



32 days to ensure Manitoba keeps on going forward, not back



Better health care, a stronger and greener economy with more opportunities for working

families were the top themes when NDP Leader Gary Doer launched the 2007 election campaign at the Convention Centre Friday night surrounded by more than 100 supporters, candidates, activists and campaign staff.

Speaking to a raucous, energetic crowd, Doer told supporters a decision to re-elect the NDP, would see government build on the successes of the past seven years. Government by Today's NDP would see more doctors and nurses, hydro and floodway expansion as well as a cleaner and healthier environment.



Booming Affordable Real Estate

"Manitoba's retail sales post second biggest gain: Only Alberta enjoyed larger increase than here"

Winnipeg Free Press 24 January 2007

"We're one cheap city: International study puts Winnipeg in Top 10 for affordability"

Winnipeg Free Press 22 January 2007

"\$4-B boom just tip of iceberg: Manitoba construction projects coming fast and furious"

Winnipeg Free Press 17 January 2007

"Tony homes cheap here: Winnipeg ranks among most affordable cities"

Winnipeg Free Press 29 March 2007



Forward with Gary Doer

Building on Progress and Leadership for Manitoba's Future

Apr. 20, 2007 – Manitobans will go to the polls on May 22 in an election that will focus on moving Manitoba forward into the future, Premier Gary Doer said today.

"Together, we have changed Manitoba a lot over the last seven years. Now we are looking forward to building an even better future for Manitoba families," Doer said.

The election call comes very near the four year mark of the government's mandate, and Doer noted that just this week, he achieved several of the items that were left on this to-do list.

"Today, we completed several years of work with our partners on the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Earlier this week, we passed our budget—a budget that is positive for Manitoba families and builds our province into the future."

The NDP will use the 32-day campaign to detail its plans in key areas such as health care, education and youth, water and the environment, energy, and safety, Doer said.

The province has made significant progress since the NDP were first elected. Compared to 1999, Manitoba now has:

- over 1,500 more nurses, 180 more doctors and 200 more health care technologists;
- 65 modernized and expanded health care facilities across the province, including the \$135-million Health Sciences Centre redevelopment;
- 3,300 more young people living and working here;
- our first wind farm in St. Leon, and the new hydro generating stations of Wuskwatim and Conawapa under construction;
- a rejuvenated downtown Winnipeg—with MTS Centre, Millennium Library and the Red River College campus completed, and the new hydro building and Museum for Human Rights underway; and
- an expanded floodway for better protection, and the largest road and highways construction effort in Manitoba history.

Doer said there is a lot at stake in this election. The NDP has made a lot of progress in key areas such as rebuilding health care, providing new opportunities for youth and ensuring Manitoba Hydro remains publicly owned for the benefit of all Manitobans. Doer said it is important to keep the momentum going and build on this progress as Manitoba moves forward.



Good News Headlines for All Manitobans

"While many provinces struggle with waiting times, Manitoba bucks the trend"

The Globe and Mail 21 November 2006

"Labour productivity grows"

Winnipeg Free Press 27 October 2006

"Workplace death rate declines"

Winnipeg Free Press Online 12 December 2006

"Manitoba continues to lead country in energy efficiency, report says"

The Canadian Press 31 October 2006

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"Net debt down: Selinger"

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"Graduated licences reduce collisions"

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"HSC unveils its sparkling new gem"

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"New hospital opens: \$135-M HSC facility 30 years in planning"

Winnipeg Sun 12 January 2007

"Optimism breaking out all over province"

Winnipeg Free Press 11 January 2007

"Students have a reason to stay"

Brandon Sun 5 January 2007

"Manitoba sweetens offer to lure graduates: Province to provide tuition tax credits to students from anywhere in the world"

The Globe and Mail 3 January 2007

"Campsite system an award winner: Project institute names best of 2006"

Winnipeg Free Press 16 February 2007

"\$14.2B in goods shipped: Manitoba manufacturers ring up one of biggest increases in country"

Winnipeg Free Press 16 February 2007

"Provincial immigration numbers hit 50-year high"

Winnipeg Free Press 19 January 2007

"Alberta taking notice of Manitoba's immigration program"

The Canadian Press 18 January 2007

"Manitoba bumps up job figures: 3,000 manufacturing positions give boost to national employment level"

Winnipeg Free Press 10 February 2007

"Bucking the national trend: First Nations students active in science fairs"

Winnipeg Free Press 10 February 2007

"Forks looks to harness the wind: Modern turbine could ease energy footprint"

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"Hundreds of drug, prostitution houses in Manitoba shut down"

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“Toba to get big slice of cargo-plane pie: C-17 contract worth up to \$500M to province”

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“CIBC opening investment banking office in city”

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Winnipeg Free Press 29 March 2007

“Manitoba recognized for top mining policies”

Thompson Citizen 14 March 2007

“Province best for mining: study – World’s friendliest area to firms, research group’s survey finds”

Winnipeg Free Press 6 March 2007

“Manitoba the top pick for miners in terms of investment regulations”

Financial Post 5 March 2007

“HSC opens new ER”

Winnipeg Sun 7 March 2007

“Provincial dollars hit the highway”

Brandon Sun 3 March 2007

"Autopac rebate cheques to average \$100"

Winnipeg Free Press 2 March 2007

"Putting brakes on care thefts: Enforcement program credited with 15 per cent drop"

Winnipeg Free Press 3 March 2007

"Province cuts MRI waiting times in half"

The Russell Banner 27 February 2007

"Census: Spence neighbourhood a census success story"

Winnipeg Free Press 14 March 2007

"Census: Immigration saves the day – Chief cause of population growth – Province's nominee program lauded"

Winnipeg Free Press 14 March 2007

"Manitoba capital spending expected to rise by 11.3%"

Winnipeg Free Press 1 March 2007

"Icy Port now receives very warm reception"

Churchill "offers the most economical and efficient routes for exporters and importers"

The Washington Times 19 February 2007



Improving Infrastructure

"Smooth ride on Hwy 75: Province opens renewed stretch of road"

Winnipeg Sun 27 October 2006

"Doer adds \$300M to fix roads"

Winnipeg Free Press 26 September 2006



Improving Your Health Care

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Manitoba's Energy Advantage

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More & Safer Work

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Not back with Hugh McFadyen's Conservatives

Conservative leader Hugh McFadyen was former Conservative Premier Gary Filmon's right-hand man. He was in charge of Premier Filmon's office and says he's 'proud' of the record of last Conservative government:

- 1,000 nurses fired
- doctor training cut by 20% and 100 doctors left Manitoba
- frozen food for hospital patients
- failed attempt to privatize home care
- broken promise not to privatize Manitoba Telephones
- vote rigging scandal
- skyrocketing student tuition fees and decreasing enrollment
- college and university enrollment fell 15%
- gas tax increased 44%
- refused to invest \$200 million collected in gas taxes on roads

Now Mr. **McFadyen says health care should not be the government's top priority.**
(*Winnipeg Free Press*, Nov. 1, 2006)

And McFadyen **won't commit to keeping the NDP's freeze on student tuitions.**
(*Winnipeg Sun*, Nov. 5, 2006)

Hugh McFadyen's Conservatives

A record to remember

A risk not worth taking

Find out more at www.whoishugh.ca.



Quality Accessible Education

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Recognizing a Vibrant Economy

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Safer Communities

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Manitoba families get a boost from Today's NDP

Apr. 21, 2007—Premier Gary Doer today announced that a re-elected NDP government will launch First Sports, a new program to provide assistance to families and kids playing community sports throughout Manitoba.

Under the new \$1 million program, community centres in Winnipeg and Brandon, as well as recreation associations in rural and northern Manitoba, will be eligible for grants of \$6,500 to help fund priority items such as team uniforms, sporting gear and other equipment.



"This program recognizes the difficulties that community centres experience in their fundraising," the premier said. "Parents and families spend a lot of time selling chocolate bars and raffle tickets in support of their community clubs. We are hoping we can help ease these challenges by providing more support to families and community club activities."

Community clubs are extremely important to neighbourhoods and the health and well-being of families, Doer noted. Increasing sports and recreation opportunities for kids helps them get active, make friends, and learn new pastimes, many that last a lifetime.

This is reflected in the program's name – First Sports – because community centres are often where a child gets introduced to an activity.

"Almost everyone, from elite athletes to weekend warriors, received their first taste of sport at their local community centre," the premier said. "First Sports is about recognizing the importance of grassroots activities in enhancing the lives of our children."

First Sports will provide grants to community centres for:

- New uniforms for community centre teams;
- Needed sports equipment such as hockey nets, baseballs, bats and bases, soccer balls and netting; and,
- Critical groundskeeping and icekeeping equipment, such as snowblowers, scrapers and lawn mowers.



Moving forward with new investment in Brandon health and fitness project

Apr. 21, 2007, Brandon—Building on an earlier commitment of \$800,000, a re-elected NDP government will invest at least an additional \$2.4 million for a new health and fitness centre in Brandon that will be built to meet high environmental standards, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Our plan for Brandon is about action, not words, and we are building on our previous commitments with another investment in the wellness centre," the premier said. "It's easy to make promises but political parties should be judged by their ability to deliver. Our recent budget included funding to support the relocation of ACC to the north hill, and the opposition voted against it. We have a track record of delivering for Brandon."



Today's announcement is part of the NDP plan to keep moving Manitoba forward, not back.

- In 1999, Brandon residents had lost confidence in government after the Tories promised seven times—and failed to deliver—on a redeveloped Brandon Regional Health Centre.
- Today, the \$58-million redevelopment of the Brandon Regional Health Centre is completed, as a result of work by the NDP government and Brandon's health authority.
- By 2012, Brandon will be home to an environmentally-friendly health and fitness centre, born out of a partnership between BU, the YCMA and senior and local levels of government.

"Brandon residents know they can trust our government to keep its promises," Doer said. "We promised, and delivered, the redevelopment of the Brandon Regional Health Centre. We promised, and delivered, the first MRI to be located outside of Winnipeg. Moving forward, we will continue to deliver on our promises to Brandon."

Today's commitment doubles the total funding for the wellness project. In March, the federal and provincial governments, along with BU and the YMCA committed a total of \$2.4 million to the project, with each contributing a one-third share of the funding.

The result will be an expansion of fitness facilities that are currently being provided by BU and the YMCA. In addition, the new facility will house a teen drop-in centre, a child care facility, and will offer a range of sport and recreation opportunities.



Moving forward on climate change and building a green economy



Apr. 22, 2007—Premier Gary Doer, joined today by Lloyd Axworthy, celebrated Earth Day by outlining new steps in the NDP action plan on climate change, including becoming the first province in Canada to enshrine Kyoto targets in legislation.

Doer said with today's announcement, Manitoba will have acted on the recommendations of the 2001 climate change task force, which was chaired by Axworthy. Manitoba was the first province in Canada to set up a task force on the issue.

"At the time, I promised members of the task force, Chairperson Axworthy and Manitobans that we would not let their recommendations gather dust," the premier said. "And we have followed through with a range of actions that have put Manitoba on the forefront when it comes to dealing with the challenges of climate change.

"Taking action on this issue is important for the planet, it builds our economy and helps save families money through increased energy efficiency and use of inexpensive renewable energy."

Today's announcement was made in Winnipeg at a home with geothermal power. Manitoba is the hub of geothermal power in Canada, installing more than 30 per cent of Canada's heat pumps and training more than half of the country's installers. Geothermal sales total \$25 million in Manitoba annually—a perfect example of how renewable energy builds our economy, Doer said.

"Our vision is also very much about building a green economy by developing our renewable energy and hydro advantage," Doer said. "By building on our natural advantages, we can create new opportunities and the jobs of the future."

Today's announcement is part of the NDP's bold new efforts to move Manitoba forward, and includes establishing a recognized carbon credit registry – the first of its kind in Canada. An agreement to begin designing the registry was signed Apr. 20 with officials from the Canadian Climate Exchange and the Canadian Standards Association.

Our vision announced today includes:

- Continuing to grow our green economy by building hydro, increasing wind power,

producing biofuels and working with private sector partners like New Flyer Industries on the low-and no-emission technologies of the future.

- Introducing legislation that will ensure Manitoba meets its Kyoto targets by 2012.
- Reducing Manitoba Hydro's use of coal—building on Hydro actions to date including closing the Selkirk coal plant and reducing the use of the coal plant in Brandon and working with employees on a plan for this.
- Creating a "Made-in-Manitoba" vehicle efficiency standard, to be recommended by a vehicle advisory board, which includes incentives to deal with older vehicles.
- Requiring the capture of emissions from large landfills.
- Investing in education programs like the new science complex at the University of Winnipeg.
- Increasing the energy efficiency of new buildings by establishing a new code for efficiency.
- Developing a plan to switch off-grid communities to renewable energy.
- Legislating the province's Green Building and Green Fleet Vehicle policies to further address government emissions.
- Providing incentives for farmers to undertake projects that reduce emissions.
- Reporting publicly on climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation.



Manitoba's success is one of the reasons the province has become a recognized leader on climate change over the past seven years. Manitoba was chosen by Businessweek magazine as the number one regional government in the world when it came to addressing the issue. Our progress on the issue has been dramatic, said Doer, noting:

- In 1999, Manitoba had no plan to deal with climate change, was 9th out of 10th in the country on energy efficiency, had no plans for wind development, and Conawapa – a clean, new generation hydro dam – sat in mothballs.
- In 2007, Manitoba has a comprehensive action plan well underway, is 1st in Canada on energy efficiency, has Manitoba's first wind farm up and running, and is building renewable hydro with the Wuskwatim and Conawapa projects.
- In 2010, Manitoba will be well on its way to meeting its Kyoto targets, with a range of actions including building biodiesel plants and generating more wind power—a call for proposals another 300 MW of wind is underway.



David Suzuki applauds NDP climate change plan

April 23, 2007 – David Suzuki has applauded new steps announced by Premier Gary Doer  on the NDP's action plan on climate change. Doer announced yesterday that under the NDP Manitoba will become the first province in Canada to enshrine Kyoto targets in legislation.

"I think to be able to enshrine these targets, so that whoever is elected in the coming years will be committed to meeting those targets, I think that's terrific," Suzuki said on CBC radio today.

The announcement is part of the NDP's bold new efforts to move Manitoba forward, and includes establishing a recognized carbon credit – the first of its kind in Canada.

Premier Gary Doer has been named by Business Week as the sole Canadian on its Top 20 list of individuals worldwide who stand out in their efforts to tackle climate change.

Manitoba has improved to first in Canada on energy efficiency from a dismal ninth in 1999.



Moving forward with 700 new nurses

Health care the top priority of seven-point pledge card released by Today's NDP

Apr. 23, 2007 - Manitoba will add 700 new nurses and nurse practitioners over the next four years to further reduce wait times and build on progress the province has made in improving the health care system, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"The cornerstone of any wait times strategy is a plan to hire, recruit, retain and educate nurses, doctors and other valued health-care professionals," the premier said. "Today, we unveiled our pledge card and our first commitment was health care. We need to build on the positive momentum that we have generated by filling the huge nursing gap created by Tory cutbacks in the 1990s."

Manitoba has added 1,589 new nurses since 1999. This dramatic turnaround is in sharp contrast from the 1990s when 1,573 nurses left the province as a result of firings and health care cutbacks.

Doer said his new nursing plan will move Manitoba forward and build on the Manitoba Nursing Recruitment Strategy by:

- Increasing nurse training by adding 100 new spaces, including expansion at Red River College, Brandon University, the University of Manitoba, University College of the North and Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface.
- Adding seven new seats at the graduate school at the University Of Manitoba School Of Nursing to increase the number of qualified professional instructors.
- Expanding the Nurses Recruitment and Retention Fund, with a focus on keeping nurses in the profession longer and encouraging nurses reaching retirement to consider a second career as an instructor.
- Providing new resources to ensure that nurses have a safer and more secure working environment, building on the \$700,000 Nurses Safety and Security Fund introduced in 2002.

The Nurses Recruitment and Retention Fund has allocated \$8.3 million over the past seven years to support nurses' continuing education in Manitoba. A total of 917 nurses have relocated to Manitoba through the fund.



In addition, nearly 208 rural and northern positions have been filled through the fund's conditional grant program, used to retain nurses and fill vacancies.

Doer said an NDP government will continue to work with nurses and ensure they remain a valued and integral component of the health care system.

"We cannot return to the 1990s when the Tory government developed a paternalistic and antagonistic relationship with nurses. The end result was nurses left, patients suffered," the premier said. "Nurses are our partners in maintaining a quality public health system. Together we will move forward to further improve health care for all Manitobans." 



New seven-point action plan builds on a record of leadership and progress

Apr. 23, 2007—Premier Gary Doer today unveiled a seven-point action plan to move Manitoba forward by building on the progress of the past seven years and continuing to put health care first.

“Together, we have changed Manitoba a lot over the last seven years. We need to keep moving Manitoba forward and ensure health care remains a top priority,” the premier said. “We must not go back to the days of reckless Conservative cutbacks and secret privatization schemes that hurt Manitoba families so much.”

Today’s NDP will move forward with seven key priorities.

1. More improvements to health care for you and your family.

- More health care professionals, equipment and capital improvements.

2. Ensure a cleaner, healthier environment.

- Building on hydro and clean energy advantage; water protection.

3. More skills and education opportunities for young people here at home.

- New opportunities and support for students.

4. Safer communities.

- More crime-fighting measures and positive opportunities for youth.

5. Building Manitoba for all of us.

- New roads and highways; Finishing Floodway expansion.

6. Affordable Manitoba, affordable government.

- Education funding; balanced budgets; tax reductions.

7. Protect Manitoba Hydro for the benefit of all.

- Keeping Manitoba Hydro for the benefit of all Manitobans.



Moving forward with \$60 million for community recreation facilities

Apr. 24, 2007 —Today's NDP will help kids and families become more active by doubling its investment in recreation centres, community clubs and soccer fields across Manitoba, Premier Gary Doer announced today.



The commitment to doubling funding to \$60 million over four years for community-based sports and recreation facilities was made today at an event at MTS Centre, where the premier also pledged to join the private sector-led team that's leading the charge to build or redevelop the football stadium.

Doer said today's announcement will allow the NDP to support exciting new projects across the province, like increasing the \$2.9 million commitment to the new soccer complex in south Winnipeg in order to reduce the burden on parents. The NDP will also support exciting new projects like an inner-city soccer facility being proposed by the University of Winnipeg, he said.

"Sports are important to Manitobans. They are important to kids and families at the community level, they are important to our elite amateur athletes competing for titles in events like speed skating and cycling, and they are important at the professional level, whether its hockey, baseball, football or soccer," Doer said.

"Sports at all levels are activities that families enjoy together. They contribute to our sense of community and enhance our overall quality of life."

The premier noted the NDP government has built strong community partnerships and has contributed \$50 million over the past seven years—including \$30 million over the past four—to the construction and revitalization of recreation and sport centres across Manitoba.

"There are lots of great ideas out there. When it comes to recreation, we know if we build it, they will come," he said. "It doesn't have to be an either-or situation when it comes to building rec facilities that make sense for kids."

Doer said Today's NDP will also be part of the effort to build or redevelop Bomber stadium, just like the NDP played a key role in private sector efforts to build MTS Centre and the new Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

"We have demonstrated that we have the 'can-do' attitude and approach to get these types of big projects done, in a way that is affordable to taxpayers," Doer said. "Just like MTS Centre, we will be a part of a private-sector led effort to take the ball into the end zone. We have the experience and track record to help make it happen."



It is important to keep building our province and not go back to era where the building crane was an endangered species, he added, noting:

- In 1999, Manitoba's recreation infrastructure was in decay. Dauphin needed a new arena, Brandon's Keystone Centre was under funded, and Thompson was in serious need of a community and recreation centre. In Winnipeg, 11 years of Tory reign produced only talk, and no action on a new arena.
- Today, recreation and sports facilities have been revitalized in every corner of the province. Dauphin has a new arena, Credit Union Place. Brandon's Keystone Centre has been renovated as a centre of Agricultural excellence, and the first phase of Thompson's new community recreation centre is nearing completion. Winnipeg's MTS Centre is now one of North America's top entertainment facilities.
- Moving forward to 2010, a re-elected NDP will have more than doubled its previous seven-year investment in recreation facilities, with \$60 million over four years for rec centres, skateboard parks, soccer complexes and other facilities important to communities and families.

As well as bringing fun and fitness to Manitobans, these facilities will be built to meet commitments to reduce greenhouse gases. New projects will meet or exceed LEED Silver standards and will be required to exceed Manitoba Hydro's Power Smart design standards.

"We are proud to work alongside dedicated and innovative community leaders who along with us believe Manitoba is the best place in the world to work, live and raise a family," the premier said.



Manitoba economy surges ahead

April 25, 2007 – Manitoba's economy surged ahead 3.3 per cent in 2006, growing more than the national average, Finance Minister Greg Selinger said today.

"It's clear our forward-thinking plan to encourage investment in building Manitoba is paying dividends," Selinger said. "We are now among the nation's leaders in building hope and opportunity."

Manitoba's economy grew by 3.3 per cent, higher than the national average of 2.7 per cent, and the third best in Canada after only Alberta and British Columbia. Statistics Canada says Manitoba's strong growth is based on solid employment and a 32 per cent leap in business investment in non-residential buildings, with building projects in Winnipeg and electric power infrastructure.

"We're moving forward with our investments in Manitoba Hydro, roads, hospitals, schools, universities and colleges. Manitobans can see the results – their home values are increasing and more people are working," Selinger said.

Economist Will Dunning told Global News last night: "Manitoba has a very strong economy right now. I like to look at the percentage of adults who are employed. In Manitoba, that is at an all-time high."



Today's NDP to put 100 more police on the street, add 20 new prosecutors

April 25, 2007 – Today's NDP will put 100 more police on the streets, add 20 new prosecutors, and lead an urgent community-wide mission to Ottawa to press for tougher sentences, as part of a six-point strategy to make Manitoba communities safer.

Today's NDP would move forward with a \$12.25 million plan that would:

- Put 100 more police officers on Manitoba streets.
- Add 20 new prosecutors, including increasing the gang prosecutions unit by 50 per cent.
- Escalate our demand for tougher consequences for those who break the law by leading a coalition to Ottawa that would include leaders from the community, business, law enforcement and other political parties.
- Shut down more drug dens/prostitution houses.
- Fund the electronic monitoring of repeat auto theft offenders.
- Invest in more programs and opportunities for at-risk youth.

"Today's NDP is committed to doing all we can to ensure Manitobans are safer in their communities. We will get more police on our streets and more prosecutors dealing with crimes relating to gangs and other serious criminal activity," Premier Gary Doer said. "We are escalating our efforts to press Ottawa for the changes that Manitobans are calling for."

The premier said 100 additional police officers would be hired over the next four years throughout the province—with 50 new officers for Winnipeg, five for Brandon, 30 for the RCMP to serve rural Manitoba, and 15 for First Nations communities. Since 1999, the NDP have funded 155 new police officers in Manitoba.

The premier also announced 20 new Crown prosecutors and support staff, including seven more for the gang prosecutions unit that was created by the NDP government.

"Since 2003, this unit has been responsible for over 300 convictions and guilty pleas. We need to build on this effort by adding more resources and supports for prosecutors," he said.

Doer said a re-elected NDP government would lead an urgent community mission to Ottawa to press for national action on auto theft and tougher sentences for serious youth

crimes. The mission would include leaders from the community, business, law enforcement and other political parties.

"It's time to end partisan bickering on this issue—this is simply too important for Manitobans. We need to work together to press the federal government for an end to revolving-door justice," Doer said.

The premier said the mission to Ottawa would be modeled after successful community efforts to land the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and resolve outstanding issues involving Shilo and the national virology lab.



"When Manitobans work together, they get things done," Doer said. "We will build on this track record."

Specific changes Manitoba will ask Ottawa for include: Tougher penalties for youth involved in serious crimes; first degree murder charges for gang related homicides; eliminating 2 for 1 remand credits; making auto theft an indictable offence; and, making shooting a weapon at a building and drive-by shootings an indictable offence.

The six-point crime reduction strategy also includes adding two new teams to the Public Safety Investigations Unit, which has been responsible for shutting down 214 drug dens and prostitution houses in Winnipeg since 2002.

"A back yard should be a safe place for kids to kick a soccer ball or play catch. Shutting down these operations is a great way to increase safety in our neighborhoods."

Last week, the NDP government announced a pilot project that would see 20 of the highest-risk auto thieves fitted with GPS ankle bracelets to track them for one year. This program is the latest piece of the auto-theft strategy. In addition, the NDP will work with MPI to increase the number of immobilizers in vehicles. Over 47,000 have been installed to date as deterrents.

Finally, the premier noted that a key component of this strategy is prevention.

"Kids need to know there are alternatives. The reason we have opened gyms after school and added more Lighthouses around the province is to give kids choices that promote safer and healthier lifestyles," Doer said, noting yesterday's recreation announcement will also help give kids and youth new opportunities.

The new initiatives announced today include; a new program to channel youth at risk into constructive behavior with the help of mental health professionals and therapists, more after-school/after dark activities, enhancing the Lighthouse program, doubling the size of the highly successful Turnabout program for youth who can't be charged under the Young Offenders Act, and expanding the Northern Cadets Program.



New Amphibex to be purchased for Manitoba

April 26, 2007, Selkirk – Premier Gary Doer announced that Today's NDP will purchase a new, state-of-the-art Amphibex ice-breaking machine to assist towns and municipalities in dealing with ice jams and flooding.

"We have seen the damage and devastation flooding and ice jams can bring to communities and residents who live along waterways. This innovative and proven machine will help assist communities by breaking up river ice and dislodging ice jams during the spring melt," the premier said.

The new Amphibex will become the province's second ice breaking machine. In 2005, the NDP government provided \$349,000 toward purchasing the Amphibex AE-400, which was cost shared with the City of Selkirk, and the rural municipalities of St. Andrews and St. Clements.

"We will add to our flood-fighting resources the latest, most powerful Amphibex available in order to better protect communities across the province," Doer said.

The Amphibex is a versatile piece of machinery that can be used at any time of the year. It can be used for maintenance work in reservoirs, in addition to being utilized for construction and maintenance of waterways crossings. A state-of-the-art Amphibex will cost about \$1.25 million.

"We believe this machine builds upon our experiences with the first Amphibex and will help prevent damage to property in the future. It makes sense for governments to invest in prevention rather than paying out costly damages after the fact," Doer said.

Since arriving in Manitoba, the Amphibex has been deployed on the Red River, White Mud River, Saskatchewan River and Carrot River, as well as to the community of Waterhen.

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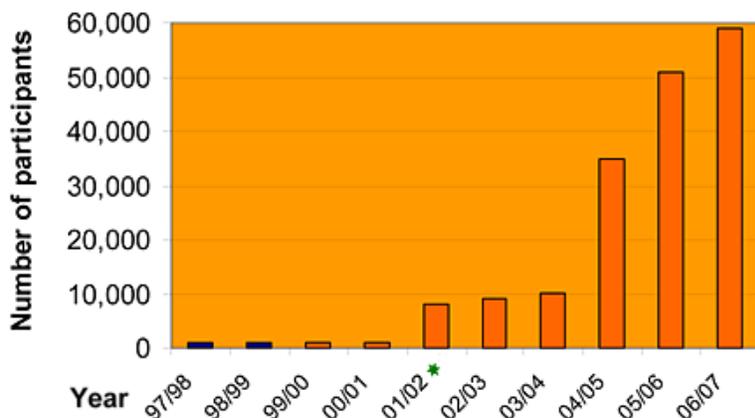
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“Water Smart” to save more than one billion litres of water annually

Consumer Conservation Works!

Residential POWER SMART Program Participation



April 26, 2007, Gimli—A bold new program called Water Smart will help Manitobans save money on their water bills while conserving our precious water resources for the future, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

“Manitoba is blessed with abundant fresh water,” the premier said. “We need to take strong action to protect this tremendous resource for our

children and future generations. Water Smart will not only help conserve and protect our water resources, it will put money back into the pockets of hard-working Manitobans.”

Water Smart will be modeled after Manitoba Hydro’s highly-successful Power Smart program, an energy conservation strategy that has helped Manitoba rise to 1st in energy efficiency in Canada, up from 9th in 1999.

Water Smart will move Manitoba forward by providing:

- No PST on the purchase of any Energy Star water saving appliance.
- Rebates for consumers who buy low-flow bathroom fixtures.
- Water Smart loans for Manitobans to improve private water or waste water systems.
- Rebates for Energy Star dishwashers and front-load washers, as well as tank-less hot water tanks.
- Tools to help Manitobans save money and the environment through water conservation.

The premier made the announcement today in Gimli, on the shores of Lake Winnipeg. He said the new conservation measures will save consumers up to \$1 million in PST and rebates, and are part of the NDP’s overall plan to protect the province’s water. Environment Canada estimates that 13 per cent of all municipal water use is “leakage” or



waste.

“Growing up, our parents always said to us ‘turn out the lights.’ Today, we need to talk to our kids about turning off the water,” Doer said. “When we each take small steps towards a common goal like saving water, it builds awareness that water is a treasure. If we think of it as a treasure, we are more likely to treat it as a treasure.”

Actions taken by the NDP to date include bringing in Manitoba’s first Water Protection Act, banning bulk water exports, and a pause on new or expanding hog barns pending a CEC review.

Manitoba has also brought in its own phosphorus regulations, and will continue to press for national restrictions on household products containing phosphorus. Canada also needs national safe drinking water standards, which the NDP is pursuing, Doer added.

The premier said the success of Power Smart shows Manitobans are eager to join in the conservation effort.

“The enthusiasm of Manitobans never ceases to amaze me,” the premier said. “If we bring the same can-do attitude to saving water as we have to saving energy, we can continue to be leaders in environmental stewardship, while building a green economy and helping families save money.”

When it comes to water, Doer said it’s critical to move Manitoba forward, not back, noting:

- In 1999, the Tories left office leaving Manitoba 9th in Canada on energy efficiency and Power Smart had virtually no take-up. There were weak laws protecting our water resources, and there was uncontrolled growth in the number of hog barns.
- Today, Manitoba has a law protecting its water, funding has been increased for Lake Winnipeg research, and Manitoba has invested more than \$130 million in modernizing drinking water and sewer infrastructure in 100 communities across the province, including Gimli. In 2006, more than 50,000 residential homes participated in Power Smart.
- In 2010, Manitoba will be saving more than one billion litres of water annually for every 10,000 homeowners that become involved in Water Smart.

Doer said the NDP government is leading by example. All new provincially-funded buildings are designed to live up to water efficiency principles set out in the internationally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification.



Today's NDP to add 20 new workplace safety and health inspectors

Apr. 27, 2007—Premier Gary Doer today announced that the NDP would add 20 new workplace safety and health inspectors over the next four years as part of a long-term plan to move Manitoba forward when it comes to workplace safety and health.

“Reducing deaths and injuries in the workplace is always a priority for all Manitobans,” the premier said. “It is not only the right thing to do for workers and their families, it is also a significant economic issue for business in a tight labour market. Employees are choosing to work for companies that have good workplace safety and health reputations.”

Today's announcement will move Manitoba forward by:

- Adding 20 new WSH inspectors, bringing the total to 74.
- Dedicating one inspector to rural Manitoba, with a focus on education and prevention.
- Continuing to reduce the time loss due to injury rate—down 20 per cent since 2000.
- Helping to keep Workers' Compensation Board rates among the lowest in Canada.

“We can make meaningful progress on this issue,” Doer said. “When we took office, we were ninth on energy efficiency. Today, Manitoba is first in the country thanks to a comprehensive and creative range of actions to conserve energy. We can achieve meaningful results when it comes to workplace safety and health if we show the same determination and vision.”

Today's announcement builds on a series of actions taken by the NDP to improve workplace safety. Since 2000, successful injury prevention programs—in partnership with the WCB—have resulted in a 20 per cent reduction in Manitoba's time loss injury rate. This means 2,200 more Manitobans made it home safely from work than they did five years ago, Doer said.

Reduced injury rates have also helped keep WCB premiums low, with Manitoba businesses currently paying the 2nd lowest rate in Canada. A safe workplace is also helpful to business because it leads to improved morale and productivity, which helps companies attract employees in a competitive labour market, he added.

“Investing in prevention and education is one of the smartest things we can do—both for

families who suffer the pain of workplace injuries and for business leaders who know that a healthy workplace is a productive workplace.”

The premier made the announcement as part of events to mark the National Day of Mourning, which is tomorrow, April 28. Every year, one day is set aside to remember women and men who are ill, injured or killed on the job. It is a fitting time to renew our commitment to improving workplace health and safety for all Manitobans, the premier said.

The NDP's approach to workplace safety and health is four-pronged, Doer said. It includes education and prevention; more inspections leading to stop work orders; administrative penalties for consequences and swift resolution to problems; and prosecution when the issue cannot be resolved.

“The goal is clear—we want to prevent injuries and bring about quick change where problems are identified, with penalties and prosecution as the last resort. The best way to prevent injuries and deaths in the workplace is to build safer workplaces.”

Since coming in office in 1999, the NDP has taken action to reduce workplace injuries by:

- Dedicating more prosecutions resources for workplace safety and health in 2000.
- Tripling the number of workplace inspections, 5,200 in 2005 from 1,600.
- Hiring 10 new inspectors, plus four new positions in Budget 2007.
- Conducting the most extensive review of workplace safety and health legislation in 30 years.
- Enacting new workplace safety and health regulations in 2006, which emphasize the importance of developing and implementing safe work procedures.
- Strengthening the Workplace Safety and Health Act in 2002.
- Introducing legislative changes designed to protect health-care workers from needle-stick injuries
- Modernizing the Workers Compensation Act.

Doer said it's critical to keep moving Manitoba forward, not back, noting that in the 1990s the Conservatives cut WCB benefits for injured workers. They also continue to oppose new ideas to make workplaces safer, including voting against improvements to Workplace Safety and Health legislation in 2002.

“We are building Manitoba in every region of the province, from new construction in downtown Winnipeg and Brandon, to hydro developments in the north and wind farms in the south,” said Doer, standing near a construction site at the Red River Floodway, which is currently being expanded.

“Manitoba is growing, our economy is humming, and the sights and sounds of building are everywhere. As we continue to build our province, it is extremely important that we protect workers and help businesses reduce the costs associated with workplace

accidents.”



NDP paves way forward with plan to revitalize highways in The Pas

Apr. 28, 2007, The Pas—A re-elected NDP government will modernize and upgrade key highways in the north including Hwy 10, PR 283 and Moose Lake Road, Premier Gary Doer said today.



“Our historic highways commitment includes a significant investment for our northern roads. Moving forward, we will further improve local priorities like Hwy 10, PR 283 and Moose Lake Road,” Doer said. “Highways are especially crucial in remote and northern areas. They bring communities together, link families and friends and help drive new economic growth.”

Several significant projects will be conducted in the region over the next five years. The recently-announced long-term highways plan has budgeted for such community priorities as:

- \$4 million to modernize PR 283 west of Opaskwayak Cree Nation.
- \$5 million to improve PR 384 to Moose Lake, including reconstruction of five kilometers near Lobstick Creek.
- \$13 million to upgrade Hwy 10 from The Pas to Flin Flon, plus improving the stretch from 16th street to the river within the Town of The Pas.

Other important regional projects going forward include further improvements to Hwy 6, modernizing PR 373 to Norway House and PR 374 to Cross Lake, and surfacing the Wanless Access Road.

“The NDP understands that the North is a major economic driver for the province and we are the party that delivers for the North,” Doer said. “Our Northern Development Strategy is providing greater opportunities and improving the quality of life for families living in the region.”

Today’s announcement builds on seven years of road improvements in the region including:

- \$20.6 million to improve PR 373.
- \$18.7 million for Hwy 6.
- \$13 million for PR 374, mostly for the Kichi Sipi Bridge.
- \$3.3 million for reconstruction of 10 kilometres of PR 384 to Moose Lake.
- \$2 million to upgrade PR 283.



Today's NDP to support community effort to generate tourism

Apr. 28, 2007, Cranberry Portage—Premier Gary Doer announced today that a re-elected NDP government would support a community effort to bolster tourism to the north, including the construction of a giant covered tipi and 10 smaller ones to accommodate visitors.

"I would like to applaud the community for their initiative and enthusiasm," the premier said. "There is a lot of great ideas coming from the community and this project will help attract visitors eager to learn more about Aboriginal culture and heritage in this beautiful region."



The community's plan is to build the world's largest covered tipi for the National Aboriginal Arts gathering, Aug. 9 to 12 in Cranberry Portage. Doer said \$75,000 will be committed to support both the gathering and the building of the tipi, which is expected to be 3,300 square feet. The outer shell will be made of canvas and will be stretched over 16 poles. For visitors, 10 smaller tipis will be constructed nearby as accommodations.

Since 1999, the NDP has been working with northern communities and has:

- Eliminated the transportation cost for Northern Manitobans needing to access elective medical services and tests. The Tories levied these fees in 1991, and the NDP removed them in May 2000.
- Introduced the Aboriginal Tourism Strategy, which supports training, marketing, workshops and on-site services for Aboriginal communities.
- Invested \$70M for the rehabilitation of abandoned mines
- Provided \$6.6 million to renovate the Northern Lights Manor Personal Care Home in Flin Flon
- Funded the operation of three new clinics that provide health care specifically for teens in Cranberry Portage, The Pas and Flin Flon.
- Invested in \$1.75 million for Flin Flon General Hospital including \$658,000 for relocating and improving dialysis services, construction to increase dialysis capacity, and a new entrance for wheelchair access and improved ambulance access to the hospital.



Moving forward with 50 firefighters for cities, rural & northern Manitoba

Apr. 29, 2007—Today's NDP would add 50 new firefighters and another helicopter to Manitoba's firefighting efforts as part of a five-point plan to increase firefighting capabilities across the province.

"Firefighters are everyday heroes who protect our loved ones, our homes, our communities and our forests," said Premier Gary Doer, who made the announcement with firefighters in Winnipeg. "Manitoba has recognized this bravery with legislative leadership and other supports that acknowledge the dangerous work they do on behalf of all of us."

The five-point plan to move firefighting forward would cost \$500,000 plus resources that are already provided for in Budget 2007. It includes: 

- Adding 50 new firefighters—20 more for Winnipeg, and four more each in Brandon, Thompson and Portage la Prairie, and 18 more forest firefighters.
- Adding another contract helicopter to the initial-attack force, giving crews six helicopters to ensure crews are moved quickly to fire sites.
- Improving communication and safety with the purchase of 33 new satellite phones.
- Doubling the training funding for municipalities that rely on volunteer fire departments.
- Hiring forest firefighters sooner—thereby being able to train crews earlier, get them to fire sites sooner in the season, and keep crews together longer.

"We have been proud to work with firefighters to bring in groundbreaking legislation to deal with presumptive diseases for firefighters, as well as new regulations on staffing safety," Doer said. "We know the work we have done in Manitoba has resulted in other province's following suit, and we will continue to show national leadership when it comes to working with our firefighters."

Today's NDP was the first government in Canada to pass legislation that recognized presumptive disease for firefighters, and later extended the coverage to volunteer and part-time firefighters.

In 2002, Manitoba made history with legislation that presumed that certain diseases are caused by firefighting, including primary site brain cancer, bladder or kidney cancer, non Hodgkin's lymphoma, heart injury and leukemia. In 2005, the list was expanded to include

primary-site colorectal and ureter cancers, lung cancer for non-smokers, and heart injury within 24 hours of attendance at an emergency response.

Since then, other Canadian provinces and governments in other countries have either followed Manitoba's lead and passed similar legislation, or are considering such laws.

In 2007, Today's NDP brought in new regulations that required firefighters to work in a team, and that a rescue team be readily available when firefighters enter a building. This means that a minimum of two firefighters are "in" and two firefighters are "out."

Doer also unveiled a plaque earlier this month that officially dedicates the Manitoba Firefighters Burn Unit at Health Sciences Centre in honor of Manitoba's firefighters. In addition, Manitoba recently introduced legislation that would establish three new foundations that would create tributes in the memory of firefighters, peace officers and workers who have lost their lives on the job.

"We cannot go back to the days when firefighters were taken for granted," the premier concluded.



Moving forward with 100 more doctors for Manitoba

Apr. 30, 2007—Today's NDP will hire 100 new doctors over the next four years as part of a comprehensive strategy to continue to reduce wait times by adding more front-line staff to the health care system in urban, rural and northern communities, Premier Gary Doer announced.

"A big part of delivering better care sooner is having more people helping people," Doer said.

"When we took office, we implemented a four-point action plan to attract more doctors, focusing on increasing training, better wages, modernizing technology and providing debt relief. We have taken action on all fronts. And while it takes a minimum of six years to train a doctor and nine years for a specialist, we are starting to see the benefits of our decisions."

Today's NDP has added more than 180 doctors since taking office in 1999, with rural Manitoba gaining nearly 60 more doctors, according to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. More than 90 per cent of family doctors who graduated in 2006 are staying in the province—a stark contrast to the 1990s when only 54 per cent of doctor grads stayed in the province.

Today's announcement will cost \$5.36 million and will add 100 more doctors by:

- **Adding 10 new spaces at the U of M School of Medicine**, increasing the number of spaces to 110, from 100. This will result in a 57 per cent increase since 1999, when there were only 70 spaces.
- **Adding 10 new spaces to the International Medical Graduate program**, increasing the total spaces to 35 from 25, and thereby helping more foreign trained doctors become licensed to practice in Manitoba.
- **Providing rural and northern doctors with a "guaranteed getaway"** by establishing a dedicated, \$1 million support fund to fill vacancies when doctors need relief. The fund will reduce pressure on rural and northern doctors and hospitals, while providing continued care for patients.
- **Creating new incentives for doctors to practice in Manitoba** such as a new \$500,000 resettlement fund to help doctors with moving and other expenses and the recently announced 60 per cent tuition rebate for graduates who work in Manitoba. The rebate means a doctor will get \$25,000 back on total tuition of \$41,000, plus



incentives if they practice in a hard-to-recruit area.

- **Increasing the number of physician specialists** by expanding residencies in key areas.
- **Introducing new scholarships for Aboriginal medical students** at the U of M. The annual scholarships will provide \$7,000 each to six Aboriginal students.
- **Providing new supports for emergency room doctors**, including expanded training, more front-line staff, and increasing primary care choices for patients to ease pressure on ERs.

The adding of 100 new doctors builds on last week's commitment to hire 700 more nurses, Doer said, noting that increasing the number of front-line staff remains the best way to continue reducing wait times.

"We have made progress in reducing wait times for cardiac surgery and radiation therapy," he noted. "The current wait time for radiation is one week, down from 6 weeks in 1999, and it is currently the shortest wait time for radiation in the country. We need to keep moving forward to reduce wait times in all areas."

Over the past seven years, Today's NDP has made significant investments in training, recruiting and retaining doctors in Manitoba, the premier said, noting:

- In the 1990s, the Tories cut the number of medical school seats to 70, from 85, and 116 doctors left the system—setting the stage for doctor shortages.
- Today, the number of medical spaces has been increased to 100 from 70 in 1999, including new designated positions for rural physicians, and an expansion in ER doctor training. And there were 180 more doctors working in the system as of July 2006, a number that's expected to grow to more than 200 this year.
- In 2010, Manitoba will have added another 100 doctors through a comprehensive strategy that includes more training and a package of initiatives designed to bolster the front lines. This increase will be supported by the NDP's increase in medical school spaces, which began in 2001. The first doctors from the new spaces will be licensed to practice in 2008.

"We can never return to the 1990s when the Conservatives cut the size of medical school and had a hostile relationship with doctors. We have halted the backslide and we must move forward to ensure we have more doctors and other health care professionals delivering the care Manitobans deserve," Doer concluded.



Doer off to national premiers' meeting on climate change and energy

May 1, 2007—Premier Gary Doer is attending the Council of the Federation meeting today on energy and climate change, two issues that are of vital importance to building Manitoba's economy and protecting the environment.

Doer will co-lead a strategy session of Canadian premiers focusing on best practices in climate change, including efforts to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"Our vision is one of building our province and growing our economy by developing renewable energy resources such as hydroelectricity and wind," the premier said. "Manitoba is at the forefront when it comes to developing clean energy and acting on climate change. Working with other provinces and territories allows us to build on our progress, and move Manitoba forward with new initiatives that will benefit Manitobans."

The premiers' meeting comes a week after Doer released a plan to further deal with climate change and develop renewable energy. Canadian David Suzuki called the announcement a positive step, and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger issued the following statement:

"I would like to congratulate Manitoba for their comprehensive approach to addressing climate change. Manitoba's proposal underscores the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy, including energy production, energy use, transportation, building standards and consumer education. Manitoba and California are strong partners in the international effort to reduce greenhouse gases and I look forward to linking our programs to maximize the benefits for the environment."

Today's NDP has taken strong action over the past seven years, including building more hydro power, introducing wind, increasing geothermal, closing a coal plant, and enhancing conservation. Taken together, these initiatives have made Manitoba a recognized leader on climate change. The province was chosen by Businessweek Magazine as the number one regional government in the world when it comes to addressing the issue. And Manitoba has risen to 1st place in Canada on energy efficiency, up from 9th place in 1999.

Doer said a key part of the effort to deal with climate change is joining forces with others—just 10 days ago, the NDP took steps to set up a carbon credit registry in Manitoba, signing an agreement with officials from the Canadian Climate Exchange and the Canadian Standards Association.



Today's NDP takes new step to help Manitobans stay healthy and active

May 1, 2007—Today's NDP is joining forces with Manitobans who are blazing new trails in the effort to encourage people to walk, run, cycle and ski their way to a healthier and more active lifestyle.

Healthy Living Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross, MLA for Fort Garry, announced that the NDP will commit \$1.8 million over three years to the Winnipeg Trails Association (WTA) to help them develop 32 kilometres of trail across the city, including portions that make up the Manitoba stretch of the Trans-Canada Trail.

"Our first priority is health care, and encouraging more physical activity is an important part of preventing illness," Irvin-Ross said. "Trails are a great way to get people moving around our city and province, while spending quality time with family and friends and enjoying the scenic views of our community."

Today's announcement of \$1.8 million for the WTA brings the NDP's total trails commitment to \$11.5 million since taking office. The \$11.5 million includes a recently-announced \$6 million investment over the next five years for the City of Winnipeg for regional roads and bike routes, and \$3.7 million invested previously in building trails across the province.

Today's new \$1.8 million commitment will allow for the further development of such Winnipeg trails as the Bishop Grandin Greenway, Fort Whyte Alive, Harte Trail, Transcona Trails, Chief Peguis pedestrian trail and Marconi in Kildonan.

"Trails provide Manitobans with more options," Irvin-Ross said. "The Bishop Grandin Greenway, for example, will better connect the growing neighbourhoods of south Winnipeg and give people more choices, whether it is biking to work or going for a leisurely hike with their kids."

Some of the funding will be used to continue building the Manitoba stretch of the Trans-Canada Trail, which is 70 per cent complete. About 83 kilometres will run through Winnipeg, including along the Bishop Grandin Greenway, one of the largest trail projects in the city. When finished, Manitoba's stretch of the trail will be 1,300 kilometres long, linking hundreds of communities and crossing seven eco-districts.



Upon completion, the Trans-Canada trail will be the longest continuous trail in the world—stretching 18,000 kilometres and linking Canada's three oceans. Today's NDP will continue working with a variety of stakeholders including municipalities, cities and trail associations to identify priorities and work to complete phase one of Manitoba's main route by 2010.

Today's announcement builds on past trail investments including:

- North Whiteshell Trail linking many of the well developed trails and campsites in Whiteshell Provincial Park.
- Blue Water Trail Association for 100 km of trail extending from Seven Sisters through to the St. Georges Area.
- Altona/Rhineland/Gretna trail, which follows portions of the historic Boundary Commission Trail and features trail markers that date back to the 1800s when the border was established.

"Across Manitoba, communities are building trails and getting active, and we want to continue supporting these great initiatives moving forward," Irvin-Ross said.

She noted that supporting trails is just one of the NDP's many investments in healthy living, including introducing a new program to help parents buy kids' bike helmets at low cost. Over 18,000 were distributed across Manitoba in 2006. The program also provided 1,000 children's bike helmets free to families who would otherwise be unable to afford one.



Modernizing roads in the Interlake

May 2, 2007, Fisher Branch—A re-elected NDP government will upgrade Hwy 17, PR 326 and PR 325 in order to enhance safety, improve access and encourage economic growth in the Interlake region, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

“Today’s NDP has made an historic investment in our Manitoba roads and bridges with our five year plan,” Doer said. “Today we are moving forward on those investments to advance local priorities in the Interlake, and recognize the importance of these links to increasing safety and building the rural economy.”



The NDP’s long-term highways plan includes upgrades in roads in the Interlake. The plan has already budgeted \$11.7 million to:

- Reconstruct Hwy 17 north of Poplarfield.
- Improve PR 325 east of Hodgson.
- Upgrade PR 326 north of Arborg.

These roads are in addition other Interlake projects contained in the five-year plan including:

- Continuing upgrades on Hwy 68, west of Hwy 6, to allow for heavier loads.
- Paving Main Street and Railway Avenue in Ashern.
- Straightening curves on Hwy 6, near Woodlands and Grosse Isle, to improve safety.
- Reconstructing Hwy 8 from Winnipeg Beach to Hnausa.
- Improving PR 234 between Riverton and Matheson.

“Roads are important to everyday life in the Interlake, connecting communities, families and businesses to one another. Upgrades to highways, such as Hwy 17, link more rural communities into the major economic corridor of the region,” Doer said.

The announcement is part of the NDP’s commitment to building the Interlake which includes:

- Opening the health care centre in Riverton, renovating E.M. Crowe Memorial Hospital, and investing in a mobile ultra sound program.
- Constructing the new \$5.4 million Inwood School.
- Eliminating all provincial taxes on Manitoba produced pure bio-diesel.
- Opening the new Assisted Living Complex in Arborg.
- Creating the East Interlake Water Conservation Area, to better manage flooding and protect water.



Moving forward with dialysis services for Gimli area residents

May 2, 2007, Gimli—Today's NDP will construct a dialysis unit in Gimli as a part of a plan to expand diabetes treatment and prevention in Manitoba, Premier Gary Doer announced here today.



"We have learned from other communities that providing dialysis service close to home greatly enhances the quality of life for Manitobans who need this treatment," the premier said. "This new dialysis unit will help Gimli and surrounding residents receive quality, timely care in a state-of-the-art facility."

The four-station Gimli dialysis unit will cost \$1.4 million to build and \$486,000 to operate in conjunction with the Manitoba Renal Program. Diabetes prevention and education programming will also be offered. Hemodialysis treatments are currently provided at 17 locations across the province.

Today's announcement builds on past NDP initiatives on diabetes including:

- Investing more than \$2 million for chronic disease prevention. This includes more than \$1 million for 47 communities for community-based prevention programs that support healthy eating, physical activity and stopping smoking.
- Supporting the Garden Hill dialysis/renal health program which has been singled out by The Health Council of Canada as a model for overcoming barriers to diabetes care and prevention.

Doer said Today's NDP is committed to ensuring Gimli residents have quality health care, noting that the addition of a dialysis unit builds on the comprehensive renovations and additions that have taken place at the Gimli Community Health Centre.

As a result of the \$13-million modernization, residents now have access to greatly enhanced health care including better inpatient beds for acute, special and palliative care; a separate entrance for emergency arrivals and day treatment; and added space for community service programs, mental health services, family services and seniors resource services.



Moving forward with new dialysis treatment in Manitoba

May 2, 2007, Peguis First Nation—Today's NDP will construct a dialysis unit at the Percey E. Moore Hospital in Hodgson in order to provide residents of Peguis First Nation and the surrounding area with improved access to dialysis services, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"By providing dialysis services closer to the First Nation, Peguis residents and others living in the region will have access to state-of-the-art health care without having to travel such long distances for needed services," the premier said. "We know that reducing travel time for patients provides a huge boost in the quality of life for people receiving treatment."

The six-station dialysis unit will cost \$2 million to build and \$1.5 million to operate and will service Peguis First Nation, Hodgson, Fisher River, Jackhead and Koostatak. It will operate in conjunction with the Manitoba Renal Program, and will include diabetes education and prevention initiatives. Hemodialysis treatments are currently provided at 17 locations in Manitoba.

Today's announcement builds on previous actions taken by the NDP to treat and reduce diabetes, including working with the community and other levels of government to establish the Garden Hill dialysis/renal health program, which has become a national model for overcoming barriers to diabetes care and prevention.

The NDP has also invested more than \$2 million for chronic disease prevention. This includes more than \$1 million for 47 communities for community-based programs that focus on healthy eating, increasing physical activity and stopping smoking. In January 2006 Manitoba Health and Healthy Living received an Award of Recognition from the Alliance for the Prevention of Chronic Disease for its efforts in chronic disease prevention.



Today's NDP to build first mental health ER in Canada

May 2, 2007—Increasing specialists, ER doctors and front-line staff, and building the first mental health ER in Canada, are the highlights of comprehensive new plan designed to continue innovating emergency room care for Manitobans and their families, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"We have made progress training and recruiting more specialists, and today's announcement builds on this," the premier said. "We've received feedback from the front lines of Manitoba's emergency rooms, and are moving forward with ideas shared by doctors and nurses on how to improve staffing and training, and ultimately deliver better care to patients."



Today's strategy invests \$11.6 million in innovating ER care, including \$3 million already included in Budget 2007. The plan includes:

Training more specialists, including ER doctors

- Increasing residencies in pediatric care to seven from five to allow senior residents to provide rotating coverage in Brandon and Thompson.
- Adding two new oncologist/haematologist residencies, four new post-residency training fellowships and three international clinical/research fellowships.
- More than doubling the number of ER doctor training seats to 13 from five.
- Establishing community teaching sites at Grace, Seven Oaks, Concordia and Victoria General hospitals for a new ER program being established at the University of Manitoba.



Hiring more front-line staff to support ER doctors

- Adding five clinical assistant positions to Grace Hospital's ER in a pilot project to better support ER doctors.
- Hiring dedicated pharmacists for 10 ERs, seven in Winnipeg and one in each of Brandon, Thompson and Selkirk, to help doctors and nurses better deal with the large number of medication-related ER visits.

Relieving pressure on ERs with more choices for patients

- Establishing a new free-standing Mental Health Crisis Response Centre next to Health

Sciences Centre—the first of its kind in Canada—to provide specialized care for up to 10,000 mental health patients who visit traditional ERs each year.

- Using nurse practitioners to provide new community-based program options for patients with chronic diseases at the the new ACCESS Northwest Centre and Thompson Community Health Centre to help take the burden off ERs.
- Adding more long-term care spaces to provide better care for seniors and relieve the pressure on hospitals.

“ER medicine is demanding, challenging work,” Doer said. “The need to keep innovating is ongoing, and it is why we cannot declare the job done. It is why the NDP continues to put health care first and work with health care professionals on new ideas to move our system forward.”

Today's announcement builds on key investments made over the past seven years including a new monetary incentive premium for hard-to-fill shifts.

Doer noted that any staffing plan must include investing in state-of-the-art facilities and leading-edge equipment, as both help attract and keep doctors and other professionals working in Manitoba. Taken together, these measures have helped rebuild Manitoba's health care system and put it back on stable footing following cutbacks in the 90s. The NDP has:

- Modernized health care facilities right across the province including Health Sciences Centre, Brandon Regional Health Centre, Seven Oaks General Hospital, Victoria General Hospital and Swan Valley Health Centre.
- Developed a centre excellence for cardiac care at St. Boniface General Hospital.
- Doubled the number of CT Scanners to 20, from nine in 1999, including eight in rural areas.
- Increased MRIs by five, including one in Brandon, and one coming soon to Winkler/Morden—the first two MRIs to be located outside of Winnipeg.
- Added the latest in cutting-edge technology, such as Canada's first Gamma Knife at HSC, and the new non-invasive cancer knife, a technologically-advanced system for treating cancer without invasive surgery.

“The Tories say health care shouldn't be Manitoba's top priority. This attitude is what drove more than 1,500 nurses and more than 100 doctors out of the system when the Conservatives were last in office,” Doer said. “We cannot go back to the days of firings and cutbacks.”



Moving forward with future fuels, future foods, farmland tax cuts

May 3, 2007, St. Leon—Building more wind power, establishing one of Canada's first biodiesel mandates, investing in the foods of the future, and reducing the education property tax burden on farmland are the highlights of a new strategy designed to keep growing Manitoba's rural community and economy, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Manitoba has many natural advantages, including clean, abundant water, renewable energy such as hydroelectricity and wind, and vibrant rural communities," the premier said. "Our approach is about working with rural Manitoba to ensure they are sharing in the exciting new opportunities and emerging industries that are before us."

Today's NDP will invest in rural communities to develop key priorities including:

Future Fuels

- Establishing a five per cent mandate for biodiesel by 2010—one of the first in Canada. The mandate will focus on school buses, government fleet vehicles, agricultural fuel and the trucking industry. It will create a demand for more than 40 million litres of biodiesel.
- Creating a \$1 million Biodiesel Development fund to support additional biodiesel projects, adding to the four already in development in Manitoba. Biodiesel production will create jobs, expand markets for farmers and spur economic growth in rural communities.
- Developing 1,000 megawatts of wind energy over the next decade, generating \$2 billion in investment and \$100 million in wind-rights payments to farmers. One of Canada's largest wind farms is already in full operation at St. Leon and providing producers with \$9 million in land-lease payments. Manitoba Hydro is currently seeking proposals for the next 300 megawatts of wind power, enough to power 100,000 homes.
- Creating a \$500,000 community wind power fund that will be available to help communities set up monitors to determine local wind strength. Small scale, community wind projects are part of the long-term plan to develop 1,000 megawatts.



Future Foods

- Targeting incentives towards new manufacturing projects that develop the foods of

the future, building on investments like Shape Foods in Brandon, a \$30 million facility that is currently under construction to produce Omega-3-rich flax oil and meal.

- Continuing to invest in agri-product development. This builds on support for initiatives such as the expansion of the Food Development Centre in Portage la Prairie, and the creation of the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals, and the Canadian Centre for Agrifood Research in Health and Medicine at St. Boniface Hospital.



Supporting Environmentally-Friendly Farming

- Creating a new province-wide Farmers Eco-Fund to support producers who implement practices such as wetland preservation. It will be modeled after a pilot project the NDP supported at the RM of Blanshard.
- Providing rural residents with low-interest loans for upgrading private water or waste-water systems through the new Water Smart program, which will help homeowners conserve water and save money.
- Providing new incentives for producers to modernize their operations as part of new regulations protecting water.

Lower Taxes, Better Service

- Reducing education taxes on farmland by 70 per cent in 2008, 75 per cent in 2009 and 80 per cent in 2010, building on a 65 per cent rebate in Budget 2007 which will save farmers \$29 million this year. The NDP began issuing rebates in 2004, following a 2003 election promise to reduce farmland education taxes by 20 per cent.
- Expanding the role of our “one stop shopping” Go Centres to help producers cut through red tape and access tax savings and assistance programs. Staff will be trained to help farmers deal with all provincial programs, not just those in the Agriculture Department.
- Funding two more seats at the University of Saskatchewan veterinarian college to help increase the supply of large animal vets that serve rural areas, and increasing the conditional grants to 15 from 10 for vets who commit to practice in rural Manitoba.

Supporting the Next Generation

- Adding two new components to the successful Bridging Generations program. This program currently provides loans and mentoring for producers who want to pass on their operations to the next generation. This program will be expanded to allow rural businesspeople and fishers to pass their operations onto family members, or others working in the business or living in the community.

Today’s announcement totals \$16 million, including \$13.5 million already provided for in Budget 2007. The investments build on other NDP decisions such as removing the tax on biodiesel and supporting ethanol—further strengthening Manitoba’s position as a leader in

biofuels.

The NDP is the party that will work with producers and stand by them when needed, he added.

"We have stood with them as they deal with pressures such as the attack on the Canadian Wheat Board. We are the only party that stood up for producers when they voted to keep the single desk," Doer said. "The Tories say they are the friends of farmers but their waffling on the Wheat Board issue shows they can't be trusted."



Moving forward with new education property tax cuts

May 4, 2007—Manitoba homeowners and renters will each save an average of \$250 in education property taxes as part of a new affordability plan that includes increasing public education funding to 80 per cent to help take the burden off property taxpayers.

"We are committing to increase the province's share of public education funding to 80 per cent over the next four years, up from just over 70 per cent, to further take the burden off property taxpayers while providing more support to our public schools," Premier Gary Doer said.

"Budget 2007 made a commitment to fund 80 per cent of public education costs while increasing the education property tax credit. Today, we are moving this promise forward with a specific plan to further reduce the burden of education property taxes on Manitobans, while increasing our share of funding for public education."

Today's announcement will increase the education property tax credit by \$300—to \$525 in 2007, \$625 in 2008, and \$700 in 2009. This means the average homeowner will save \$250 by 2009, once increases in the residential special levy for 2007 are taken into account.

"Unlike the Tories, who reduced education funding and cut the property tax credit for Manitoba families, we are coming forward with a plan that supports both taxpayers and public schools," he said. "We are chipping away at the tax burden while enhancing the quality of education."

In order to ensure the average taxpayer realizes \$250 in education property tax savings, the government will work closely with all those involved—parents, teachers, trustees and taxpayers, Doer said. Budget 2007 made a \$40-million downpayment on the plan. New costs will reach \$152 million by year four. Today's NDP will:

- Increase the property tax credit by \$300 to \$700 over three years.
- Provide annual funding increases to school divisions above the rate of economic growth to help the province reach the 80 per cent funding mark.
- Provide the annual grants and proposed budgets to school divisions earlier in the budgeting process to allow for better up-front planning.
- Ensure GAAP principles are followed, thereby resulting in greater accountability and transparency.

"This plan is about cooperating with trustees, teachers and parents to achieve better results, and accountability for those results," Doer said. "We are going to work with everyone involved to ensure we get maximum benefit from both the property tax credit increase and our increased investments in public education."

The premier said the NDP will consult with municipalities and school divisions about separating the property tax bills in order to increase accountability and transparency.

Farmland education property taxes will also be further reduced by a rebate plan that rises to 70 per cent in 2008, 75 per cent in 2009 and 80 per cent in 2010. Budget 2007 provides a 65 per cent rebate, which will save farmers \$29 million this year. The NDP began issuing rebates in 2004, following a 2003 election promise to reduce farmland education taxes by 20 per cent.

Doer said Today's NDP has the track record to deliver affordable tax cuts. He said nowhere is this more apparent than on education property taxes where the NDP became the first government to completely eliminate an entire tax—the Residential Education Support Levy—while increasing the property tax credit to \$400 from \$250 in 1999.

The NDP delivered these tax cuts while also providing funding to public schools that equaled or exceeded the rate of economic growth, Doer said. It was a promise the NDP made in 1999, and delivered on in eight straight budgets.

"In the 1990s, housing values were stagnant and education property taxes rose an average of 60 per cent," he said. "Today, housing values are rising and education property taxes are nearly 10 per cent lower on average than they were in 1999. The 80 per cent funding commitment we are announcing today, combined with tax credit improvements, will help us build on this progress and provide new savings for Manitobans."



Moving forward with better summer living for Manitobans

May 5, 2007, Birds Hill Provincial Park—Today's NDP will offer 1,000 more cottage lots and further modernize Manitoba's provincial parks and campgrounds to increase access to our province's many lakes, forests and rivers, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"In Manitoba, we are blessed with natural beauty," said Doer. "Over the past seven years, we have focused on promoting healthy, active lifestyles and improving quality of life for families. Manitobans love the outdoors and our goal here today is to provide them with more opportunities to enjoy the summer in our beautiful province."



Doer made the announcement at Birds Hill Provincial Park, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this summer, and is undergoing a major redevelopment. Existing facilities will be modernized and a new, green campground entrance building will be constructed.

The party that made summer longer will:

Modernize parks and campgrounds

- Parks and campgrounds will be upgraded including better playground structures for kids, more electrical campsites, more yurts, extending 911 service to Duck Mountain and Hecla, and new picnic tables and other amenities. Buildings such as shower rooms will be renovated to be more energy and water efficient, including new design features such as solar-heated showers, low-flow water fixtures and green building materials.

Add more cottages

- Another 1,000 lots will be made available to provide Manitobans with greater opportunity to realize their dream of owning a cottage. The offering will double Manitoba's successful cottage lot draw, which was completed in 2006.

The original 1,000 cottage lot draw began in 2004. Developing 1,000 cottage lots is estimated to generate about \$100 million in economic activity, including land services, building supplies and services, furnishings, and the ongoing purchases of supplies and spending related to recreational use.

Today's announcement will add \$2 million to the annual capital budget for park and campground improvements. Approximately five million people visit Manitoba's parks each summer. Visits to Birds Hill alone have nearly doubled since 1997, from 700,000 to 1.3 million annually.

Today's NDP has made significant improvements to Manitoba's parks including:

- Providing 911 emergency services to some of Manitoba's busiest parks including South Whiteshell, Birds Hill, and Grand Beach.
- Repatriating the province's award winning campground reservation system that the Conservatives exported to the United States, increasing reservations by 30 per cent last year.
- Adding and upgrading campsites—more than 600 campsites have been either upgraded or built since 2004.
- Providing new outdoor opportunities—last year, new camping shelters called yurts were built at Nutimik, Spruce Woods, Asessippi, Clearwater and Bakers Narrows provincial parks.
- Keeping park and camping fees among the lowest in the country.
- Setting up Manitoba's first cottage lot draw for 1,000 lots.

Today's NDP has also significantly upgraded highways to cottage country, including Hwy 59 to Grand Beach, Hwy 9 to Winnipeg Beach, Hwy 7 and 8 to Gimli and other interlake beaches, Hwy 6 to the beaches of Lake Manitoba and the parks in the north, the TransCanada Hwy to Falcon Lake, West Hawk, Hwy 10 from Brandon to Pelican and Clear Lakes, and others.



Today's NDP supports today's families

May 6, 2007 — Building on the best home care program in the country, Today's NDP will provide new supports for families so their loved ones receive quality care and can live as independently as possible with comfort and dignity, Premier Gary Doer said today.

"We will ensure families have the support they need so their loved ones have access to quality care regardless of their level of need," the premier said. "Our programs will provide more peace of mind to families who want to ensure their loved ones have access to the best and most appropriate care possible."

Today's NDP would assist families by:

- Expanding the best home care program in the country by ensuring 2,000 more people can live independently in their own homes with dignity.
- Introducing a new \$1,020 tax credit for family caregivers and providing low-interest loans for needed renovations to assist families who want to care for their loved ones.
- Completing the Aging in Place plan, a long-term care strategy, to create 1,100 new long-term care spaces in Winnipeg, and more than 650 spaces in rural and northern Manitoba.
- Improving care in personal care homes through an earlier commitment to add 400 front-line nurses, health care aides and other professionals to Manitoba personal care homes.



"All families are different and individual care needs are different. The initiatives we are announcing here today will provide families with a wider range of care and housing options for their loved ones, while helping Manitoba seniors live in the community," Doer said.

The tax credit will be worth \$1,020 per year, and will be available to all Manitobans caring for a loved one in need, whether the individual is a senior, disabled (young or old), terminally ill, or in need of short or long-term care. Doer said the aim of the credit is to recognize the vital contribution of volunteer caregivers and help defray some of their personal costs. The new tax credit will cost \$5.1 million per year.

"Caregivers are the unsung heroes of our community," the premier said. "It can be particularly challenging for women who are often the ones expected to take care of aging parents and young kids, while holding down a part-time or full-time job. This is one way for us to recognize their sacrifices and invaluable contributions and say thank you."

Another piece of the plan will offer families low-interest loans of up to \$10,000 to renovate their homes in order to provide safe and comfortable surroundings for their loved ones.

"We know that many families choose to care for their loved ones in their own homes," he said. "These loans will help families make renovations that better ensure privacy, dignity and safety."

A re-elected NDP government will also move forward with the Aging in Place long-term care strategy to increase community and daily living supports for seniors. By expanding community-based spaces, such as supportive housing with 24-hour care services, the strategy aims to provide options for seniors between home care support and personal care homes.

These improvements to long term care builds on our earlier commitment to add 400 front-line nurses, health care aides and other health professionals to personal care homes. It also builds on investments since 1999 in new or upgraded personal care homes, including Villa Youville in Ste. Anne, Bethesda Place in Steinbach, Northern Lights Manor in Flin Flon, St. Paul's Residence in The Pas, Thompson Personal Care Home, Foyer Valade and the new 80-bed St. Vital personal care home in south Winnipeg, and the recently tendered 100-bed personal care home in Neepawa.

Investing in long-term care spaces will also help reduce the pressure on hospitals, Doer noted. These investments support the recently-released plan by the NDP to innovate emergency room care by increasing specialists, ER doctors and front-line staff, and building the first mental health ER in Canada.

The premier said today's announcement builds on the NDP legacy of providing quality care for seniors. An NDP government established Manitoba's Home Care program in 1974, which is considered one of the best in Canada.

"It is important that we move forward, not back to the 1990s when the Tories tried to privatize Home Care, an experiment that failed after a massive public outcry," Doer said. "Today's announcement gives Manitobans more choices, and sends the message that we are the party that will protect services for your family in the future."



New opportunities for young people to work, live and play in Manitoba

May 7, 2007—Today's NDP will create 4,000 new apprenticeship training opportunities, introduce Manitoba's first-ever new media tax credit, and work with community leaders to make Manitoba an even more attractive place for young people to live, work and play, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Manitoba has seen a net gain in young people over the past seven years," the premier said. "Education has always been our top economic priority and it's a vision we share with business. By expanding education and training opportunities, by creating the jobs of the future in areas like biotechnology, and by investing in the renewal of downtown Winnipeg, we have seen that Manitoba is once again an attractive place to live, work and play for young people."

Manitoba has reversed the net loss of 2,600 young Manitobans in the 1990s with a net gain of 3,300 young people since 1999. The new tuition rebate, more career opportunities and growing immigration will help Manitoba attract even more young people, Doer added.

A re-elected NDP will invest just over \$12 million to lead the way on three key priorities:

Work

- Increase the number of active apprenticeship training spaces by 4,000 over the next four years, creating new opportunities for young people to participate in a growing economy. The new training will cost \$10 million once completed.
- Introduce a new, 40 per cent tax credit for the booming new media sector. The credit would encourage industry growth and attract new producers of media such as video games, computer animation, web development, visual effects, and music and sound processing, building on the success of support for Manitoba's strong film and television industry. The new credit will be worth \$2 million annually. The credit will generate economic spinoffs by creating high-paying jobs and building successful companies.
- Continue to create the jobs of the future by working in partnership with Manitoba's rapidly-growing green energy, biotechnology, film and health care sectors.
- Double the uptake in Manitoba's Co-operative Education Tax Credit, which supports employers in hiring students, giving them valuable work experience and a foot in the door. Today's NDP will work with business to increase participation in the program,



which was introduced in 2004. This initiative will cost an additional \$125,000 annually.

Live

- New graduates who stay receive a 60 per cent tuition rebate, worth as much as \$25,000, to help them to pay down debt or put down roots by purchasing a home.
- Homeowners and renters would each save an average of \$250 annually as part of a new plan to further reduce education property taxes.
- Manitoba would continue to be an affordable place to live, with the some of the lowest costs in Canada for housing, child care, auto insurance and hydro electricity.



Play

- New support for arts and culture in downtown Winnipeg, building on current support for Manitoba's thriving arts and cultural sectors.
- New investments in downtown business and housing in Winnipeg, continuing the resurgence and building on investments such as Red River College's new campus, the Millennium Library, MTS Centre, Waterfront Drive and the new Manitoba Hydro building.
- New recreation opportunities created by \$60 million recreation fund, investments in parks, camping and cottaging, and new protection for sensitive ecological treasures such as the proposed UNESCO heritage site on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

"Our strong economy, our resurging downtown and our commitment to training will help us to keep creating hope and opportunity for young Manitobans," the premier said. "We have been working to build Manitoba by supporting exciting projects like the MTS Centre. Today's NDP supported the MTS Centre, the Tories and Liberals voted against it. We have the vision and track record to keep moving Manitoba forward."

Doer said the new media industry is a prime example of how the jobs of the future are growing right here in Manitoba. The video game development industry has grown more than five-fold during the last two years, putting the province fourth in Canada after British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec. The new tax credit will build on new media support including the Interactive Digital Media Fund and the advanced 3D Animation Training diploma at Red River College.

Other rapidly growing sectors include:

- One of Canada's fastest growing biotechnology sectors—with four per cent of the country's population, Manitoba is now home to eight per cent of Canada's biotechnology activity.
- Growing clean and green energy industries, thanks to new investments in wind power, geothermal energy, biodiesel and ethanol fuels and hydrogen fuel cell transportation.

BACKGROUNDER - NEW MEDIA INDUSTRY

What is new media?

Video game development, computer animation, interactive CD-Rom and DVD software, web-based interactive software, music and sound processing software.

- Manitoba's video game industry has grown by more than five-fold in the last two years.
- There are more than 230 digital media companies in Manitoba, with a particular expertise in 2-D and 3-D computer animation, web development, visual effects, CD-Rom and software development, and music/sound processing.
- Manitoba is home to the 4th largest new media sector in Canada, after BC, Ontario and Quebec.
- In February 2007, the International Game Developers Association opened a Winnipeg chapter.
- The new information and communications technology workforce is relatively young, with 65 per cent in the 25 to 44 year old range.
- Manitoba is very competitive in the global new media industry. According to the KPMG Competitive Alternatives Study (2004), Winnipeg has among the lowest costs of doing business for research and development intensive Advanced Software Design firms, more competitive than Montreal, Calgary, Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto, Minneapolis and even Riverside CA.

The province has supported the new media industry by:

- Establishing a **1-year advanced 3D Animation Training diploma at Red River College**, including capital funding.
- Investing in the \$300,000 **Manitoba Interactive Digital Media Fund** which provides grant assistance with production, professional development and marketing.
- Creating the **Manitoba New Media Production Grant**, which provides a grant on eligible Manitoba labour, through the digital media fund.
- Investing \$350,000 through the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement in the three year **Fortune Cat (video) Games Studio Incubator**.



Modernizing health care for women and newborns

May 8, 2007—Today's NDP will dramatically modernize health care for women and their babies by building innovative, new facilities to ensure that families get state-of-the-art care in state-of-the-art settings, Premier Gary Doer announced.

"We know that nurses, doctors, midwives and others working on the front lines of our health care system have been providing quality care to women and their babies," the premier said. "With these new investments, we are taking bold steps to ensure that this state-of-the-art care is being delivered in state-of-the-art health-care facilities."

Today's NDP will continue to put health care first and move the system forward with:

A new Women's Hospital at Health Sciences Centre

- The new, \$40-million centre of excellence for maternal care will be built next to the recently renovated HSC and Children's Hospital—dramatically changing the way care is delivered by bringing all services together and providing quicker, better access to specialized care when needed.
- It will replace the aging Women's Pavilion and will feature more beds in all areas, including for labour and delivery and high-risk pregnancies, increase privacy in birthing rooms and create more space for families. All the birthing rooms will be private with their own washroom and shower facilities.
- The new design will integrate the neonatal intensive care unit (ICU) with the intermediate nursery and birthing rooms, ensuring that mothers and babies will be close together during critical times. At present, the neonatal ICU is in a separate building.

A new south Winnipeg Women and Children's Health Centre

- The \$3.5-million birthing centre will focus on a wide range of services for expectant mothers and babies, including prenatal, birthing, postpartum and newborn care, as well as broader services for parents and families. The project is funded in the current health capital budget.
- It will be home to a unique, fully-funded community-birthing centre, run by the Women's Health Clinic, that will be staffed by midwives and feature doula services, plus programs emphasizing healthy living, illness prevention and timely treatment, and links to specialized care.



- The centre will include other services such as parenting support and education, immunization clinics, childhood injury prevention, mental health services, dietary counseling and diabetes transition programs.

A renovated and expanded maternity ward at St. Boniface General Hospital

- The maternity ward will be further upgraded and expanded with a \$2-million investment in better services. Improvements include creating eight new beds for high-risk women, including four new post-partum beds, and four new labour and delivery beds. The project will be funded from within the existing health capital budget.

“When it comes to health care, it is important that we keep innovating in order to offer the latest in medical technology and the best care possible,” Doer said. “We need to make sure we are meeting the unique and specific health needs of women, while providing a comforting and more private environment.”

He noted that investing in leading-edge facilities and equipment is an important part of the NDP’s strategy to attract and retain more nurses, doctors, midwives and other professionals.

Today’s NDP will also expand midwife education programs to address the growing demand for their services—with the number of women using midwives roughly doubling over the past five years.

The NDP has made progress in this area, establishing the internationally-recognized Aboriginal Midwifery degree program at the University College of the North in September 2006. It was also the NDP who proclaimed the Midwifery Act in June 2000, creating an expanded role for midwives in the health care system and broadening care options available.

“In 1999 when we came into office, there were no funded midwife positions in Manitoba. Today, there are 34 funded positions in seven regions of the province, and Budget 2007 will add five more,” Doer added. “We have a track record upon which to build, and today’s announcement will help us keep moving health care forward for women and their families.”

Today’s new initiatives build upon the NDP’s past investments in health care, including:

- Investing \$135 million to redevelop HSC, the largest health care capital project in Manitoba history, as well as significant upgrades to Victoria General and Seven Oaks hospitals.
- Renovating and expanding birthing areas at Ste. Anne and Bethesda hospitals, and adding 21 new birthing rooms at St. Boniface Hospital.
- Putting in place the successful Cervical Cancer Screening Program in 2001, and

helping to fund the Manitoba Breast Cancer Research Centre which opened in October 2004.



Moving forward with downpayment on east-west power grid

May 9, 2007—Today's NDP is pledging \$40 million for a downpayment towards building an east-west power grid, a project that will boost Manitoba's economy, reduce harmful emissions and build the nation by improving Canada's energy security and reliability, Premier Gary Doer announced today.



"Our vision of an east-west power grid is one that is gaining support across the country," the premier said.

"It is a vision that will build Manitoba's economy by expanding our clean energy exports and supporting the development of new green energy projects, such as hydroelectricity and wind. A grid will allow us to bring more renewable energy to market across the country, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by displacing coal."

Today's NDP will set aside \$40 million as a downpayment on the development of an east-west power grid. The funding will come from the ecoTrust fund and will support initial planning and development activities—the first steps in developing a grid, Doer said, noting the NDP took the same approach five years ago when expanding the Red River Floodway.

"Like expanding the floodway, building an east-west power grid is a massive undertaking that will require working together with other governments," he said. "Making a commitment to start planning and designing a grid signals our intention to move forward with our vision of powering the nation with renewable, reliable energy that is made in Manitoba."

Doer said when it comes to managing Manitoba's hydro and renewable energy resources, it is important to keep moving forward, not back, noting:

- In 1999, the Tories left office—and left Manitoba with no renewable energy vision. The Conawapa hydroelectric generating station sat in mothballs, there were no plans for wind development, and no strategy to deal with climate change.
- In 2007, Today's NDP is a recognized leader on climate change and the province has risen to first in the country on energy efficiency. Manitoba is a leading voice in Canada on the building of an east-west power grid, Conawapa is back in development, and Manitoba's first wind farm is in operation.
- In 2010, Manitoba will have one of Canada's first biodiesel mandates in place, and

will be home to a growing number of biodiesel plants and wind farms. The Wuskwatim hydroelectric generating station will be on its way to completion (2012), and planning for Conawapa will be well underway.

The premier said building a grid will help Manitoba sell more power to its Canadian neighbours. At present, the majority of the major transmission routes run south into the United States.

"In a country as large as Canada, it makes sense for us to build a grid so we can help power our neighbours, increase the country's energy supply and security, while boosting our own economies," Doer said. "The grid is an important nation-building project, like the National Railway and Trans-Canada Hwy before it, and we will work with other governments to move this forward."

The premier noted that building our hydro resources, increasing energy export capacity and keeping Manitoba Hydro publicly owned will help Manitoba maintain the competitive advantage of having among the lowest electricity rates in North America.

"Hydro is an economic opportunity to be developed and shared by all Manitobans. That is why we are committed to ensuring that Manitoba Hydro is never privatized," he said.

"We know there are naysayers, like the Tories, who don't share our vision. The NDP faced the same opposition years ago when they built Limestone, but today it is an unqualified success. We share the vision of our predecessors and are determined to move it forward for the benefit for all Manitobans."

Doer said when it comes to building Manitoba, Today's NDP has the track record of turning dreams into reality. Over the past seven years, the NDP has been involved in building and modernizing major infrastructure projects including:

- MTS Centre.
- Downtown Red River College campus.
- The Canadian Museum for Human Rights.
- Manitoba Hydro's downtown headquarters.
- Millennium Library.
- The Red River Floodway.
- The Health Sciences Centre.
- The Brandon Regional Health Centre.
- St. Leon wind farm.
- Wuskwatim hydro generating station.



Moving forward with Manitoba's first MRI for children

May 10, 2007—Today's NDP will set up Manitoba's first dedicated MRI for children, expand the province's proven allergy and asthma treatment program, and improve cardiac care for Manitoba's youngest heart patients, Health Minister Theresa Oswald announced today.

"Today's NDP has made children's health a priority, both in terms of increasing prevention programming and acute care services," the minister said. "Today's announcement will help our children and their families get the quality care they need and, in some instances, will also help reduce the pressure on emergency rooms."

The new plan invests \$8 million in children's health, including \$3 million already budgeted for, and includes:

Manitoba's first dedicated MRI for children



- A new, dedicated MRI will be established at Children's Hospital to allow diagnostics to be done in an accessible, comfortable setting. This will allow for easier, timely scheduling of MRIs for children.
- The dedicated MRI will be Manitoba's eighth MRI, up from two in 1999, and will allow Manitoba to continue reducing overall wait times for elective MRIs. The number of elective MRIs performed annually has risen to 37,000 in 2006, up from 6,400 in 1999.

Manitoba's proven allergy and asthma treatment program expanded

- A new clinic at Children's Hospital will be established to help Manitoba expand its successful asthma and allergy program, while providing treatment, education and research in one location. The expansion will also see asthma services for children offered through the new south Winnipeg Women and Children's Health Centre.
- The expansion will help to further reduce pressure on Winnipeg's ERs, which receive 3,000 visits annually from children suffering from asthma-related issues. This program has cut the number of asthma-related hospitalizations in half—with the number dropping to 255 in 2006, from 500 in the mid 1990s.
- The program works with families to develop asthma action plans, which include learning to identify and control triggers in the home, and proper use of "controller" medicine. Asthma is currently the most prevalent chronic disease facing Manitoba children.

Modern cardiac care for Manitoba's youngest heart patients

- The cardiac catheterization lab at Children's Hospital will be modernized to include the latest equipment used in detecting kids' heart problems. New, state-of-the-art technology will provide higher quality imaging, allowing for better diagnosis of heart problems.

Oswald said today's announcement builds on significant investments the NDP has made in children's health since 1999, including:

- Building a special, state-of-the-art emergency room at the newly-renovated Children's Hospital.
- Establishing the Healthy Baby program to help families to access proper nutrition as all key stages in a child's development.
- Installing a new CT Scanner at Children's Hospital.
- Opening the Pediatric Special Care Unit and the Pediatric Hemodialysis Unit at Children's Hospital.
- Creating a Minor Injury Clinic for Kids at Pan Am Clinic.

"Our vision for health care is one that features the most modern services available, while also focusing on what we can do to prevent illness," Oswald said. "This is the reason we put health care first. We know that we must be continually innovating and moving forward with new ideas and technology. We cannot go back to the dark days of the 1990s when the Tories drove away doctors and nurses, and health care suffered."



Moving forward with rural hospital revitalization

May 10, 2007, Ste. Anne—The Ste. Anne Hospital will be renovated to increase operating space and double the number of surgeries performed each year, a move that will help shorten wait times for Manitobans living in the region, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

The \$3.6-million redevelopment of Ste. Anne's Hospital will allow for more surgeries by adding a second operating room, a room for diagnostic tests, a new recovery room, and five new beds. In addition, Doer said the NDP are reviewing the capital needs of Bethesda Hospital in Steinbach with a view to expanding its capacity to meet the needs of the area's growing population.



"Health care is our number one priority, and improving care across the province is part of our ongoing strategy," the premier said. "By increasing the number of surgeries at Ste. Anne Hospital, we can help area residents receive care sooner and closer to home.

"We are also pleased with the progress made at Bethesda Hospital, where we have added a CT scanner and an ultrasound machine as part of our overall strategy to better use regional facilities and bring down wait times. We are committed to working with Bethesda on their capital requirements in order to continue meeting the needs of the community."

Ste. Anne Hospital is a bilingual facility that plays a major role in providing services to the many francophone and other residents living in the region, which has a growing population. Doer said expanding Ste. Anne Hospital means more francophone residents will be able to access bilingual services near home, as opposed to traveling to other centres. Once the redevelopment is complete, the hospital will be able to conduct 360 diagnostic tests and perform 320 surgeries per year—twice the current capacity.

Today's announcement builds on earlier efforts by the NDP to upgrade services at Ste. Anne's Hospital. In 2002, investments were made to restore general surgeries at the hospital, as well as upgrade the patient-care wing and add two new birthing rooms.

"We cannot go back to the days of cutbacks to rural health centres, which forced patients to travel farther for health care, and drove doctors and nurses out of the system," Doer said.

BACKGROUNDER

In the '90s, generally the only place to get a CT scan or MRI was in Winnipeg. 1,500 nurses and over 100 doctors left Manitoba. Now Manitobans are receiving better care sooner with diagnostic tests and cancer treatment in their home communities. Rural health is a priority to Today's NDP, among our accomplishments:

- Building and renovating hospitals and health care centres throughout the province, including in Brandon, Swan River, Thompson, The Pas, Beausejour, Pinawa, Gimli, Morden/Winkler, Ste. Anne, Steinbach and Shoal Lake.
- Adding CT scanners to Brandon, Steinbach, Thompson, The Pas, Selkirk, Morden-Winkler and Portage la Prairie. In the 1990s patients had to travel to Winnipeg for a CT scan.
- Adding six MRIs, including the first MRI outside of Winnipeg in Brandon and a second coming soon to Boundary Trail, as well as a dedicated MRI for kids at Children's Hospital.
- Purchasing 160 new ambulances, most for rural and northern Manitoba, and building a new ambulance coordination centre in Brandon. The NDP has also made ambulance transfers between hospitals free, with Manitoba patients saving about \$7.2 million per year.
- Expanding medical school to 100 spaces from 70 in 1999, and introducing incentives to encourage medical students to work in rural Manitoba. The Tories cut medical school spaces from 85 to 70 in the 1990s.
- Attracting 57 doctors to rural Manitoba, according to the College of Physicians & Surgeons. Manitoba lost over 100 doctors in the 1990s.
- Filling 208 nursing positions since July 2004 through a new program that provides incentives to those practicing in rural and northern Manitoba. We have expanded rural and northern nurse training, including 50 new spaces at the University College of the North.
- Building new community cancer programs in Neepawa, Russell and Hamiota and moving forward to create new centres in Deloraine and Pinawa. We are building a linear accelerator in Brandon.
- Expanding dialysis treatment in rural and northern Manitoba with new units in the Island Lake communities, Norway House and Swan River. Today's NDP has also committed to building new dialysis units at Peguis/Hodgson, Gimli and Berens River First Nations.



Today's NDP to eliminate small business tax

May 10, 2007, Brandon—Manitoba will become the first province in Canada to implement a plan to completely eliminate the small business tax, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Small businesses are the backbone of Manitoba's economy and we have made tremendous progress in reducing the small business tax rate since coming into office," the premier said. "In 1999, Manitoba had one of the highest small business tax rates in the country. Today, we have the lowest small business rate in Canada, tied with Alberta, as a result of a long-term plan to keep taxes affordable for Manitoba businesses."



Doer made the announcement today in Brandon at a forum sponsored by the Brandon Chamber of Commerce. Today's NDP has the track record to deliver on tax cuts for business and move Manitoba forward, Doer said, noting:

- In 1999 when the Conservatives left office, Manitoba had the second-highest small business tax rate in the country at eight per cent.
- In 2007, Manitoba's reduced small business tax rate is three per cent, and the income threshold had been doubled to \$400,000, making more businesses eligible for the lower tax rate. Budget 2007 also announced plans to reduce the small business tax rate to two per cent in 2008 and one per cent in 2009.
- In 2010, Manitoba's small business tax will be eliminated in cooperation with the federal government. The move will benefit about 80 per cent of Manitoba corporations who qualify as small businesses.

"Today's announcement builds on our record of cutting taxes across the board—for individuals and families, for homeowners and renters, and for business both large and small," Doer said. "We have shown that we can continue to reduce taxes, balance our budgets and make annual debt payments while continuing to invest in health care, education, infrastructure and other areas that are important to Manitoba."



Moving forward with more made-in-Manitoba music, movies and art

May 11, 2007—Manitoba's vibrant and growing arts and culture community is taking centre stage with a new, three-point strategy that boosts support for film and television production, the music recording industry and urban arts organizations, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

The plan recognizes that Manitoba has an art, music and film industry that is second to none. Cultural industries are vital to Manitoba—helping put the province on the map and contributing to economic growth, Doer said. Today's \$1-million investment is about helping new artists and musicians grow into the successes of tomorrow.

"Over the years, Manitoba's arts community has raised the profile of our province on the national and international stage. Our diverse and thriving arts scene also makes Manitoba an exciting place for youth," the premier said. "Today, we are providing new support for young and emerging artists to help them further develop their talents and continue taking them to the world stage."

Today's announcement builds on this week's pledge to introduce a new 40-per-cent New Media Tax Credit to support young entrepreneurs in Manitoba's growing new media industry, which includes video games, computer animation, web development, visual effects, and music and sound processing. Today's NDP will provide further support for:

Lights, Camera, Action

- New support for local filmmakers who are trying to get their productions off the ground. Emerging productions will be supported by adding \$500,000 to the Film and Television Production Equity Investment program run by Manitoba Film and Sound. It builds on Manitoba's highly-competitive film tax credit, which has helped to grow the province's film industry to more than \$100 million annually.
- New funding of \$100,000 to the National Screen Institute (NSI) for Aboriginal film training programs to increase opportunities for young Aboriginal Manitobans in the film industry. The funding will support two programs, New Voices and Story Tellers, and will train more young Manitobans to fill the rising demand for local TV and film crew members. Building a larger talent pool in Manitoba also helps to attract more national and international film and TV productions to our province.



Taking Care of Business

- New support of \$200,000 to help local recording artists boost their profile in local, national and international music markets. The funding will provide touring support, marketing support and access to markets. It will be shared by MFS and the Manitoba Audio Recording Industry Association (MARIA).
- The new investment builds on the growing success of Manitoba's recording industry. Our province will host the Canadian Country Music Association Awards in 2008, following the success of the Western Canadian Music Awards in 2006 and the Juno Awards in 2005.



Urban Art and Soul

- Doubling support for the Urban Arts Program to \$400,000 annually to support a wide range of creative programming, from music and theatre, to the performing and visual arts. This program will support community organizations such as Gas Station Theatre, Graffiti Art Gallery, Art City, Ndinawe and the West End Cultural Centre.

Doer said Manitoba is known for its vibrant and exciting arts scene. World-class organizations such as the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Manitoba Theatre Centre and Winnipeg Art Gallery are known for their national and international achievements. Today's NDP supports these organizations with strong funding commitments that make Manitoba one of the top supporters of the arts in Canada.

"The kind of investments we are making here today will help develop the young and emerging talents, and continue to build our creative community and cultural industry," he said. "The new talents we support today will be the ones who will star on the stage and screen tomorrow."

Manitoba has also become an attractive location for world-class filmmakers—with the industry growing from less than \$40 million annually in 1999 to more than \$100 million for the last four years straight. Popular movies filmed here include:

- The Lookout
- Capote (Academy Award winner)
- Shall We Dance
- The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford
- The Stone Angel
- The Saddest Music in the World
- A Bear Named Winnie
- Elijah
- The Good Life



Moving forward with new dialysis treatment in Berens River

May 11, 2007, Berens River First Nation—Today's NDP will construct a dialysis unit in this remote community on the east side of Lake Winnipeg in order to provide residents of Berens River First Nation and the surrounding area with improved access to dialysis services, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

By providing dialysis services in the First Nation's community, Berens River residents and others living in the region will have access to state-of-the-art health care without having to move to Winnipeg for needed services.

"Our number one priority is health care and we are committed to improving care all across Manitoba," the premier said. "We realize that providing quality care closer to home greatly improves the quality of life for people receiving treatment and reduces the stress and inconvenience of having to travel for care."

Today's announcement commits \$3.5 million to build a two-station dialysis unit that will cost \$680,000 to operate. It will operate in conjunction with the Manitoba Renal Program, and will include diabetes education and prevention initiatives. Hemodialysis treatments are currently provided at 17 locations in Manitoba, with plans to increase to 20 locations.

Today's announcement builds on previous actions on diabetes, including the expansion of dialysis services in rural and northern Manitoba. Last week, the NDP announced new dialysis services and prevention programs in Gimli and for Peguis First Nation. Since 1999, Today's NDP has:

- Established the first on-reserve dialysis unit in Canada at Norway House.
- Worked with the community and federal government to open a \$5.2-million renal health and treatment unit in Garden Hill. The Health Council of Canada singled out this dialysis and diabetes prevention initiative as a "catalyst for change" and it has become a national model for overcoming barriers to diabetes care and prevention.
- Opened a dialysis unit in Swan River.
- Launched the \$6-million Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative. The Alliance for the Prevention of Chronic Disease gave our government an Award of Recognition for this innovative prevention initiative.



Today's NDP moves forward with East Side protection

May 11, 2007, Poplar River First Nation—Today's NDP will move forward to protect the East Side of Lake Winnipeg by introducing a new legislative tool for protecting designated areas and implementing land use plans, Premier Gary Doer announced today.



The proposed legislation will create a new protected areas designation, which would allow East Side First Nations to create and implement their land-use plans and ensure the area is protected in a way that is consistent with the establishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

"Our current legislation does not fit the needs of First Nations communities who are eager to move forward with land-use plans that balance the protection of the area's sensitive environment with other development needs," the premier said.

The new legislation will be drafted in consultation with First Nations and will encourage communities like Poplar River First Nation to implement their land-use plan and continue working toward the creation of a UNESCO world heritage site, while permanently protecting Poplar-Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve. The new designation would elevate the protection status of the reserve, a 770,000-hectare boreal forest larger than Prince Edward Island.

The forest recently gained international recognition when community activist Sophia Rabliauskas was awarded the \$125,000 Goldman Environmental Prize for her work on the reserve. The Goldman is considered the most prestigious international environmental award, presented to one person from each continent each year in recognition of grassroots work.

"This unique legislation will allow leaders like Sophia to continue their work to protect and sustainably manage Poplar River's forests, wildlife and other natural resources," Doer said. "The boreal forest plays a vital role in reducing the impact of climate change and is home to wolves, bears and some of the world's largest remaining herds of woodland caribou. We are pleased to support the work of Poplar River and help it to continue."

"We have a responsibility to care for the land that sustains our life. Our Elders have always believed that how we treat our land today will affect the health of the planet and the lives of many generations to come. It is critical that we fulfill that responsibility," said Rabliauskas.

Poplar River became the first East Side First Nation to complete their land-use plan in 2004. In consultation with the NDP, interim-protection status was extended for Poplar-Nanowin Rivers Park Reserve in 2004.



Moving forward with an expanded rec centre for Southdale

May 12, 2007—Today's NDP is joining the team effort in Southdale to expand the recreation centre in the rapidly-growing south Winnipeg community, and help kids and families become even more active, Premier Gary Doer announced yesterday.

Today's NDP pledged a one-third commitment to the Southdale Recreation Association for a new rec centre that will allow for more mini-soccer, hockey and ringette, as well as more drop-in programs for youth and seniors, and a new youth volleyball program. The pledge is part of the NDP's new \$60 million commitment for community recreation facilities across the province.



"Manitoba children and youth are leading through activity, and the community is leading through their efforts. We want to support this leadership and be part of the effort to provide more opportunities for people of all ages," the premier said. "Rec centres are an important part of every community, helping us get active and stay active."

Doer said the Southdale rec centre expansion is exactly the kind of project Today's NDP had in mind when it decided to double funding for community centres over the next four years. Southdale's population has increased by 70 per cent in recent years and the current rec facility is now operating at maximum capacity.

"One of the first things our candidate, Erin Selby, talked about is the importance of making sure our rec facilities continue to grow with the community of Southdale and better meet the needs of the residents in the area," he said. "We are committed to being part of the team that will get this project done."

Today's announcement builds on a strong record of community partnerships, Doer said, noting that over the past seven years, the NDP government has invested \$50 million in building and revitalizing recreation and sport centres across Manitoba. These include investing in new and expanding rec centres such as the Red River Community Centre in north Winnipeg, the St. James-Assiniboia Centennial Pool and Wellness Centre, Norquay Spray Park, Bronx Park Community Centre, Sargent Park Recreation Complex, Kildonan Park Urban Oasis, as well as YMCA-YWCA projects in both the north and south end of the city.

"We are thrilled to be working with community leaders who bring a 'can-do' attitude to the table and share our vision of ensuring Manitoba remains one of the best places to work, live and play."



Moving forward with more books, improved library service

May 13, 2007—Today's NDP will create up to 16 new libraries, modernize book collections and computer technology at existing libraries, and launch a unique new program to help more young Manitobans take up reading at an early age, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Libraries are important public resources and cornerstones in their individual communities. Today's announcement is about providing families and children with more reading opportunities, and bringing new libraries to a growing number of communities," said Doer, who made the announcement with Inkster candidate Romulo Magsino.

"Libraries are not only important resources for reading and learning, they are essential public Internet access points," added Magsino, a professor and dean emeritus of education at the University of Manitoba. "Access to libraries and books is important to improve literacy levels and help people acquire the job skills needed to be successful in our booming economy."

Today's NDP will move forward with \$750,000 for library improvements across the province to ensure 95 per cent of Manitobans have access to libraries, up from 83 per cent today.

More Babies with Books

- The new Reading for Life early literacy program will begin this fall, developed in conjunction with the literacy community and parent-child coalitions. Funded in Budget 2007, the \$100,000 program will provide books to parents of each newborn in Manitoba to encourage reading at the earliest possible age.

More Books, Better Technology

- Libraries in Winnipeg, rural and northern Manitoba will receive \$450,000 in new support to modernize their book collections and technology, such as computers and Internet access.
- Winnipeg's 20 branches will each receive new support, which will complement earlier investments in modernizing technology at the Millennium Library.
- Rural and northern libraries will be better supported with the creation of a permanent

Rural and Northern Technology Fund. This builds on the \$1.1-million one-time fund that was created in 2006 to help libraries stay current with new books and technology, such as computers, printers and Internet access points.



New Libraries in Rural, Northern and Aboriginal Communities

- Start-up grants of \$10,000 for municipalities to create up to 10 new libraries, building on Budget 2007 support for new libraries in Selkirk, and the RMs of Swan River and Alexander.
- New libraries for six additional First Nations, expanding the current pilot project that is on-reserve in Rolling River, Peguis and Nelson House. The program will cost \$200,000 and efforts will focus on expanding existing resources like school libraries.

Today's announcement builds on recent NDP investments in libraries including working with others to build the new Millennium Library downtown, and increasing funding for community-based adult literacy and adult learning centres.



Moving forward with further action to relieve ER pressure

May 14, 2007—Today's NDP will expand community-based intravenous therapy in north-east Winnipeg as part of an overall strategy to relieve the pressure on hospital emergency wards, Premier Gary Doer announced today at an event where he also expressed concern about "reckless" Tory tax-cut promises.



"We've seen the Tories make some pretty expensive and outlandish tax-cut promises this election, without explaining how they would pay for them. All while saying health care won't be their top priority," Doer said. "We know that health care must remain a top priority if we are to keep moving the system forward."

While in Radisson, Doer announced an expansion of community-based intravenous therapy in north-east Winnipeg. This means that about 130 outpatients requiring antibiotic IV treatment will be treated at the newly-opened ACCESS Transcona, instead of the ER at St. Boniface General Hospital. ERs typically have the responsibility for providing outpatient IV treatment for a variety of ailments such as bone and skin diseases, pneumonia and ulcers.

Today's announcement builds on the experience of a successful 2005 pilot project in which Concordia Hospital began referring outpatients requiring IV treatment to ACCESS River East. Since then, the number of scheduled ER visits to Concordia dropped nearly 50 per cent. Expanding the program to ACCESS Transcona this fall will cost about \$780,000, which is provided for in Budget 2007.

"When it comes to improving health care, we have to keep innovating and working with nurses, doctors and front-line professionals on new ideas," Doer said. "We have made progress in recent years, but we can never declare the job done. Health care is simply too complex and too important to be anything less than our top priority."

Today's announcement is part of the NDP's bold new strategy for continuing to improve ER care. Earlier in the campaign, Doer announced a major ER strategy that included increasing the number of specialists, ER doctors and front-line staff, as well as building the first mental health ER in Canada to take the pressure off traditional ERs.

"We have made meaningful and positive changes since 1999, with 180 more doctors and 1,589 more nurses now working in the system. We have modernized health care facilities and hospitals across the province, and dramatically increased the number of MRIs, CT scans and other diagnostic tests. Today's NDP is committed to keep building the system for the future."

Forward, not back
Building a great future for Manitoba families



Moving forward in partnership with Aboriginal Manitobans

May 15, 2007—Today's NDP will establish a new capital improvement fund for Indian and Metis Friendship Centres across Manitoba, Premier Gary Doer pledged today during a leaders' debate on NCI FM. 

Doer said the announcement of \$250,000 a year for friendship centres over four years is part of the NDP's commitment to continue working with Aboriginal Manitobans on priorities such as implementing the Kelowna Accord and "closing the gap for Aboriginal people," and expanding recreation, education and economic development opportunities.

"In the 1990s, the Tories cut funding for friendships centres, and in the 2003 campaign they said they would cancel support for University College of the North. When combined with their reckless tax-cut promises, we cannot trust that the Tories will support the priorities of Aboriginal Manitobans," Doer said.

Doer noted that plans are underway to expand UCN facilities in The Pas, build a new teaching facility in Thompson and establish two new regional centres on reserve at Grand Rapids and Oxford House. This would expand the network to 14 centres, including nine on First Nations.

Today's NDP outlined a number of other initiatives during this election campaign that have a direct impact on Aboriginal Manitobans. Today's NDP will: 

- **Create 4,000 new apprenticeship training opportunities**, building on the success of the past four years in which Manitoba has tripled the number of Aboriginal apprentices. The NDP have also supported targeted programs such as the hydro pre-project training initiative, which has trained 1,200 Aboriginal people.
- **Train more Aboriginal doctors** by introducing new scholarships for Aboriginal medical students at the U of M. The annual scholarships will provide \$7,000 each to six students.
- **Add new dialysis units and prevention programs** on Berens River First Nation and adjacent to Peguis First Nation at Hodgson. This builds on earlier dialysis expansions including the first on-reserve dialysis unit in Canada at Norway House and nationally-recognized renal health and treatment unit in Garden Hill.
- **Introduce legislation to create a new protected-areas designation**, which would allow East Side First Nations like Poplar River to create and implement their 

land-use plans and ensure the area is protected in a way that is consistent with the establishment of a UNESCO World Heritage Site on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

- **Invest \$165 million over five years on vital roads** in northern and remote communities, including \$15 million for Rice River Road, the first leg of an all-weather road up the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, as well as other key routes serving Aboriginal communities, such as Hwy 6, PR 283 west of Opaskwayak Cree Nation and PR 384 to Moose Lake. The NDP is also supporting other transportation projects such as the St. Theresa Point-Wasamack Airport project.
- **Support for Aboriginal Manitobans working in the film industry.** New funding of \$100,000 to the National Screen Institute will help train more young Aboriginal Manitobans to fill the rising demand for local TV and film crew members.
- **Invest in new libraries for six additional First Nations,** with \$200,000 to expand the current pilot project that is on-reserve in Rolling River, Peguis and Nelson House.

Doer said Today's NDP has a track record of progress when it comes to working with Aboriginal people. Over the past seven years, the NDP has partnered with Aboriginal leaders on major economic projects including the construction of Wuskwatim hydroelectric generating station, the upcoming Conawapa project, and the expansion of the Red River Floodway.

Today's NDP recently signed an agreement with Firespirit, an MKO project which will provide support for job training and referral services in the north. Budget 2007 announced a new Metis Economic Development Strategy, established a First Nations Economic Development Fund, and expanded the Northern Healthy Food Initiative to five additional communities.

"Moving forward, our vision is to continue working with Aboriginal Manitobans to improve housing, roads and water infrastructure, create new opportunities for youth and economic development, and deliver better services. This is a vision we share with Aboriginal people, and we will continue to build on the progress of the past seven years."

Today's NDP has also worked with Aboriginal communities to restore funding to Friendship Centres, remove the northern patient transport fee, create Telehealth sites in remote communities, increase the northern food allowance, and provide the Healthy Baby benefit to mothers living in First Nations communities.



Moving forward with 2,500 child-care spaces

May 15, 2007—Today's NDP will create 2,500 newly-funded child-care spaces, set up a \$1-million training and recruitment fund for early childhood educators, and increase workers' salaries as part of a plan to give families more child-care options, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Child care is about caring and educating children, supporting families and building stronger communities," the premier said. "Child care is also an important part of our strategy to break down barriers for parents, particularly women, to returning to work."

Today's announcement builds on the NDP's strong record on child care, which includes delivering more than 7,000 newly-funded spaces since 1999. Moving forward, Today's NDP will invest an additional \$11 million over 2008 and 2009 to:

- Create 2,500 newly-funded child-care spaces over those two years.
- Set up a \$1-million training and recruitment fund for early childhood educators (ECEs).
- Increase operating grants to allow for a six per cent salary increase—three per cent in both 2008 and 2009.

Today's announcement is in addition to child-care commitments contained in Budget 2007, which adds 500 newly-funded spaces, increases ECE salaries by two per cent, and provides \$2.8 million more in capital for expansion and construction of facilities.

Doer said the NDP has the track record to keep building the child-care system. Over the past seven years, the NDP has funded an additional 7,160 child-care spaces, bringing the total to 23,600 spaces. In addition, 700 ECEs have been trained, and wages have increased by a total of 23 per cent since 1999.

"We have made tremendous progress and it began with the recognition that parents must have access to quality, safe, affordable and accessible child care," Doer said. "We also must address the issue of recruitment and retention of early childhood educators and today's announcement takes an important step in a positive direction."

The premier also committed to press the federal government to come to the table to work with provinces, parents and the child-care community to create more spaces. The NDP backfilled \$14 million in cancelled federal funds in Budget 2007—funding that had already

been used to create child-care spaces in Winnipeg, rural and northern Manitoba.

“We have lived up to our child care commitments and we will continue to stand up for Manitoba families and press Ottawa to develop a vision for child care that meets the needs of all of our families,” Doer said, adding any further commitments from the federal government will go towards creating more spaces.

The premier also said that a re-elected NDP government will work with the child-care community to introduce system planning to better meet the diverse needs of Manitoba families.

“We know how important quality, accessible child care is to Manitoba families and we are committed to moving the system forward and continuing to build on the progress of the past seven years,” he said.

“Making reckless tax-cut promises, like the Tories, is not the way to deliver on the priorities of Manitobans—priorities such as more child care spaces, more nurses and doctors, and more police officers and after school programs for kids.”

Doer said that when it comes to supporting families, Today’s NDP has delivered by:

- Fully restoring the National Child Benefit, returning nearly \$14 million annually to families in need and reversing the Tory clawback of the benefit in the 1990s.
- Creating a new Manitoba Child Benefit to support low-income families and to help break down the “welfare wall” that stands between parents wanting to re-enter the workforce.
- Starting the Healthy Baby program to support the special nutritional needs of mothers and babies.



Moving forward with new research and training opportunities for youth

May 16, 2007—Today's NDP and Red River College will build a new training centre that will provide leading-edge research opportunities for youth in Manitoba's green energy economy, increase job training opportunities, and ensure our growing economy has the skilled workers it needs, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Increasing training opportunities is the number-one priority for business and it has been our number one priority since coming into office," the premier said. "We must keep moving forward to address the research and training needs of our growing economy, which includes emerging clean and green energy industries."

Manitoba's economy is expected to grow by 3.6 per cent in 2007, third in Canada behind Alberta and Newfoundland, according to the Conference Board of Canada. More skilled workers are needed for major capital projects such as the Red River Floodway expansion, the construction of the Wuskwatim hydroelectric generating station, and Manitoba's \$2-billion, five-year roads and highways improvement plan.

Red River College's new Heavy Equipment Training Centre will cost \$15 million to build, provided for in the 2007 capital budget, and will increase training spaces by more than three times the number in 1999. It builds on earlier pledges to create 4,000 new apprenticeship spaces, including about 2,500 at RRC, and to further expand Manitoba's clean energy sector.

The new training centre will support Manitoba's growing green energy economy by conducting applied research and advanced training in leading-edge technologies such as biodiesel, ethanol, hydrogen and electric hybrids, hydrogen fuel cells, and emissions and cold-weather testing. The centre, which will be double its current size, will also house a permanent hydrogen fueling station for hydrogen buses.

"We are investing in developing biofuels, hydrogen and electric technology, and other alternative energies," Doer said. "We need to ensure we are training Manitobans to fill the jobs of tomorrow."

More skilled workers are also needed to support Manitoba's thriving transportation cluster. Yesterday, Statistics Canada released the latest manufacturing shipment data, which included strong gains for Manitoba's transportation equipment industries. The province's

manufacturing shipments were up 11.5 per cent in March, the second-highest increase in Canada, and well above the Canadian average of 2.8 per cent.

With New Flyer Industries and Motorcoach Industries, Manitoba is the bus manufacturing capital of North America. The province is also a leader in trucking, boasting about 430 companies, 33,000 direct and indirect jobs and a \$1.2-billion industry. The existing centre at RRC has already been involved in new research projects like road testing the hydrogen-powered bus built in Manitoba by New Flyer. The new centre will give students, instructors and industry a top-level facility in which to do their work, Doer said.

"These types of programs give students hands-on experience with leading-edge technologies and help drive innovations in business," he added.

The centre currently offers pre-employment training programs such as heavy duty equipment mechanic and outdoor power equipment technician. Apprenticeships offered include transport truck and bus mechanics, plus a new product training program that helps workers upgrade their skills as new products enter the market. 

The new centre will also conduct applied research in heavy duty equipment, bringing students, instructors and industry together to work on practical research. This increased focus on applied research builds on last month's announcement of RRC's new Centre for Applied Research in Sustainable Infrastructure (CARSI).

"Bringing industry and students together to work on research and train for the jobs of the future is the best way to provide exciting new opportunities for youth, while meeting the needs of business," Doer said, noting the centre will also help meet the growing needs for skilled workers to work on major capital investments now underway in Manitoba.

"We are building and modernizing infrastructure across our province, from the new hydro building downtown, to hydro projects like Wuskwatim and Conawapa in the north. These major projects require more skilled workers and we are pleased to be joining forces with Red River College to train more of our youth for the jobs of tomorrow."

The new centre will be built to the LEED standard of energy and environmental efficiency.



1,500 scientists urge saving Canada's boreal forest

May 17, 2007—This week 1,500 scientists from around the world are pleading with Canada to save our boreal forest, underscoring the irresponsibility of Hugh McFadyen's threat to force a new bipole transmission line through the pristine East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

"Canada's boreal forest is the largest intact forest and wetland ecosystem in the world, home to billions of species and a major source of freshwater," said Conservation Minister Stan Struthers. "For the sake of our planet, governments have a responsibility to protect this national treasure, not desecrate it as the Conservatives are proposing."

Scientists from more than 50 countries recognize the importance of protecting our boreal forest from development, but Hugh McFadyen either refuses to listen or simply doesn't get it. McFadyen's plans to cut a wide swath hundreds of kilometres long through this untouched ecosystem flies in the face of sound science and common sense.

The NDP has pledged that no hydro development will take place on the East Side and is working in partnership with First Nations to ensure Manitoba's vast boreal forest is protected. Under the NDP 80 community consultations have taken place with East-Side residents. There is no consensus support for a hydro line down the East Side.

The East Side of Lake Winnipeg is a proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site. In February, four First Nations and the governments of Manitoba and Ontario announced the formation of Pimachiowin-Aki, a new non-profit corporation working to secure the UNESCO designation.

This week as well, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's environmental advisor, Terry Tamminen, prominently singled out Manitoba's action as an example of leadership on climate change, adding to Manitoba's and California's ongoing partnership in advancing this vital area.



Moving forward with innovations in health care

May 17, 2007—Today's NDP will build a new centre for children with special needs and disabilities, and a new health care clinic in west Winnipeg to provide residents in the area with better access to primary and community care, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"Today's announcement is about continuing to modernize, innovate and build our health care system for the benefit of Manitobans and their families," the premier said. "It's about continuing to put health care first."



Today's NDP will continue to move health care forward by:

Building a new centre for children and youth with special needs

- The existing Rehabilitation Centre for Children will be replaced with a new, expanded facility that will amalgamate services for children and youth with disabilities and special needs under one roof.
- The new and expanded facility will address recommendations by families and community organizations to bring all services together, known as the SSCY project. Families and community groups will continue to be part of the initiative, including input into site selection.
- The new facility will make it possible for families to access a wide range of services in one convenient location. This will help reduce travel and wait times for families, who currently receive specialized services at a variety of locations.
- The existing rehabilitation centre is an outpatient facility that receives more than 22,000 visits per year, but is too small to be expanded. The new facility will receive more than 100,000 visits per year. \$10 million has been provided for in the health capital plan, plus \$2.5 million in new funding for operating costs.

Building a new health care clinic in west Winnipeg

- The new ACCESS centre will provide one-stop shopping for health and social services for residents living in St. James, helping to take the pressure off Grace General Hospital.
- The new centre will provide a wide range of services and professional staff including doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, home care workers, mental health workers, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers and other staff support for seniors, supported living, employment and income assistance, housing and child care.

- The centre will further build the network that includes ACCESS River East (opened 2004), the Seventh Street Health ACCESS Centre in Brandon (opened 2004), ACCESS Transcona (opened 2006) and the recently-announced ACCESS Northwest, which offer health care services right in the neighborhoods they serve.
- The centre will cost \$3.5 million to build. Planning will begin immediately, with tenders expected to go out in 2008. The centre will be developed in consultation with doctors in the local community, including at Assiniboine Clinic.

"Both the new centre for children and youth and the new health centre in west Winnipeg builds on the approach we have been taking to better coordinate services, improve care for families, and take the pressure off hospitals," Doer said.

The experience with the River East ACCESS Centre has been very positive. A 2004 survey revealed that 96 per cent of clients rated their experience as good or excellent.

Today's announcement builds on a campaign that has featured health care as its top priority. Today's NDP has committed to building a new women's hospital at HSC, building a women and children's health centre in south Winnipeg, dedicating a new MRI for children, innovating emergency room care, and adding 100 doctors and 700 nurses.

Doer noted that any plan to increase front-line workers must include investing in state-of-the-art facilities and leading-edge equipment, as both help attract and keep doctors, nurses and other professionals working in Manitoba.

Over the past seven years, the NDP has modernized health care facilities right across the province including Health Sciences Centre, Brandon Regional Health Centre, Seven Oaks General Hospital, Victoria General Hospital and Swan Valley Health Centre. The NDP has also doubled the number of CT Scanners to 20, and increased the number of MRIs by five.

Taken together, these measures have helped rebuild Manitoba's health care system and put it back on stable footing following cutbacks in the 1990s.

"The Tories say health care shouldn't be Manitoba's top priority. This attitude is what drove more than 1,500 nurses and more than 100 doctors out of the system when the Conservatives were last in office," Doer said. "Now they are promising reckless tax cuts. We can't go back to the days when health care was the victim of cutbacks and firings."



Moving forward with more diagnostic testing in Brandon

May 18, 2007, Brandon—Today's NDP will help reduce wait times and advance diagnostic testing in Brandon by adding a new echocardiogram and ultrasound machine at the Brandon Regional Health Centre, Premier Gary Doer announced today.



“Our track record, our vision and our commitment to Brandon is to work with residents on their priorities,” the premier said. “Today’s announcement continues our approach of modernizing health care services and reducing wait times for Brandon residents and their families.”

Today’s NDP will move health care forward in Brandon by investing \$500,000 from the existing medical equipment budget for:

- A new echocardiogram, giving Brandon its second, and allowing for twice as many tests to be performed: 3,600 up from 1,800.
- A new, state-of-the-art ultrasound machine to replace Brandon’s current machine, which is outdated.
- A dedicated ultrasound sonographer to conduct the tests, which are interpreted by a cardiologist. Brandon has two cardiologists, up from one in 1999.

Today’s announcement builds on a campaign that has featured health care as its top priority. Today’s NDP has committed to supporting the new wellness centre at Brandon University, and adding two new pediatric residency positions, as well as a dedicated pharmacist for the ER to better assist doctors and nurses in handling the large number of medication-related ER visits.

These announcements continue the momentum of adding more front-line health care workers in Brandon. Earlier this month, the Brandon Regional Health Authority announced that three new emergency room doctors have agreed to come to work in the ER, building on the more than 180 new doctors and 95 additional specialists recruited for Manitoba since 1999.

Doer noted that any plan to increase front-line workers must include investing in state-of-the-art facilities and leading-edge equipment, and both help attract and keep doctors, nurses and other professionals working in Manitoba. He said adding new equipment to Brandon’s newly-redeveloped hospital is evidence of this strategy in action.

An echocardiogram is a test in which ultrasound is used to examine the heart, using sound waves to create a moving picture. The picture is more detailed than an x-ray and involves no radiation exposure. Ultrasound also involves using sound waves to produce pictures of the organs and other areas of the body.

Doer said the Tories' "reckless" tax cut promises, which the Conservative leader has estimated at \$800 million, will make improving health care impossible. He gave some examples of what \$800 million in tax cuts would cost Manitobans.



- It is worth 9,000 police officers, or 11,000 nurses.
- It could be used to build 12 new hospitals or more than 70 schools.
- It is more than the entire health care budget for rural and northern Manitoba.
- It is more than every cent invested in post-secondary education—equaling all grants for universities and colleges, all apprenticeships, and every single bursary and scholarship.
- It is equal to two years of Manitoba's entire highways construction budget. Doer said Today's NDP is the party to work with Brandon to move forward, noting that in 1999, Brandon residents had lost confidence in government after the Conservatives promised seven times—and failed to deliver—on a redeveloped Brandon Regional Health Centre.

Today, the \$58-million redevelopment of the Brandon Regional Health Centre is complete, as a result of work by the NDP government and Brandon's health authority. Brandon has an MRI, the first outside of Winnipeg, as well as a new CT scanner. Planning for a linear accelerator is currently underway, allowing Brandon to become a regional centre for cancer treatment.



Moving forward with support for children with learning disabilities

May 18, 2007, Russell—Today's NDP will provide more resources for students with learning disabilities in rural and northern Manitoba, Premier Gary Doer announced today.

"This commitment recognizes that it is more difficult for schools in rural and northern communities to provide adequate resources for students with learning disabilities," the premier said. "This investment will improve the quality of education for children and youth, and is an important part of ensuring all Manitoba students have access to learning opportunities."



Today's NDP will invest \$1.5 million to help rural and northern school divisions provide additional support for students with learning disabilities.

This pledge builds on the NDP's 3.3-per-cent increase in funding for public schools this year—the largest funding increase in 17 years. For 2007, \$8 million in new funding has already been earmarked in the budget for high-need special-needs students. Today's announcement will provide additional, targeted support for rural and northern students.

Today's announcement also builds on the NDP's support for special needs children and youth. In 2005, Today's NDP introduced Bill 13, the Public Schools Amendment Act, which enshrined the right of special needs students to receive appropriate educational programming. Today's NDP has also increased special needs funding by more than 46 per cent since 1999.

"We know that we need to provide additional support for our most vulnerable children in order to ensure that they receive the educational opportunities they deserve," Doer said.

"Today's NDP has the plan and the vision to move Manitoba forward and focus on the priorities of Manitoba families. The reckless tax-cut promises of the Conservatives would put our province in a position where we could not afford to make these kinds of important investments in families and children."



Reckless Conservative tax-cut promises put health care, front-line workers at risk

May 18, 2007—Today's NDP would hire more doctors, nurses and police officers, put health care first, protect Manitoba Hydro from privatization and build a clean energy economy, Premier Gary Doer said in a breakfast speech that also expressed concern over the Conservatives' reckless tax-cut promises.

"This election is extremely important to Manitoba's future. It is about continuing to move Manitoba forward and build on our successes," the premier said. "We have made significant progress on a variety of fronts, but the reckless tax cuts of our opponents will put our province and our priorities—health care, hydro and water—at risk."

The premier reiterated the major commitments made by Today's NDP during the election, including:

- Hiring 100 more doctors and 700 new nurses.
- Adding 100 new police officers, 20 more prosecutors and opening more after-school programs for kids.
- Increasing job training, adding 4,000 apprenticeship spaces and creating new research opportunities for youth.
- Continuing to build a green economy with more hydro, wind and biodiesel, and the first stage of an east-west power grid.
- Building new health care facilities including a new women's hospital at Health Sciences Centre, and a new women and children's health centre in south Winnipeg.
- Protecting and conserving our natural resources with a new Water Smart program.
- Saving homeowners and renters \$250 in education property taxes through a new plan to fund public schools at 80 per cent.
- Creating 2,500 newly-funded child care spaces, plus more funding for wages.
- Committing \$60 million for recreation facilities, community clubs and soccer fields across the province.
- Creating more long-term care spaces and a new caregivers tax credit to help families who care for seniors or the disabled in their own homes.

The premier warned that Conservative tax-cut promises, which the Conservative leader has estimated at \$800 million, will make it impossible to hire more doctors, nurses and police officers.

“There is a lot at stake in this election. We have moved Manitoba forward on a variety of fronts but the reckless tax-cut promises of our opponents threaten to take us backwards. We cannot go back to the 1990s when Tory firings and cutbacks drove nurses and doctors out of the province.”

The premier gave some examples of what \$800 million in tax cuts would cost Manitobans.

- It is worth 9,000 police officers, or 11,000 nurses.
- It could be used to build 12 new hospitals or more than 70 schools.
- It is equal to the combined operating budgets of HSC, St. Boniface, Grace and Victoria hospitals.
- It is more than the combined budgets of Winnipeg Police Service and the Department of Justice.
- It is more than every cent invested in post-secondary education—equaling all grants for universities and colleges, all apprenticeships, and every single bursary and scholarship.
- It is equal to two years of Manitoba’s entire highways construction budget.

“When you combine Hugh McFadyen and the Conservatives’ reckless promises to cut taxes by \$800 million and their refusal to put health care first, you end up with a formula for moving Manitoba back,” Doer said, adding that Liberal Leader Jon Gerrard talks a good game, but consistently votes with the Conservatives on priorities like health care and the environment.

“Our commitments are in step with the priorities of Manitobans and they build on the progress of the past seven years. We have the vision, determination and track record to keep moving Manitoba forward.”



Moving forward with more opportunities for young people

May 19, 2007—Today's NDP will create 4,000 new apprenticeship training opportunities, build a new research training centre at Red River College, increase spaces at medical school, and continue its 60 per cent tuition rebate for graduates who stay and work in Manitoba, Premier Gary Doer said today in a speech to supporters.

The premier spoke to supporters at the downtown Red River College campus, where he reiterated the NDP's commitments to education and other key priorities of Manitobans, while expressing concern about the reckless tax-cut promises made by the Conservatives and Liberals during the election campaign.

"This election is important to our province's future. It is about building on our successes of the past seven years and continuing to move Manitoba forward," Doer said. "We have made significant progress in many key areas: education, child care, health care and protecting the environment. The reckless tax-cut promises of our opponents put our progress – and our future – at risk."

Manitoba has reversed the net loss of 2,600 young Manitobans in the 1990s with a net gain of 3,300 young people since 1999. Today's NDP has the vision, track record and determination to continue to build on this progress, Doer said. A re-elected NDP government will:

- Create 4,000 new apprenticeship training spaces.
- Introduce the first-ever new media tax credit for Manitoba's rapidly-growing industry, which includes video games, computer animation, web development, and visual effects.
- Continue with the 60 per cent tuition rebate for new graduates who stay in Manitoba.
- Provide support for local filmmakers, recording artists, and urban arts programming.
- Create 2,500 newly-funded child care spaces and increase operating grants to help increase wages for early childhood educators.
- Build a new training centre at RRC to provide leading-edge research opportunities in the green energy economy and increase job training.
- Increase nurse and doctor training with a goal of adding 700 more nurses and 100 more doctors to the system.
- Continue to build a green economy with more investments in hydro, wind and biodiesel, investments that power our economy and create new jobs.

The premier said it is reckless to promise deep tax cuts, which the Conservatives have estimated at \$800 million, and still expect to be able to hire more teachers and increase support for education. He said the Conservatives have not been able to explain how they would pay for their reckless tax-cut plan.

Doer said that the \$800 million in tax cuts promised by the Conservatives is such a staggering amount, it is more than every cent the provincial government invests in post-secondary education annually. This includes grants for universities and colleges, all apprenticeships, and every single bursary and scholarship. The provincial government's entire budget for post-secondary education in 2007 includes:

- University of Manitoba: \$234 million.
- University of Winnipeg: \$38 million.
- Brandon University: \$26 million.
- Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface: \$8 million.
- Red River College: \$51 million.
- Assiniboine Community College: \$15 million.
- University College of the North: \$17 million.
- Technical colleges: \$2.5 million.
- Bursaries and scholarships: \$10 million.
- College Expansion Initiative: \$33 million.
- 10 per cent Tuition Freeze and Reduction grants: \$14 million.
- Capital grants for universities and colleges: \$10.7 million.
- Access program: \$7.7 million.
- Apprenticeships and training: \$83.5 million.

- **TOTAL: \$550.4 million.**



Moving forward with new investments in health care

May 21, 2007—Today's NDP will add 700 more nurses and 100 doctors, establish a dedicated MRI for children and continue to modernize health care facilities by building a new women's hospital, a south Winnipeg women and children's health centre, and a new health care clinic in west Winnipeg.

Premier Gary Doer reiterated the NDP's election commitments today in a speech to supporters, where he continued to express concern that the Conservatives' reckless tax-cut promises would set the health care system back and reverse the progress of the past seven years.

"There is much at risk in this election," the premier said. "Today, we have put our health care system back on stable footing following the cutbacks and firings of the 1990s. Today, we have an opportunity to continue to put health care first, and move our system forward for the benefit of all Manitobans.

"The Conservatives say health care won't be their top priority. Then they say they will remove \$800 million from the budget by bringing in deep tax cuts. You cannot make cuts this deep without putting health care at risk."

Doer noted that \$800 million is equal to the combined annual budgets of the Grace Hospital (\$74 million), Concordia Hospital (\$58 million), Health Sciences Centre (\$402 million) and St. Boniface Hospital (\$239 million). \$800 million in tax cuts is also more than:

- \$237 million spent every year on home care.
- \$427 million for every personal care home bed in Manitoba.
- \$179 million budget for all community mental health care and community health clinics.
- \$50 million spent every year for ambulance services.
- \$655 million budget for all rural and northern health care services.
- \$58.5 million for all diabetes services.
- \$225 million for the entire Pharmacare budget.
- \$89 million for the entire Healthy Living budget.

Doer said the NDP's election commitments are about continuing to build and modernize the health care system including:

- Adding 700 more nurses and 100 more doctors to the system.
- Increasing the number of specialists, ER doctors and front-line staff, and build the first mental health ER in Canada to relieve the pressure on ERs.
- Building an ACCESS centre in west Winnipeg to help take the pressure off hospitals like Grace.
- Building a new women's hospital at Health Sciences Centre and a new south Winnipeg Women and Children's Health Centre.
- Establishing a dedicated MRI for children, and expand the allergy and asthma treatment program for children.
- Building a new centre for children and youth with special needs.
- Establishing new medical equipment across the province, including a new echocardiogram and ultrasound for Brandon, and dialysis units in Berens River, Gimli and near Peguis First Nation.

The premier said Today's NDP has the plan to keep moving Manitoba forward and build on the progress of the past seven years. In that time, Manitoba has added 1,589 new nurses—a dramatic turnaround that is in sharp contrast from the 1990s when 1,573 nurses left the province as a result of firings and health care cutbacks.

Manitoba has also added more than 180 doctors since taking office in 1999, with rural Manitoba gaining nearly 60 more doctors, according to the College of Physicians and Surgeons. More than 90 percent of family doctors who graduated in 2006 are staying in the province—a stark contrast to the 1990s when only 54 per cent of doctor grads stayed in the province.