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UNWTO Secretary-General on official visit to Italy, Deepening Partnership



Guatemala partners with UNWTO to launch Sustainable Tourism Observatory

UNWTO AND BARÇA INNOVATION HUB LAUNCH GLOBAL SPORTS TOURISM START-UP COMPETITION

Madrid, Spain, 14 June 2019 – The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in collaboration with Barça Innovation Hub (BIHUB) and with the support of the Qatar National Tourism Council (QNTC), has announced the launch of the 1st UNWTO Sports Tourism Start-up Competition. The initiative is designed to identify projects and innovations that can transform the sports tourism sector in the near future.

Increasing demand from tourists and the growing influence of sports on destinations' popularity have combined to make sports tourism one of the segments with the greatest potential for socioeconomic development opportunities, attracting growing levels of government interest. The 1st UNWTO Sports Tourism Start-up Competition, launched by UNWTO and BIHUB, with the support of QNTC, is looking for start-ups with disruptive ideas focused on solving real needs and addressing knowledge gaps in the growing sports tourism sector.

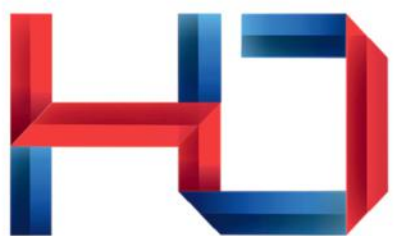
In all, 20 start-ups will be shortlisted by a panel of international experts and sports and tourism stakeholders, drawn from the public and private sectors, academia and civil society. The shortlisted start-ups will be announced on the competition's [website](#). The panel will then select five semi-finalists who will all be

invited to Barcelona to pitch their ideas to sports experts, government representatives, tourism business leaders and international investors.

“We are pleased to be partnering with the Barça Innovation Hub to harness the potential of sports tourism to stimulate creativity, innovation and sustainable growth. Through this competition, start-ups with disruptive visions can propose new ideas that will allow the sports tourism sector to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. We thank BIHUB for their vision and collaboration and, as we move towards the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, we thank the QNTC for their support for this exciting project,” said UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili as he opened the competition.

As part of the partnership with QNTC, the winning ideas will also be considered for implementation in Qatar, which is gearing up to host the FIFA World Cup 2022.

His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, Secretary General of QNTC, commented, “At QNTC we believe sporting events have a unique power to bring people of the world together, and that is also why sports tourism is a key focus area in our tourism vision. We look forward to seeing the innovative ideas that will come through the inaugural Sports Tourism Start-Up Competition and hope that one of them will come to life in Qatar.”



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Guatemala partners with UNWTO to launch Sustainable Tourism Observatory

The new Observatory is located in the city of La Antigua Guatemala, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a leading tourism destination. Led by the Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo (INGUAT) and supported by the Guatemalan government, the Observatory will periodically collect data and scientific evidence as it monitors the effect tourism has on the historic city. This data will then be used to assess how tourism can best be used to help drive sustainable growth and development.

“We warmly welcome Antigua’s entry into our global network of observatories. This demonstrates Guatemala’s

strong commitment to tourism as a force for good,” said UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili. “The Observatory will generate more and better evidence of the economic, environmental and social impacts that tourism has on Antigua and the surrounding area. This will facilitate decision-making so that tourism can continue to drive sustainable development.”

The establishment of the new Observatory was announced during the 64th meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for the Americas, also held in Antigua (15-16 May). Moving ahead, the

Observatory will work with an interdisciplinary group of local experts. This commitment to the input of local stakeholders is a key feature of the INSTO Observatories around the world.

Jorge Mario Chajón, Director General of INGUAT, adds: “This project will have a real multiplier effect, maximizing the economic as well as the social benefits that tourism brings. We welcome the opportunity to partner with UNWTO and work together to make tourism a key part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM NUMBERS AND CONFIDENCE ON THE RISE

Madrid (Spain), 21 May 2019 - The latest issue of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer from the World Tourism Organization shows that international tourism continued to grow over the first quarter of 2019. Though at a slower rate when compared with the last two years, the 4% increase registered in early 2019 is a very positive sign. The Middle East (+8%) and Asia and the Pacific (+6%) experienced the highest increase in international arrivals. Numbers in both Europe and Africa were up by 4%, and in the Americas growth was recorded at 3%.

“International tourism continues to perform strongly worldwide fuelled by a positive economy, increased air capacity and visa facilitation”, says UNWTO Secretary-General, Zurab Pololikashvili. “Growth in arrivals is easing slightly after two years of exceptional results, but the sector continues to outpace the global rate of economic growth.” Europe, the world’s largest

tourism region, reported solid growth (+4%), led by destinations in Southern and Mediterranean Europe and Central and Eastern Europe (both +5%). Growth in Africa was driven by the ongoing recovery in North Africa (+11%). In the Americas, the Caribbean (+17%) rebounded strongly after weak results in 2018, following the impact of hurricanes Irma and Maria in late 2017. In Asia and the Pacific, results for the first three months showed a 6% increase led by North-East Asia (+9%) and a very solid performance from the Chinese market.

“With this growth comes greater responsibility for translating it into better jobs and better lives”, Mr. Pololikashvili stresses. “We need to continue investing in innovation, digital transformation and education so that we can harness the many benefits tourism can bring while at the same time mitigating its impact on the

environment and society with a better management of tourism flows.”

UNWTO Confidence Index Panel optimistic over future growth

Confidence in global tourism has started to pick up again after slowing down at the end of 2018, according to the latest UNWTO Confidence Index survey. The outlook for the May-August 2019 period, the peak season for many destinations in the Northern hemisphere, is more optimistic than in the recent periods and more than half of respondents are expecting a better performance in the coming four months.

Experts’ evaluation of tourism performance in the first four months of 2019 was also rather positive and in line with the expectations expressed at the beginning of that period. UNWTO forecasts growth of 3% to 4% in international tourist arrivals in 2019.

UNWTO Secretary-General on official visit to Italy, Deepening Partnership

Rome, Italy, 22 May 2019 - The Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Zurab Pololikashvili, has arrived in Rome to begin a first visit to Italy as head of the specialized agency of the United Nations. During the three-day trip, he will meet with H.E. Mr. Gian Marco Centinaio, Minister of Agricultural, Food, Forestry Policies and Tourism for Italy. Mr. Pololikashvili will also pay an official visit to the Vatican on Thursday, where he will be granted an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis. Italy is one of the world’s leading tourist destinations. The country welcomes more than 58 million visitors a year and the sector generates in excess of US\$44 billion for the Italian economy annually. Italy is also a strong, long-standing partner of UNWTO and this official visit is aimed at celebrating this partnership while at that same time sharing knowledge and plans for making tourism a driver of sustainable economic development and inclusive job creation. Mr. Pololikashvili says “I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received here in Italy, a key partner of UNWTO. This visit will reinforce the already

strong ties between UNWTO and the Italian government. I am particularly excited about learning of Italy’s plans to harness the growing market for gastronomy tourism to drive job creation and protect the country’s unique cultural heritage”.

Mr. Gian Marco Centinaio adds: “We believe in the role Italy can play alongside UNWTO and we are confident we will continue to enjoy a fruitful partnership together in the years ahead. From focusing on gastronomy and wine tourism to leveraging the importance of employment and training, Italy is committed to embracing tourism also as a powerful tool for the sustainable development of its rural economy.”

In addition to meeting with Pope Francis, Zurab Pololikashvili will also visit the Sistine Chapel, one of the world’s leading tourist points of interest and also meet with representatives from the private sector, as well as with Mr. Carlo Cafarotti, Advisor for Tourism and Economic Development of Rome to discuss destination management and the UNWTO’s work in the growing field of gastronomy tourism.



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UNWTO and Basque Culinary Center launch Guidelines for the Development of Gastronomy Tourism

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Basque Culinary Center (BCC) have launched a new set of guidelines to help destinations benefit from the growing interest in gastronomic tourism. The joint initiative was presented at the 5th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism in San Sebastian, Spain. As tourists increasingly demand unique and authentic travel experiences, the global gastronomy market has been enjoying significant growth over recent years. The new toolkit from UNWTO and BCC is aimed at helping destinations benefit from this trend. This initiative is focused on empowering destinations with the knowledge and concrete

steps they need to design and implement a Gastronomy Tourism Plan. By adopting such a plan, cities and regions can enjoy the many benefits gastronomy tourism can bring. In addition to creating more and better jobs, it can also serve as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship. Addressing delegates at the 2019 World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: "The broad spectrum of gastronomy tourism makes it an ally for job creation and social inclusion. It has a particular potential to economically empower the most vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, indigenous and rural communities,"

The 'Guidelines for the Development of Gastronomy Tourism' include recommendations on key aspects of planning and management as well as possible interventions and activities for implementation by National Tourism Administrations (NTAs), National Tourism Organizations (NTOs) and Destination Management Organizations (DMOs). The publication touches on issues such as the promotion of the value chain, education and skills development, competitor analysis, destination image, governance, control and monitoring mechanisms and more.



PATA AND AWECADEMY SIGN ORGANISATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

(PATA) is pleased to announce a new organisational partnership with Awecademy a future-focused educational content provider that creates personalised learning playlists and individualised learning pathways for learners globally. PATA CEO Dr. Mario Hardy said, "The world is evolving at an accelerated pace with technological innovations disrupting long standing norms in every sector. With these changes come endless possibilities as well as boundless opportunities for those who embrace an exponential future and prepare themselves for the unimaginable. Awecademy breaks the models of traditional teaching methods, and our partnership will allow our members the opportunity to learn how they can prepare themselves for the inevitable technological changes and developments that will affect their lives." Through an online platform and offline programmes, Awecademy offers interdisciplinary programmes that equip learners and educators with the new competencies, future fluencies, and powerful values for them to have a positive impact on humanity. These include big-picture thinking, radical creativity, moonshot thinking, empathy and compassion, self-transcendence, intelligent optimism, ethical use of technologies, existential studies, and much more. Their mission is to bring a sense of awe and wonder to education and inspire learners to bring about positive civilization-level

change. Under the agreement, PATA members will receive a 20% discount on the Premium Awecademy Workshop Package. Awecademy Founder & CEO Raya Bidshahri said, "We are living through a word of accelerating change due to exponential technologies. Traditional education is no longer fit for purpose in this digital world and evolving workforce. We are very excited to collaborate with PATA, to offer future-focussed and wisdom-based programmes to the youth community. Our goal is to equip learners with the new competencies, future fluencies, and powerful values for them to have a positive impact on humanity."



Adopting a healthy lifestyle helps reduce the risk of dementia

New WHO Guidelines recommend specific interventions for reducing the risk of cognitive decline and dementia. The Guidelines provide the knowledge base for health-care providers to advise patients on what they can do to help prevent cognitive decline and dementia. They will also be useful for governments, policy-makers and planning authorities to guide them in developing policy and designing programmes that encourage healthy lifestyles. The reduction of risk factors for dementia is one of several areas of action included in WHO's Global action plan for the public health response to dementia. Other areas include: strengthening information systems for dementia; diagnosis, treatment and care; supporting carers of people with dementia; and research and innovation. WHO's Global Dementia

Observatory, launched in December 2017, is a compilation of information about country activities and resources for dementia, such as national plans, dementia-friendly initiatives, awareness campaigns and facilities for care. Data from 21 countries, including Bangladesh, Chile, France, Japan, Jordan and Togo, have already been included, with a total of 80 countries now engaged in providing data. Creating national policies and plans for dementia are among WHO's key recommendations for countries in their efforts to manage this growing health challenge. During 2018, WHO provided support to countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Qatar, Slovenia and Sri Lanka to help them develop a comprehensive, multisectoral public health response to dementia. An essential element of every

national dementia plan is support for carers of people with dementia, said Dr Dévora Kestel, Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse at WHO. "Dementia carers are very often family members who need to make considerable adjustments to their family and professional lives to care for their loved ones. This is why WHO created iSupport. iSupport is an online training programme providing carers of people with dementia with advice on overall management of care, dealing with behaviour changes and how to look after their own health." iSupport is currently being used in eight countries, with more expected to follow. Dementia is an illness characterized by a deterioration in cognitive function beyond what might be expected from normal ageing.



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GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROVIDES MANITOBA WITH SUPPORT TO EASE SHELTER PRESSURES

The Government of Canada is committed to working together with provinces and municipalities to address the challenges that increased numbers of asylum claims and irregular migration can present. To assist Manitoba, the Government will provide \$5 million for costs incurred in 2017 and 2018 associated with interim housing due to the influx of asylum claimants. These funds are in addition to \$3 million already provided to the province in June 2018. This support will enable the Province of Manitoba to continue working with partners to deliver effective interim housing solutions for asylum claimants. It will also help to strengthen the province's capacity to identify sustainable solutions for the longer term. The Government of Canada is

taking action to invest in the integrity of our border and asylum system. As a result, there has been a significant reduction in the number of individuals crossing the border irregularly. The Government looks forward to continue working collaboratively with Manitoba and other provincial partners to explore how all orders of government can best work together to manage shelter pressures in our communities.

Quotes

"The Province of Manitoba has been a valuable partner as we address the challenges associated with increased global migration. We will continue to work with and assist our key partners in securing temporary housing for those in need, including asylum claimants." – The

Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction
 "Manitoba has always been a welcoming province. The influx of asylum seekers to Canada requires a co-ordinated national response. We are pleased with this financial support and partnership with Canada to help offset approximately \$17 million in costs, and to address housing and associated needs for those seeking a safer life in our province and country. We will continue to work with our federal partners and support agencies to ensure the safety and well-being of those seeking refuge and of those living in affected communities." – Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES \$52-MILLION 'GROW' FUND TO SUPPORT WETLAND PROTECTION AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Supports Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan: Squires

The Manitoba government will create a \$52-million endowment fund for the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) Program, as part of its commitment to implement a homegrown, provincewide program based on the successful Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) model, Sustainable Development Minister Rochelle Squires announced today. The GROW Program will support the enhancement of ecological goods and services on private land, helping landowners contribute to reduced flooding, improved water quality and nutrient management, and support the overall goals of the made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan.

"Our government understands and values the significant benefit that ecological goods and services provide to climate change resiliency," Squires said. "By supporting a made-in-Manitoba GROW

program, this fund will help recognize the critical role that local producers play in protecting and strengthening our environment, and supporting our best-in-Canada, made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan." The GROW fund has been established with an initial investment of \$52 million and will be managed by The Winnipeg Foundation (TWF), with project payments funded from annual returns on the investment, and tracked and evaluated by Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC). Through the fund, the Manitoba government will help producers with small water-retention projects, natural habitat restoration and enhancement including wetlands, riparian area management, soil health improvements, and shelterbelt and eco-buffer establishment. The fund also encourages private donations toward supporting these initiatives.

"We look forward to continuing to work with the

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation on this program that further protects wetlands and supports environmental initiatives," said Rick Frost, CEO, The Winnipeg Foundation. "The foundation appreciates the confidence the Manitoba government has shown by placing these new endowments under our stewardship." Final details of the criteria for the GROW program are being developed by Manitoba Sustainable Development and stakeholders will be engaged as part of that process, the minister noted. More details on the program, eligibility requirements, and how to apply will be made available later this year.

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PROVINCE SUPPORTS TRAINING PLAN TO EDUCATE KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ABOUT TREATIES

Five-year Treaty Education Initiative Responds to Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action: Goertzen

The Manitoba government is investing \$1.25 million to educate students and teachers about treaties and the treaty relationship, in collaboration with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, Education and Training Minister Kelvin Goertzen announced today.

"Manitoba is a leader in treaty education, ensuring that treaties and the treaty relationship are embedded in the social studies curriculum, while continuing to support ongoing teacher training in reconciliation," said Goertzen. "In the 2017 speech from the throne, our government committed to work with our partners to further establish treaty education in the Manitoba curriculum, and I'm pleased to announce the Treaty Education Initiative in response to that commitment."

The training program, funded for five years, is a two-day course that builds understanding of treaties and the treaty relationship. Course facilitators, along with an elder, provide the training and equip teachers with interactive learning strategies and a resource kit with additional teaching resources to take back to their schools. Sessions are tailored to early, middle and senior years instruction, depending on the teachers in attendance.

"Understanding our province's rich history requires an awareness of the special relationship that exists between Manitoba and Indigenous peoples," said Indigenous and Northern Relations Minister Eileen Clarke. "Through this initiative, teachers will be better equipped to address

treaties and treaty relationships in the classroom, and students will have the opportunity to learn about the important role that treaties play in Manitoba, both historically and in the present day."

The Treaty Education Initiative responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, specifically actions 62 and 63, to develop and implement resources on Indigenous peoples in Canadian history, Goertzen noted.

"The Treaty Education Initiative is an excellent learning opportunity and a resource to help understand the treaties from the First Nations perspective," said Loretta Ross, treaty commissioner, Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. "In order to understand Manitoba history, students must first learn that treaties are foundational to the formation of Canada. We are pleased to provide these resources that can be used in the classroom."

Since 2003, treaties and the treaty relationship have been embedded in the mandatory learning outcomes of the kindergarten to Grade 12 social studies curriculum. The Treaty Education Initiative began in 2009 to provide teacher support documentation. Since then, the program has grown. At the end of 2018-19, 2,868 educators had been trained and 1,310 instruction kits were distributed. The Manitoba government is also offering another program to support understanding of Indigenous identity. As of early 2019, the Indigenous Identification Declaration Online Training for Administration is available to school office administration. The online training will provide valuable information about Indigenous identity declaration to school administration, as they are often the first points of contact for parents and caregivers registering children in schools, Goertzen said.

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR 24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Manitoba government will be providing up to \$1.7 million in grants to support 24 projects for non-profit and community-led organizations across the province, Municipal Relations Minister Jeff Wharton announced today.

“The province is committed to supporting projects that will meet the needs of communities while reducing red tape, simplifying access and reducing program administration,” said Wharton. “Our goal is to transform and modernize grant funding in order to increase community capacity and promote sustainability in non-profit organizations as well as increase positive outcomes.” Earlier this year, the province

announced the new \$7.9-million Building Sustainable Communities Program would replace seven legacy grant programs that each had significant administration, rigid requirements and operated in silos. The new program was designed to respond to local neighbourhood, municipal and regional priorities with a focus on increasing community capacity while promoting sustainability for non-profit organizations.

“The Kinsmen and Kinettes Clubs of Stonewall wish to thank the government of Manitoba for its much-needed support through the Building Sustainable Communities Program for the community splash pad project in

Stonewall Quarry Park,” said Chris Luellman, chair of the Splash Pad Committee. “This funding will allow for the completion of a much-needed community project that will impact the lives of all families located not only in Stonewall, but everyone in the region. Regardless of age or physical ability, everyone will be able to enjoy a safe, barrier-free outdoor activity.”

This initial wave of approvals enables 24 eligible, shovel-ready capital projects planned for the summer of 2019 to proceed, Wharton said, adding the department continues to review the remaining applications and further approvals are expected over the coming weeks and months.

PROVINCE INVESTS IN BEAUSEJOUR YOUTH THROUGH FEDERAL PROCEEDS OF CRIME FUND

The Manitoba government is providing more than \$15,000 through the Federal Proceeds of Crime Fund to The Breach Youth Drop-in Centre in Beausejour to ensure a safe recreational place for teens in the community, Justice Minister Cliff Cullen announced here today.

“Youth need recreational opportunities to ensure they stay engaged in their communities in a positive way,” said Cullen. “Our government is pleased to provide this support, which will ensure youth in Beausejour and the surrounding communities have options that are safe and

constructive.” As a crime prevention initiative, The Breach offers a safe, alternative place for teens to go during the evening. The funding provided will be used to purchase advertising, supplies and equipment for the music program. The program is run by Elim Baptist Church, Beausejour Community Church and St. Ouens Country Church.

“We thank the Manitoba government for this support, which will enable us to provide hope to youth in our community by investing in their present and future, ensuring community and

cultural engagement for decades to come,” said Trevor Proutt, board member, The Breach.

This investment is made possible through the Federal Proceeds of Crime Fund, which is comprised of funds forfeited from federally prosecuted Criminal Code offences.

In addition to investments from this fund, the province has distributed more than \$1.6 million to law enforcement agencies across Manitoba from its Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund this year. For more information about criminal property forfeiture,

housing, and support Manitoba’s priorities related to housing repair, construction and affordability. The governments of Canada and Manitoba will also work together on the design and implementation of a new Canada Housing Benefit for the province, to provide affordability support directly to families and individuals in housing need. The new agreement marks the beginning of a partnership that will be supported by long-term and predictable funding, starting immediately.

This is a progressive housing agreement that commits the governments of Canada and Manitoba to new and higher standards of transparency, public engagement and housing quality, including improved energy efficiency and accessibility. The agreement also acknowledges the importance of prioritizing people most in need, incorporating a human rights-based approach to housing, and applying a gender lens to all investments. Quotes

“The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that every Canadian has a safe and affordable place to call home. Long-term, predictable funding for housing has been needed for more than a

decade. Today, with the Manitoba government, we have taken a significant step toward our goal of building strong communities where Canadian families can prosper and thrive, now and for the future. Our Government will continue working in partnership with Manitoba and other provinces and territories towards a 15 per cent expansion in new affordable housing units and renewing 20 per cent of existing community housing units across the country.” – Adam Vaughan, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (Housing and Urban Affairs)

“Accessible, affordable and quality housing options are a priority for our government because they are a priority for Manitobans. By signing this bilateral, we are committing to a decade of strategic investments that will make a difference in the lives of children, families, seniors, vulnerable people and many others. Manitoba is continuing on its path to become Canada’s most improved province by working in partnership with the federal government and many other critical agencies and organizations who share our dedication to housing issues.” – Manitoba Families Minister Heather Stefanson

GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND MANITOBA SIGN 10-YEAR HOUSING AGREEMENT

Families, Indigenous communities and vulnerable Canadians in need of an affordable place to call home can count on long-term funding for community housing in Manitoba thanks to an agreement signed today by the federal and provincial governments.

Today in Winnipeg, Adam Vaughan, parliamentary

secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (Housing and Urban Affairs), on behalf of the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Canada’s Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Minister Responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), along with the Manitoba Families Minister Heather Stefanson,

announced they have reached a bilateral agreement under the National Housing Strategy (NHS). This agreement, which will be cost-shared by the governments of Canada and Manitoba, demonstrates a joint commitment to prioritize affordable housing. The 10-year agreement will invest almost \$450.8 million to protect, renew and expand social and community

NEW STROKE UNIT AT HSC WINNIPEG WILL ENSURE BETTER CARE FOR PATIENTS

New 28-bed Unit will Provide Intensive Treatment, Rehabilitation to Stroke Patients: Friesen
A dedicated acute stroke unit will be built at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg (HSC) to serve stroke patients from across Manitoba, resulting in improved patient outcomes that shorten their time in hospital while reducing costs to treat them, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced today. New 28-bed Unit will Provide Intensive Treatment, Rehabilitation to Stroke Patients: Friesen
A dedicated acute stroke unit will be built at Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg (HSC) to serve stroke patients from across Manitoba, resulting in improved patient

outcomes that shorten their time in hospital while reducing costs to treat them, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced today. Approximately 2,000 Manitobans suffer a stroke each year. Manitoba is the only province without an acute stroke unit.

“Acute stroke care has three windows of therapy including clot busting, clot removal and early intensive rehabilitation therapy,” said Dr. Perry Gray, provincial lead, medical specialist services and chief medical officer with Shared Health. “Clot busting is available in a number of emergency departments and hospitals across the province and clot removal is performed in specialized radiology suites

located at HSC. However, Manitoba has been missing the third component until now. With the creation of an acute stroke unit, Manitoba stroke patients will have access to the full range of therapies required to maximize recovery.”

The new, 28-bed unit will be located in the current Women’s Pavilion at HSC. Construction will begin following the relocation of staff, equipment and programming currently in the Women’s Pavilion to the new HSC Women’s facility in December 2019, the minister noted.

Renovations to the fourth and fifth floors of the Women’s Pavilion will develop approximately 18,400 square feet for the unit. Building upgrades will include heating, ventilation, lighting, asbestos removal, an upgraded nurse call system, new sprinklers and new elevators. Moving patients into an acute stroke unit will allow them to receive specialized treatment while freeing up beds elsewhere in the health system for other patients who require acute care, the minister said.

“Improving the co-ordination and delivery of health-care services across Manitoba is a key part of our health system transformation,” said Friesen. “Our commitment to this new

stroke unit will not only ensure that Manitobans are getting the best possible care, it will also support our ongoing efforts to make evidence-based and clinically informed investments that will ensure better health care sooner for Manitoba families.”

Last December, the province partnered with the HSC Foundation and philanthropist Paul Albrechtsen on the development of new interventional angiography facilities and the purchase of new equipment for HSC Winnipeg’s new state-of-the-art Diagnostic Centre of Excellence. Stroke patients will benefit from the new centre and its advanced equipment when it comes online in 2020.

“We applaud the government for announcing its commitment to implement an acute stroke unit at the Health Sciences Centre, bringing care for stroke patients in Manitoba in line with the rest of the country,” said Diego Marchese, chief operating officer, Heart and Stroke. “It will also have the benefit of further improving health-care services by attracting and retaining clinicians and other health professionals.”

The cost of the project will be subject to the tendering process, Friesen added.

TICK-BORNE DISEASE COLLABORATIVE CARE TO STREAMLINE HELP FOR MANITOBANS

Manitobans Reminded to Check For Ticks: Friesen

The Manitoba government is moving forward with the establishment of a collaborative care service to streamline and improve health services for patients who show symptoms of late Lyme disease and other emerging tick-borne illnesses, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced today. “Symptoms of Lyme disease are often indistinguishable from symptoms of many other chronic diseases which makes it hard to diagnose and difficult to manage,” said Friesen. “As human cases of Lyme disease increase in Manitoba and across the country, our government is committed to remaining at the forefront of tick-borne disease research, response and advocate engagement.”

The tick-borne collaborative care service will help patients by connecting their primary care

provider to appropriate health professionals, including specialists, who will be involved in a collaborative approach to their care. The program, which will receive more than \$240,000 in annual funding, is expected to start this fall, the minister noted. Manitobans are reminded to remain vigilant regarding ticks. Blacklegged ticks, the kind that can carry the agents of tick-borne diseases such as anaplasmosis, babesiosis and Lyme disease, will remain active in the province until the first permanent snowfall.

Preventing exposure to ticks is the best line of defense to avoid tick-borne diseases. Manitobans are encouraged to remain vigilant regarding ticks, to wear an appropriate repellent and to conduct tick checks shortly after coming inside from outdoor activities

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW INVESTMENTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS TREATMENT FOR MANITOBANS

Hours to be Extended at RAAM clinics, Treatment Beds Being Added, Expanded Mental Health Programming to be Offered: Friesen
The Manitoba government is investing more than \$2.7 million per year to enhance services at Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinics, add 16 new women’s treatment beds and expand programming offered by the Strongest Families Institute, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced today. “The VIRGO report identified the need for enhancing mental health and addictions capacity, and we are responding,” said Friesen. “These new investments will allow an additional 176 women per year to access treatment beds and 500 more families to get early intervention mental health services. It will also expand on our successful RAAM clinics, connecting more people to receive the help they need for their addictions by adding resources at all locations.”

The province’s new investments include:

- more than \$1.23 million a year to enhance staffing resources at all five RAAM clinics throughout the province. This will also include expanded hours of operation in Winnipeg and Brandon, allowing the clinics to meet demand by continuing to see new patients during existing walk-in hours while ensuring dedicated time for providers to deliver followup care;
- \$985,000 annually to add an additional 16 treatment beds for women, which can support up to 176 women requiring treatment a year; and
- \$500,000 to expand mental health programming offered

by Strongest Families Institute by an additional 500 families per year.

“Improving access to mental health and addictions supports and treatment is an important step in improving health outcomes for Manitobans. Through expanded and more readily accessible treatment, we continue to head in the right direction,” said Dr. Ginette Poulin, medical director for the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba. “These significant investments will enhance services for individuals seeking mental health and addictions treatment as well as help support patients and their families in their journey through recovery and healing.”

“With this increased investment, Strongest Families Institute can extend our reach even further to help Manitobans in need,” said Dr. Patricia Lingley-Pottie, CEO, Strongest Families Institute. “Today’s announcement is an important investment into the futures of Manitoba children and youth so they can lead happier, healthier lives.”

All three initiatives are expected to come into place within the next three months.

The Manitoba government has implemented 23 recommendations made in the VIRGO report since its release last year. The implementation of five other recommendations are in the process of being completed, while work continues to progress on a number of other initiatives identified in the report. Improving mental health and addictions services have not been limited to the implementation of recommendations made in the VIRGO report, however. A tri-level task force is expected

to report back later this month with short- and medium-term recommendations that respond to the rising use of illicit drugs in Manitoba communities. Additionally, deputy ministers from multiple provincial departments – health, seniors and active living, justice, families, and education and training – have met and co-ordinated various mental health and addictions services on a regular basis.

“When it comes to mental health and addictions, we are committed to facing that challenge head-on, with multiple government departments working together to launch initiatives and enhance initiatives that help Manitobans,” said Justice Minister Cliff Cullen. Additionally, the development of Manitoba’s first provincial clinical and preventive services plan includes a specific focus on improving access, quality and equity of mental health and addictions services across the province. Clinical experts and front-line providers are involved in the development of new models and settings of care to improve co-ordination and communication between providers and to enhance the capacity to provide appropriate care in the community.

“The availability of core mental health and addictions services and supports have not been coordinated or aligned in several instances to the needs of patients throughout the province,” said Dr. Jitender Sareen, specialty lead of mental health and addictions, Shared Health. “Through the development of a clinical plan, we will be able to better support the needs of patients in communities across the province, allowing for earlier treatment and appropriate longer-term followup.”

PROVINCE ADVISES FIRE BANS IMPLEMENTED DUE TO HOT WEATHER, STRONG WINDS No Fires Allowed in Stephenfield Provincial Park

GOVERNMENTS INVEST IN NEW CHILD-CARE CENTRE TO BE BUILT IN WEST WINNIPEG

The Canada and Manitoba governments are investing more than \$1.2 million in the new Festival Early Learning and Child Care Centre, which will provide care for dozens of children and their families in Headingley and Winnipeg, Federal Families, Children and Social Development Minister Jean-Yves Duclos and Manitoba Families Minister Heather Stefanson announced today.

“Investing in our children is one of the most important investments governments can make. The Government of Canada is pleased to work with the government of Manitoba to give more children and families the opportunity to reach their full potential by giving them access to quality early learning opportunities,” said Duclos.

Support for this project is being provided through the Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Agreement and Manitoba’s Early Learning and Child Care Building Fund. The ELCC agreement is providing nearly \$559,000 in annual operating and one-time start-up grant funding. The Manitoba government is providing up to \$600,000 in capital grant funding and more than \$38,000 in annual

operating grant funding to support school-age child care in the centre.

“Our government is committed to expanding accessible, flexible and affordable child-care options for Manitoba families,” said Stefanson. “Once complete, this centre will be an important addition to the community, with space for children to play, learn and grow together. We are proud to partner with the federal government and the private sector on this exciting project, and look forward to celebrating the milestones to come.”

The child-care centre will be located at Red River Exhibition Park, on Winnipeg’s western edge. The design is currently being finalized, with construction expected to begin later this year. Once complete, it will feature 125 new child-care spaces including 12 for infants, 90 for preschoolers and 23 for school-aged children. “We are honoured to have been a part of this community for 68 years and, as such, have been an important part of many generations of Manitobans,” said Garth Rogerson, CEO, Red River Exhibition Association. “Our board of directors, together with the centre’s board of directors as well as all three levels of

government, see the benefits of contributing to the welfare of our community through the improvement of child care.”

The ministers noted the Red River Exhibition Association, a non-profit and volunteer-driven agricultural society, is also an important partner in this project. Recognizing the importance of child care to the community and the local economy, the association has donated the land for the project.

“Our centre is very proud to be associated with this important development,” said Kerri Kelly, executive director, Festival Early Learning and Child Care Centre Inc. “Our number one priority remains being committed to improving the lifestyle of families in our community to ensure the current and future well-being of Manitoba children and their parents.”

The Festival Early Learning and Child Care Centre previously operated a smaller facility in the community. The new building will offer a net increase of up to 125 spaces in a larger, more suitable location. It will also offer flexible, extended hours of care to better meet the needs of families. It is expected to be complete in 2020.

PROVINCE RELEASES MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS MINERAL DEVELOPMENT PROTOCOL

Protocol to Serve as a Template for Agreements with First Nations: Pedersen Following extensive engagement with First Nations leadership and industry representatives, the Manitoba government has released a protocol to define how Crown-Indigenous consultations will occur during all phases of mineral development, create certainty in order to advance projects in a timely way and ensure First Nations can be actively involved in all phases of development projects within their traditional territories, Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen announced today.

“There is tremendous potential for wealth and job creation in mineral development in Manitoba, and we are working together with First Nation communities to ensure they can help create and share in the benefits of growth in this sector,” said Pedersen. “While the template will be consistent for First Nations who choose to take part, it can include customized aspects to reflect the unique governance, administrative and communication protocols of each community.”

The protocol includes a process guide and matrix for Crown-Indigenous consultation. The province will encourage its use in discussions with First Nations as a way to facilitate a mutually agreed-to consultation process for all phases of the mineral development cycle, from grassroots exploration to mine development.

The minister confirmed \$500,000 in funding has been set aside to support First Nations in the development and implementation of protocol agreements.

This funding will enable the establishment of shared mineral management boards, with a focus on traditional land-use planning in areas of high volume of active mineral interests and demonstrated mineral potential. It will help to enhance First Nations’ knowledge and understanding of the mining cycle, and the potential economic growth opportunities arising from exploration and development. A key goal is ensuring First Nations can participate effectively in project-specific regulatory processes, including review of proposed mineral dispositions, permits and licence applications, the minister noted.

“Through the Look North strategy and Manitoba’s Economic Growth Action Plan, mineral development has been identified as a key opportunity for the long-term economic prosperity of our province and we are taking action to build on this potential,” said Indigenous and Northern Relations Minister Eileen Clarke. “We have already engaged with the federal government to advance key capacity development initiatives that will increase Indigenous participation in the mining sector.

“We will continue to work collaboratively with the federal government to better prepare Indigenous communities to be actively involved in all phases of mineral development, and advance reconciliation by fostering a mutually respectful relationship between the Crown and Indigenous peoples.”

Clarke also noted Manitoba will continue to engage with the federal government and First Nations to facilitate trilateral discussions with respect to resource revenue sharing, including increasing



First Nations' fiscal powers to support direct financial benefits to First Nations on mineral development projects within their traditional territories.

To support the establishment of protocol agreements and advise the government on priority issues concerning mining and mineral exploration in Manitoba, the province is establishing a Liaison Committee on Mining and Exploration. The committee will provide

expertise on land-use planning and regulatory matters, relationship building with communities, orphaned and abandoned mines, and exploration challenges and solutions.

The Look North Report and Action Plan for Manitoba's Northern Economy highlights mining as a long-time net contributor to Manitoba's economic prosperity and a top priority in the north

MANITOBA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM JOINS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING EXERCISE

Regular Training Ensures Readiness

To Respond: Pedersen Over 50 members of CAN TF-4, Manitoba's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team, leave Winnipeg tomorrow to join other Canadian and United States teams at a special training facility near Butlerville, Ind., Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen, minister responsible for the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), announced today.

"Manitoba's USAR team is an elite, all-hazards response team that will get hands-on experience by participating in this international exercise and can test their training in real-life situations that could save a life someday," Pedersen said. "Under the leadership of the OFC, this team has the resources to assist with a wide variety of rescue situations and is constantly preparing to help here at home or abroad. We wish the entire team safe travels and a successful training mission."

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The exercise allows teams to select their own goals and targets to practice. A variety of scenarios will be played out including the structural collapse of a parking garage with actors playing the role of trapped or injured victims. In addition, there is an opportunity to rescue people trapped by flooding, or an underground collapse in a tunnel or subway. From May 31 to June 9, teams will rotate in and out of the exercise area, sometimes working alongside each other to simulate a mass response to a large-scale emergency situation such as an earthquake.

BRANDON REGIONAL HEALTH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT COMPLETE

Redevelopment Adds 12 Medical Beds, Enhances Patient Care: Friesen
BRANDON—The completion of a multi-million dollar redevelopment at Brandon Regional Health Centre (BRHC) will enhance patient care while allowing for the opening of 12 additional medical beds at the facility, Health, Seniors and Active Living Minister Cameron Friesen announced here today.

"The renovations and redevelopment at Brandon Regional Health Centre are helping health-care providers meet patient needs, enhancing access to high-quality services, and providing a more modern space for patients, visitors and staff," said Friesen. "The completion of this project will give people living in Brandon and the Westman region an improved facility that is well-equipped to provide a high quality of care for years to come."

Work on the project began in 2016 and was done in four phases. In the first phase, physiotherapy space and the Westman Dreams for Kids Pediatric Unit were relocated from the fifth floor to newly redeveloped space on the second floor. The pediatric unit features seven spacious single rooms, a new playroom, an examination/clinic space, and rooms for nutrition, medication and storage. Safety features include alarmed exit doors, swipe

access cards for staff and video surveillance. The ward opened for patients and families at the end of May 2017.

Work on the project's later phases, which involved the medical unit on the fourth and fifth floors of the health centre, was recently completed. The medical unit is used for the complex care of patients with acute cardiac, respiratory, neurological, renal and gastrointestinal disorders. Other patients served in the medical unit include oncology patients, and those suffering from mental health and addictions issues.

Renovations created 12 additional medical beds in primarily single-patient rooms with washrooms, as well as expanded and improved areas for storage, staff work and family support. Accessible shower areas, upgraded nurse call systems, the installation of card swipe access and the creation of an isolation room were also built to enhance patient safety. Additionally, upgrades have been made to the roof, electrical and mechanical systems.

"The BRHC is the largest facility within Prairie Mountain Health region and a key hub for patients, families, and residents within an area that spans western Manitoba," said Penny Gilson, chief executive officer, Prairie

Mountain Health region. "These upgrades have further enhanced patient care and we certainly thank the BRHC Foundation for its outstanding work on the Room for Renewal Campaign that raised \$600,000 for this project."

The province invested nearly \$15.8 million toward the project, with the remaining \$1.1 million for the project coming from the Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation's Rooms for Renewal campaign and Prairie Mountain Health. Since being initially announced, more than \$3 million in additional work was added to the project including mechanical and electrical upgrades, replacement of the roof and waste-water lines, and new sprinklers.

"We were very proud to be a part of this major health-centre redevelopment and thank all of our donors who contributed to this very successful campaign," said Peggy Turnbull, board chair, Brandon Regional Health Centre Foundation.

The minister noted the project builds on other recent investments in health care in western Manitoba including funding for 10 new full-time rural paramedic positions in the Prairie Mountain Health region and a new annual investment of \$500,000 to support the expansion of dialysis services in the region.

MANITOBA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF PRESERVING LOCAL PUBLICATIONS

PRACTICE IS UNIQUE IN CANADA: MINISTER



AT THE CORE OF MINING INNOVATION

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