays as an iconic and internationally recognized symbol of Manitoba and build on the province's brand as the "polar bear capital of the world".
- Manitoba has a strong connection to the polar bear through the Western Hudson Bay sub-population, which is one of the southernmost groups of polar bears in the world and one of the most extensively studied.
- The population's range includes the community of Churchill, which is the only sizable human settlement in the world where polar bears can be easily viewed in the wild. Approximately 840 polar bears migrate within the regions of Churchill and Hudson's Bay between July and November of every year, and management of the population is shared by Manitoba and Nunavut.
- The Western Hudson Bay subpopulation has declined from approximately 1,200 bears in 1987 to approximately 840. Polar bears have been listed as "threatened" under Manitoba's Endangered Species and Ecosystems Act since 2008, and was listed as a Species of Special Concern under the federal Species At Risk Act in 2011 (it was listed as vulnerable in 1991). This was last reassessed and supported by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) 2018.

**Current Status:**


- The minister gave 1<sup>st</sup> reading to The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Amendment Act (Bill 76) on October 8, 2021.

**Confidential Advice to Minister:**

23(1)(a)

**Options and Recommendation:**

23(1)(a)



**Contact Person:** Elliot Sims, Deputy Minister of Legislative and Public Affairs, 204-945-1274

## B. Strategic Priorities and Opportunities

### 1. Issue Title: Continue to reduce unnecessary regulatory requirements

#### High Level Summary:

- A regulatory requirement is an action or piece of information that is required to access provincial programs or services, carry on business, or meet legal responsibilities under provincial statute, regulation, policy or form.
- Manitoba's regulatory accountability strategy began in 2016 with the long term goal of promoting regulatory modernization government-wide by:
  - removing ineffective and/or unnecessary regulatory requirements; and,
  - reducing the administrative burden of complying with provincial requirements on the citizens, local governments, non-profits and businesses.
- Manitoba's balanced scorecard performance management system includes a target of a 2.5% annual reduction in regulatory requirements under the Working Smarter category.
- As of March 31, 2021, the number of provincial regulatory requirements has fallen by 98,890 (to 863,107 from 961,997) or 10.3% over 5 years from the April 1, 2016 baseline.
- The Regulatory Accountability Secretariat (RAS) provides government departments and agencies with analytical and information management functions that support their activities to achieve the Balanced Scorecard target. RAS support is provided through management of the Regulatory Accountability Database, the Manitoba Forms and Policies Portal, and the Manitoba Regulatory Consultation Portal.
- The RAS also provides the Regulatory Accountability Committee of Cabinet with timely logistical and operational support, including organizing and preparing all meeting materials.

#### Current Status:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has required the provincial government to make regulatory changes, sometimes on a temporary basis, to expedite public health orders and other actions to effectively mitigate the pandemic's effects.
- These regulatory changes are being reviewed for the purpose of identifying those which, from a regulatory accountability standpoint, should be made permanent.
- Departments continue to identify regulatory requirements that do not align with citizen centered service principles and create unnecessary hurdles for job growth and private capital investment in Manitoba.


#### Confidential Advice to Minister:

23(1)(a)



**Options and Recommendation:**


23(1)(a)




**Contact Person:** Paul Pierlot, Director, Regulatory Accountability Secretariat, 204-945-5633

## 2. Issue Title: State of FIPPA compliance with legislated requirements

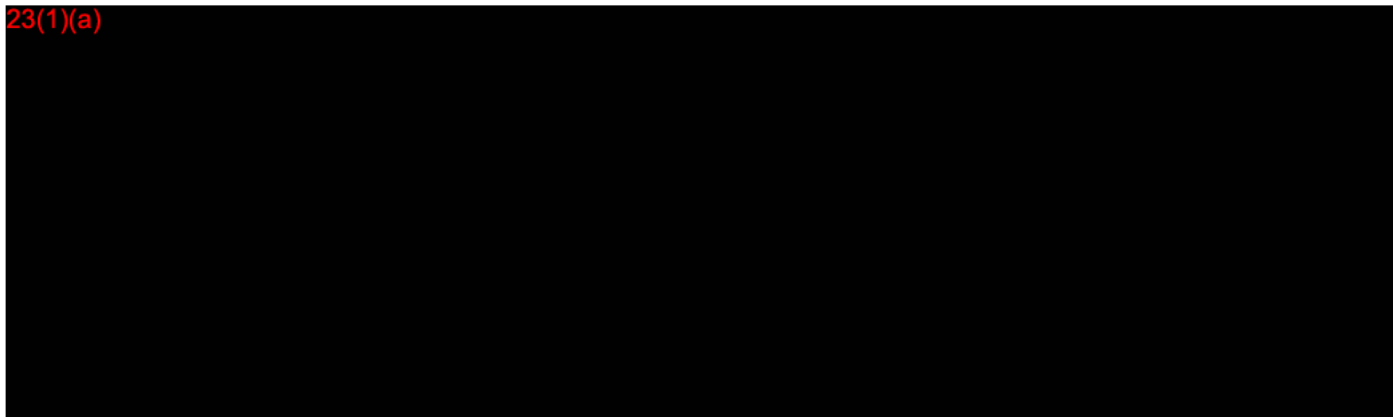
### High Level Summary:

- 23(1)(a) 
- The volume of FIPPA access to information requests received by government departments and agencies has increased by 53% over the last five years, from 1,716 in 2016 to 2,630 in 2020. At the same time, these requests have become larger and more complex, which requires more resources to complete each request.
- As a result of these factors, FIPPA response times have been deteriorating, with responses being provided on time in 63% of cases in 2020.

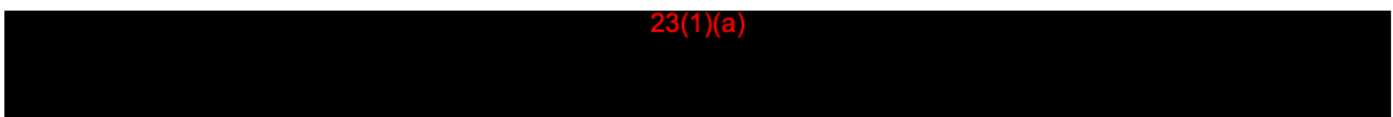
### Current Status:

- 23(1)(a) 
- Legislative changes to FIPPA that Come Into Force January 1, 2022 will require several new categories of government records to be proactively disclosed. These items are frequently requested through FIPPA; as a result, this legislative change could reduce the number of FIPPA requests received.

### Confidential Advice to Minister:

23(1)(a) 

### Options and Recommendation:

23(1)(a) 

**Contact Person:** Mike Baudic, Director, Information and Privacy Policy Secretariat, 204-945-2523



### 3. Issue Title: Increasing Access to the Legislative Library's Collections

#### High Level Summary:

- The Legislative Library is not providing users the same standards of timely service and access to information users as other Canadian legislative libraries due to use of outdated catalogue and reference technologies.
- The Legislative Library is the official provincial library for the deposit of the publications of the Manitoba Government and the Legislative Assembly. It also serves as the depository of all non-government publications produced within Manitoba. The library currently houses an estimated 400,000 unique print items.
- The library provides services to Members of the Legislative Assembly, Manitoba government and Legislative Assembly employees, and members of the public. The current public-facing library database, ArchivalWare, is accessed, on average, 2,000 times a year by these and other users.
- These users do not have seamless online access to the library's commercially subscribed databases and other heavily-requested electronic resources through Archivalware. Without an integrated information discovery system, users must search multiple databases through the library's website or request library staff to source the information.
- The lack of a modern information management system also requires library staff to manually track the collections, which decreases efficiency and increases staffing costs.
- Adoption of a new information discovery system would provide a single platform for users to access print and digital government documents as well as the many electronic resources to which the Library subscribes. This would eliminate significant redundancies in staff workloads at the same time.

#### Current Status:

23(1)(a)


#### Confidential Advice to Minister:

23(1)(a)


#### Options and Recommendation

23(1)(a)

23(1)(a)



23(1)(a)



**Contact Person:** Heidi Rees, Director, Regulatory Accountability Secretariat, 204-945-1069

#### **4. Issue Title:** Advocate for Pan-Canadian Cooperation to Reduce Trade Barriers

##### **High Level Summary:**

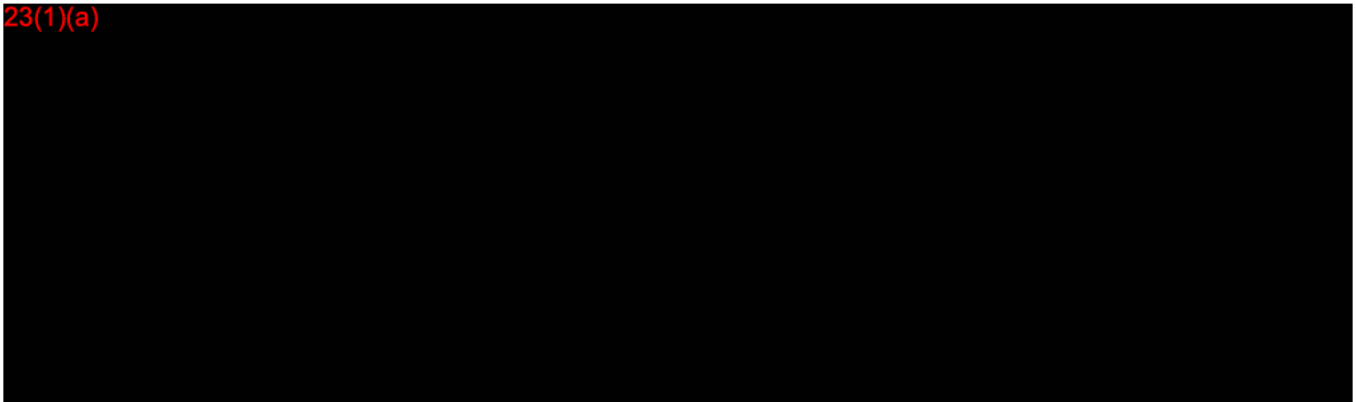
- Manitoba is a leading provincial advocate to remove barriers that frustrate the flow of labour, capital, goods and services across Canada. LPA supports this work as an active member of several federal-provincial-territorial bodies that work to remove these barriers in concert with the department of Intergovernmental Affairs.
- The primary work of LPA is through the *Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table* (RCT). The RCT was established by the *Canadian Free Trade Agreement* to oversee the regulatory reconciliation process and promote regulatory cooperation across Canada. The RCT provides input and support to the *Council of the Federation* and supports the Minister-level *Committee on Internal Trade*.
- Over the last three years, Manitoba participated in the successful negotiation of nine RCT regulatory reconciliation agreements in areas including technical safety, occupational health and safety, transportation, construction codes, and corporate registration and reporting. Manitoba has ratified (signed) the highest number of RCT agreements amongst provinces, tied with Ontario and Quebec.
- LPA also participates in:
  - The Standards Council of Canada's *Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee* that advises and makes recommendations regarding standardization issues from the perspective of provincial and territorial governments, and leads activities that support regulatory accountability and cooperation through the use and promotion of standards.
  - The *New West Partnership Trade Agreement*, which involves Canada's four western provinces working together to enhance trade, investment and labour mobility.

##### **Current Status:**


- The RCT is currently focused on developing agreements on Canadian electrical codes, gasfitter licensing and certification, entry-level training for commercial drivers (ELT), prompt payment legislation (builders' liens), and the certification and licensing of building officials.

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

23(1)(a)




23(1)(a)

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**Options and Recommendation:**

23(1)(a)

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**Contact Person:** Paul Pierlot, Director, Regulatory Accountability Secretariat, 204-945-5633

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

### Regulatory Accountability Secretariat

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on Manitoba, often requiring quick and effective responses by the government to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. The Regulatory Accountability Secretariat has provided timely analytical and operational support to the government for their accelerated deliberation of legislative and regulatory changes, including temporary suspension orders, to address the adverse impacts of the pandemic.

The secretariat is working with government departments and agencies to review these changes to determine which ones should be made permanent.

### Legislative Library

During the pandemic, the Legislative Library undertook periodic service modifications to comply with public health orders. At different times in the pandemic these modifications included closure of in-person services to the public or providing in-person services by appointment only to comply with COVID-19 capacity limits. As one of the few research-level libraries in Manitoba providing remote reference services throughout the pandemic, the library was busy with research assistance to a wide variety of clients.

Both the Legislative Reading Room at 450 Broadway and the Main Reading Room at 200 Vaughan Street have been continually staffed with at least one person throughout the pandemic. When the majority of personnel were required to work remotely, staff worked on a meta-data project for the library's Early Legislative Reporting database. This database is a collection of newspaper articles about activities of the Legislative Assembly prior to the creation of the Hansard in 1957. This meta-data work increases access to the historical Assemblies represented in the database. Later, the Library was able to arrange for staff to perform regular duties at home, such as cataloguing and processing of new acquisitions.

23(1)(a)

### Protocol Office

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the Protocol Office to pivot to a virtual format for almost all diplomatic engagements. As a result, the minister's introductory and most follow-up meetings with Consulates and Embassies/High Commission occurred virtually until summer 2021. The change of platform will provide opportunities for meaningful engagement post COVID-19 given Manitoba's distance from most country's Canadian Embassy and consulates.

Similarly, the Protocol Office honours and awards activities, such as the Order of Manitoba, Order of the Buffalo Hunt, Throne Speech and Swearing in Ceremonies, were either postponed or moved to a virtual format.

## VI. Status of Throne and Budget Speech Commitments

The 2020 Throne Speech and 2021 Budget did not include specific commitments for which LPA is directly responsible for implementing. There has been no commitments assigned to Legislative and Public Affairs through a mandate letter. LPA continues to support departments to achieve the following whole-of-government Balanced Scorecard targets:


- Target of reducing the number of regulatory requirements by 2.5 percent during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The target is for the government overall and for each individual department and government agency.
- Target of monthly reporting of at least 80% of access to information decisions by government departments. The government of Manitoba has been publishing a list since February of 2020.

## VII. Intergovernmental Affairs Overview

The department of Legislative and Public Affairs is Manitoba's representative for and participates at the following key governmental forums:

- Canadian Free Trade Agreement's Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table (RCT)
- Standards Council of Canada's Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC)
- FPT Committee on Regulatory Governance and Reform (CRGR)
- Community of Federal Regulators (CFR)
- SEAMLESS Canada (Conference of Provincial Military Envoy)
- Conference of Provincial Chiefs of Protocol
- Regular diplomatic Visits to Manitoba

23(1)(a)





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

2021/22 Projected Budget (First Quarter Cash Flow as at June 30, 2021)

- The department is currently projecting no variances for the 2021/22 fiscal year (please see tables below).

### Part A - Operating:

| LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS              | Q1 - 2021/22      | 2021/22          | OVER/(UNDER) |            |             |
|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>PART A - OPERATING EXPENSES (\$000s)</b> | <b>PROJECTION</b> | <b>ESTIMATED</b> | <b>\$</b>    | <b>%</b>   | <b>EXPL</b> |
| 22.1 EXECUTIVE                              | 883               | 883              | 0            | 0.0        |             |
| 22.2 CORPORATE SERVICES                     | 3,187             | 3,187            | 0            | 0.0        |             |
| <b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>                     | <b>4,070</b>      | <b>4,070</b>     | <b>0</b>     | <b>0.0</b> |             |

| LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS           | Q1 - 2021/22      | 2021/22          | OVER/(UNDER) |            |             |
|--|-------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>PART A - EXPENSE BY TYPE (\$000s)</b> | <b>PROJECTION</b> | <b>ESTIMATED</b> | <b>\$</b>    | <b>%</b>   | <b>EXPL</b> |
| SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS           | 883               | 883              | 0            | 0.0        |             |
| OTHER EXPENDITURES                       | 3,187             | 3,187            | 0            | 0.0        |             |
| <b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>                  | <b>4,070</b>      | <b>4,070</b>     | <b>0</b>     | <b>0.0</b> |             |

### Part B - Capital:

| LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS   | Q1 - 2021/22      | 2021/22          | OVER/(UNDER) |            |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| <b>PART B - CAPITAL (\$000s)</b> | <b>PROJECTION</b> | <b>ESTIMATED</b> | <b>\$</b>    | <b>%</b>   | <b>EXPL</b> |
| GENERAL ASSETS                   | 10,000            | 10,000           | 0            | 0.0        |             |
| <b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>          | <b>10,000</b>     | <b>10,000</b>    | <b>0</b>     | <b>0.0</b> |             |

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES – 2022/23

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

| LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS              | 2021/22          | 19(1)(e); 23(1)(a) |  |              |
|---|------------------|--------------------|--|--------------|
| <b>PART A - OPERATING EXPENSES (\$000s)</b> | <b>ESTIMATED</b> |                    |  | <b>EXPL.</b> |
| 22.1 EXECUTIVE                              | 883              |                    |  |              |
| 22.2 CORPORATE SERVICES                     | 3,187            |                    |  |              |
| <b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>                     | <b>4,070</b>     |                    |  |              |
| LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS              | 2021/22          | 19(1)(e); 23(1)(a) |  |              |
| <b>PART A - EXPENSE BY TYPE (\$000s)</b>    | <b>ESTIMATED</b> |                    |  | <b>EXPL.</b> |
| SALARIES AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS              | 3,172            |                    |  |              |
| OTHER EXPENDITURES                          | 898              |                    |  |              |
| <b>TOTAL DEPARTMENT</b>                     | <b>4,070</b>     |                    |  |              |

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

NIL

## X. Internal Structural Pressures

Manitoba Legislative Building and Legislative Precinct capital projects

- LPA is facing growing cost pressures on the \$10 million per year Part B capital statutory appropriation for conservation and restoration work of the Manitoba Legislative Building, Government House, and associated infrastructure on the grounds of the Legislative Precinct.
- The cost pressures are the result of the following factors:
  - Addition of Government House projects to the scope of the statutory appropriation in 2020 without an increase in the amount of the appropriation;
  - Discovery of more extensive deterioration to portions of the precinct that require additional resources to repair; and
  - Physical security upgrades required to align grounds and building access to the standards employed in other province's legislative assemblies.

## XI. Legislative and Regulatory Overview


The department of Legislative and Public Affairs currently has six legislative projects in progress at this time:

1. **Summary:** The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Amendment Act (Bill 76) Amendments proposes to designate the polar bear as an official emblem for the Province of Manitoba. More details are available in Section III A of this document.

**Timeline for action:** The department awaits passage of the bill before further action can proceed.

**Current Status:** Bill 76 received 1<sup>st</sup> reading on October 8, 2021 and is awaiting 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.


23(1)(a)




4. **Summary:** Amendment to the Access and Privacy Regulation necessitated by the passage of Bill 49 - the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Amendment Act. Amendments to the regulation provide direction to public bodies regarding notification of the general public and Ombudsman of serious breaches of personal information and guidelines to determine when applicants are associated.

**Timeline for action:** The regulation will require cabinet approval before January 1, 2022.

**Current Status:** The regulation is currently on the Manitoba Regulatory Consultation Portal for a 45 day consultation period.

5. 23(1)(a)
- 

23(1)(a)



## XII. Agencies, Boards, and Commissions Appointment

One board falls under the responsibility of Legislative and Public Affairs:

### **The Legislative Building Centennial Restoration and Preservation Advisory Committee**

Description:

- Established under The Legislative Building Centennial Restoration and Preservation Act.
- Co-chaired by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and member selected by the government and appointed through an Order in Council.
- Five to nine additional members are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor for a term of not more than five year terms.
- At least one member of the committee is required to have experience in architectural conservation/restoration work and one member with engineering experience.
- Responsible for review and approval of Manitoba Legislative Building Long-term Restoration and Preservation Plan (the plan), which includes the Manitoba Legislative Building, Government House, and associated infrastructure on the grounds of the Legislative Precinct.
- The committee has full authority over spending decisions of the annual \$10 million statutory appropriation to implement the plan.

Committee Membership:

- Madame Speaker Myrna Driedger, Co-Chair
- Ms. Roberta Christianson, Co-Chair
- Jean Dorge, Member
- Sara Gomez, Member
- Hijab Mitra, Member
- Bill Worden, Member
- Darryl Heaton, Legislative Building Facility Manager, Non-Voting Member

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

### XIII. Appendices

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

| COMMITTEE   | FUNCTION   | MEMBERSHIP  |
|---|--|---|
| Manitoba Legislative Building and Grounds Interpretive Advisory Committee (A committee within Central Services) | Makes recommendations to Executive Council on proposals to erect monuments, plaques and other commemorative features in the Manitoba Legislative Building, on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislative Building, and at Memorial Park or the South Lawns. | 5-9 members across government. This includes one member from Legislative and Public Affairs, the Chief of Protocol. |

B. Statutory Responsibilities of the Minister / Legal Framework

| <b>STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTER</b>   |
|---|
| The Coat of Arms, Emblems and the Manitoba Tartan Act / C150  |
| The Election Financing Act / E27  |
| The Elections Act / E30   |
| The Electoral Divisions Act / E40   |
| The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act / F175   |
| The Government House Act / G80  |
| The Legislative Building Centennial Restoration and Preservation Act / L117   |
| The Legislative Library Act / L120  |
| The Lobbyists Registration Act / L178   |
| The Referendum Act / R33.5<br>(This Act is not yet in force. It is to come into force on a date to be fixed by proclamation.) |
| The Regulatory Accountability Act / R65   |