

Appendix A: Manitoba Policy Facts and Trends

2014

- 11 June: The province announces \$320 million investment in its Surface Water Management Strategy, designed to mitigate risks of flooding, drought, and excessive nutrient loading in waterways. The strategy consists of 50 actions to be implemented by 2020.
- 16 June: Manitoba Public Insurance proposes a rate increase of 3.4 percent to the Public Utilities Board. MPI claims the increase is necessary after a record number of accidents occurred last winter.
- 17 June: According to a poll done by Angus Reid Global, Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger is the least popular premier in Canada with an approval rating of 26 percent.
- 18 June: Province announces the minimum wage will increase October 1, 2014 to \$10.70 per hour. The 25 cent increase makes Manitoba's minimum wage the fourth highest in Canada.
- 18 June: Province announces that zebra mussels have been eliminated from the four harbours that had been treated with liquid potash. Monitoring and containment efforts will be expanded over the course of the summer.
- 25 June: According to a Probe Research poll, the Progressive Conservative party is the most popular provincial party in Manitoba with 45 percent support, while the governing NDP has 32 percent support.
- 2 July: The province issues a license to construct the \$6.5 billion Keeyask generating project. The license includes 165 conditions. Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh

suggests that the completion of Keeyask will mark the end of coal use in generating electricity in Manitoba.

14 July: Manitoba Public Insurance reports \$14.2 million in net earnings for the first quarter of 2014.

18 July: The Progressive Conservative Party's lawsuit over the legality of province's PST increase is dismissed by Justice Kenneth Hanssen. The Judge rules that a referendum is not required to raise the PST and that the Progressive Conservatives have no legal capacity to bring about the lawsuit.

23 July: The Canadian Civil Liberties Association reports that Manitoba's bail system is broken as 70 percent of people in custody are in on remand. The report singles out Manitoba's zero tolerance policy on bail breaches as a problem and suggests major revisions to the province's bail system.

29 July: The federal and provincial governments agree to \$104 million in new funding toward affordable housing in Manitoba. The funding is expected to help create 500 affordable and 500 social housing units.

30 July: Premier Greg Selinger announces the August civic holiday will be renamed Terry Fox Day.

1 August: Premier Greg Selinger announces construction on a new \$2.6 million primary care centre in Swan River will begin in the fall.

7 August: Family Services Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross announces an additional \$6 million over three years will be invested to increase the starting wages of support workers at agencies that offer residential services to adults with intellectual disabilities.

11 August: Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh announces zebra mussel larvae have been found in the South Basin of Lake Winnipeg. The larvae were found outside of the areas the province treated in May and June.

- 18 August: Moody's Investment Service downgrades Manitoba's debt rating from stable to negative. The report cites modest expectations for GDP growth and expenditure pressures. The Manitoba government previously stated its goal was to balance the budget by 2016-17.
- 20 August: Manitoba government announces \$11.9 million investment in new diagnostic equipment for 14 hospitals.
- 8 September: According to an Angus Reid survey, Premier Greg Selinger's approval rating increased from 26 percent in June to 30 percent in September. Two Canadian premiers have lower approval ratings according to Angus Reid.
- 9 September: The Canadian Federation of Independent Business reports that the 24 largest municipalities in Manitoba overspent by \$412 million from 2008-2012.
- 18 September: Manitoba Hydro announces the estimated cost of the Bipole III project has increased to \$4.6 billion. The original 2011 estimate was \$3.3 billion. Factors cited for the increased estimate include new direct current converter technology and increasing the capacity of the line.
- 30 September: The Manitoba Government released Public Accounts for the 2013-14 fiscal year, 13 of 18 departments came in below budget, but the province's deficit is \$522 million.
- 1 Oct: Minimum wage in Manitoba increases to \$10.70 per hour. The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses criticizes the increase saying it hurts workers by decreasing the amount of minimum wage jobs available.
- 6 Oct: Government of Manitoba announces the hiring of more than 100 new teachers in 2014 to create smaller class sizes.
- 7 Oct: According to a report released by the Council of Ministers of Education, Manitoba students rank last compared to other

provinces in math, science and reading. In response, Education and Advanced Learning Minister James Allum introduces an action plan focused on supporting teachers and students.

- 9 Oct: Probe Research releases a poll showing the Progressive Conservative Party has the support of 42 percent of decided voters, down from 45 percent in June, and the NDP has the support of 30 percent down from 32 percent in June.
- 28 Oct: Premier Greg Selinger announces he will not resign and will seek re-election in 2016. This announcement comes amid pressure from some NDP cabinet ministers for Selinger to step down, as the party's popularity has been decreasing in polls and the Judy Wasylycia-Leis loss in the mayoral election.
- 3 Nov: Five NDP cabinet ministers vacate their posts in protest of Premier Greg Selinger's refusal to resign. Minister of Finance Jennifer Howard, Minister of Health Erin Selby, Minister of Jobs and the Economy Theresa Oswald, Minister of Justice Andrew Swan and Minister of Municipal Government Stan Struthers all resign.
- 3 Nov: Premier Greg Selinger announces changes to the provincial cabinet in response to the resignation of five cabinet ministers. Their replacements are Greg Dewar as Minister of Finance, Sharon Blady as Minister of Health, Kevin Chief as Minister of Jobs and the Economy, James Allum as Minister of Justice and Drew Caldwell as Minister of Municipal Government.
- 5 Nov: A poll conducted by Mainstreet Technologies shows 57 percent of undecided Manitoba voters believe Premier Greg Selinger should step down. The poll also found 46 percent support for the Progressive Conservatives, 30 percent support for the NDP and 24 percent support for the Liberals among decided voters.
- 10 Nov: Progressive Conservative Party leader Brian Pallister and Liberal Party leader Rana Bokhari both suggest that an election should be called in the wake of the NDP turmoil.

- 18 Nov: The Manitoba government updates the Child and Family Services' Emergency Placement Program in order to reduce the use of hotels as emergency shelters. The update promises to create 71 new emergency foster home spaces and to open a residential care unit for girls aged 12–17. The issue of hotels being used as emergency accommodation came into focus after the murder of Tina Fontaine. Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross said there are currently 8 children living in hotels in the CFS system.
- 20 Nov: The Speech from the Throne opens the fourth session of the 40th Manitoba legislative assembly.
- 21 Nov: Manitoba's Commissioner of Elections Bill Bowles rules that the NDP violated the *Election Financing Act* by sponsoring an event in honor of Nellie McClung during by-elections in Arthur-Virden and Morris.
- 24 Nov: Brian Pallister introduces a non-confidence motion citing the comments made by Erin Selby, Theresa Oswald, Jennifer Howard, Andrew Swan and Stan Struthers when they resigned their posts as cabinet ministers earlier in November.
- 24 Nov: Manitoba government introduces legislation that limits class sizes of kindergarten–grade 3 classes to a maximum of 20 students in 90 percent of cases, and 23 students in 10 percent of cases.
- 29 Nov: The Manitoba NDP Provincial Executive announces Greg Selinger can stay on as Premier during the NDP leadership race, which will be voted on in March.
- 1 Dec: The NDP defeats the non-confidence motion introduced by Brian Pallister by a vote of 34–20. All five of the recently resigned cabinet ministers voted against the non-confidence motion.
- 12 Dec: Judge Tim Preston's report on the death of Brian Sinclair confirms that his death was preventable. The report shows 16 ways Sinclair's treatment contributed to his death, and the report offered 63 recommendations to improve emergency care. The

province offered an apology to Sinclair's family and accepted all of the report's recommendations.

- 12 Dec: The Manitoba government proposes a goal of cutting the waste entering landfills by half by 2020. Suggested means of achievement include improving composting efforts and tighter regulations surrounding the disposal of recyclable materials.
- 16 Dec: Premier Greg Selinger's approval rating falls to 17 percent according to a new Angus Reid poll. Selinger's approval rating was 30 percent in September, and the poll found he is the least popular Canadian premier.
- 26 Dec: According to Probe Research data, 26 percent of decided voters would vote for the NDP in a provincial election, while 48 percent would vote Progressive Conservative, 19 percent would vote Liberal and 7 percent would vote for a different party.

2015

- 6 January: Last day for NDP leadership candidates to declare their candidacy.
- 7 January: Premier Greg Selinger, former Jobs and the Economy Minister Theresa Oswald and Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Steve Ashton are the three candidates vying for the leadership of the NDP.
- 14 January: The provincial government announces a new five-point strategy to support Manitoba's food-processing industry stating the goal is for the industry to be worth \$5.5 billion by 2022.
- 20 January: The provincial government issues a formal apology to communities affected by past Manitoba Hydro development, particularly Northern Flood Agreement First Nations. Premier Greg Selinger delivered the apology and Deputy Premier and Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Eric Robinson

emphasized the province's collaboration with First Nations and said the apology is a step toward reconciliation.

- 21 January: According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business the cost of doing business in Manitoba has increased at the third fastest rate in the country. Its report states that regulatory expenses have increased by \$200 million from 2012 to 2014.
- 22 January: A study conducted by the Fraser Institute ranks Greg Selinger as the fourth best Premier in Canada in terms of fiscal management. However, the study examined the 2013/14 fiscal year, and five of the premiers examined are no longer in office.
- 29 January: The provincial government announces an increase for public education of \$25 million, up to \$1.27 billion overall. The new funding is primarily aimed at improving outcomes in math and literacy, and supporting Indigenous students.
- 4 February: Progressive Conservative MLA Myrna Driedger says Manitoba is doing a poor job of recruiting and retaining family doctors, saying the province has lost 2300 doctors in the last 15 years.
- 5 February: Health Minister Sharon Blady announces by the end of 2015 all Manitobans who would like to have a family doctor or a nurse practitioner will have access to one. This announcement is in stark contrast to the words of Myrna Driedger the day before, Minister Blady called Driedger's claim of the province losing 2300 doctors "misleading", as it did not account for doctors that had been replaced, and that an additional 665 doctors have been added in the last 15 years.
- 18 February: Children and Youth Opportunities Minister Melanie Wight announces a new five-year plan for early childhood development. The plan includes "early childhood development hubs", which would include child care services, a family resource centre and outreach programs.

- 19 February: the province announces \$3 million in new funding for schools, to be used to hire a minimum of 50 new kindergarten to grade 3 teachers.
- 27 February: The Manitoba government releases third quarter financial reports; notably the provincial deficit for the 2014/15 budget year is expected to be \$37 million larger than the original Budget 2014 estimate. The current estimate of a \$394 million deficit is \$8 million smaller than the second quarter estimate.
- 8 March: Premier Greg Selinger retains his position as leader of the provincial NDP. He received 51 percent of the votes from delegates in the second round of voting at the NDP convention, defeating former Jobs and the Economy Minister Theresa Oswald, who received 49 percent of the votes. Infrastructure and Transportation Minister Steve Ashton was eliminated in the first round of voting.
- 13 March: The Manitoba government announces a new four-year agreement with Doctors Manitoba. The agreement will increase funding for medical services by \$95 million over the term of the contract. The agreement includes one percent annual raises for doctors, and claims it will find \$50 million in savings through efficiencies.
- 19 March: A new Angus Reid poll ranks Greg Selinger as the least popular premier in Canada, although his approval rating has actually increased by 5 percent since December, up to 22 percent.
- 23 March: Janice Filmon is appointed lieutenant-governor of Manitoba. Filmon replaces Philip Lee, and is only the second woman to be appointed Manitoba's lieutenant-governor.
- 6 April: A new Probe Research poll shows the Progressive Conservatives have the support of 44 percent of Manitobans, with the NDP at 29 percent, the Liberals at 20 percent, and other parties combining for 7 percent.

- 29 April: The provincial cabinet is shuffled again as Steve Ashton returns as Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation, and Peter Bjornson, most recently Minister of Education and Advanced Learning steps down. Other changes include former Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Gord Mackintosh being named Minister of Justice and Attorney General, and new Ministers Thomas Nevakshonoff and Mohinder Saran are appointed to the bench, in charge of Conservation and Water Stewardship, and Housing and Community Development, respectively.
- 30 April: Budget 2015 projects a \$422 million deficit for 2015/16, and expects the 2014/15 deficit to come in at \$424 million, up from an original projection of \$357 million in Budget 2014. Budget 2015 also includes infrastructure investments exceeding \$1 billion, a minimum wage increase to \$11/hour in October, and it limits core government spending increases to the rate of economic growth.
- 1 May: Progressive Conservative leader Brian Pallister criticizes the provincial government's use of the fiscal stabilization fund, calling it "reckless, dangerous, short-sighted, shallow, self-serving". The fund is projected to have a balance of \$115 million at the end of the 2015 fiscal year, down from \$864 million in 2009. Premier Greg Selinger responded with assurances that the fund is being used prudently.
- 14 May: The provincial government introduces an amendment to the Wildlife and Fisheries Act. The main purpose of the amendment is to create tougher sanctions for law-breakers, including maximum penalties being increased to \$25,000 or \$100,000 depending on the offense, allowing seizure of items like cell phones, and increasing the statute of limitations on these kinds of offenses.
- 22 May: Health Minister Sharon Blady announces the province is banning conversion therapy, and asks any Manitoban who may be receiving conversion therapy from a healthcare professional to file a complaint. Conversion therapy attempts to change the sexual or

gender identity of a person. Blady condemned the practice as medically and ethically inappropriate, and also said that her office has never received evidence that conversion therapy is actually happening in the Manitoba health system.

28 May: The province announces by June 1, 2015, hotels will no longer be used in emergency placement situations by Child and Family Services.

28 May: Conservation and Water Stewardship Minister Thomas Nevakshonoff announces the province will have more than double the amount of staff and equipment available for zebra mussel detection than it did in 2014. The province wants to aggressively fight the zebra mussels and has been inspecting boats at border crossings and boat launches.