

## Prairie Manifesto Project

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Province: ☐ Alberta ☐ Saskatchewan ☒ Manitoba

Party: NDP Election Year: 2003

AA = Alberta Alliance  
CON = Conservative Party  
LP = Liberal-Progressive Party  
PC = Progressive Conservative Party  
SKP = Saskatchewan Party  
UFM = United Farmers of Manitoba

CCF = Cooperative Commonwealth Federation  
LIB = Liberal Party  
NDP = New Democratic Party  
SC = Social Credit  
UFA = United Farmers of Alberta  
WCC = Western Canadian Concept

Type of Document:

- ☒ Platform ☐ Constitution  
☐ Speech ☐ Brochure / Leaflet  
☐ Newspaper ☐ Advertisement  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Collected: 2007 / 01 / 02  
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Source: The Party

AB = Alberta  
SK = Saskatchewan  
MB = Manitoba

UofA = University of Alberta  
UofC = University of Calgary  
UofR = University of Regina  
UofS = University of Saskatchewan  
UofM = University of Manitoba  
BU = Brandon University

PARC = Provincial Archives  
LEG = Legislative Library  
SPC = Special Collections  
ULIB = University Library

## J Wesley

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**From:** Wayne Copeland [wcopeland@todaysndp.mb.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 03, 2007 9:00 AM  
**To:** jjwesley@ucalgary.ca  
**Subject:** Emailing: Homecare, Arts\_Education, Burn\_Unit, Cancer\_Treatment, Manitoba\_Future, Take\_one, Fighting\_Crime, Technologists, Ag\_Research, Rural\_Strategy, Energy\_Affordability, Healthy\_Living, Call, Nursing\_Enrolment, Jobs\_Training, Northern\_Manitoba, moreto



Homecare.html



Arts\_Education.html



Burn\_Unit.html



Cancer\_Treatment.Manitoba\_Future.html



Take\_one.html



Fighting\_Crime.html



Technologists.html



Ag\_Research.html



Rural\_Strategy.htm



Energy\_Affordability.html



Healthy\_Living.html



Call.html



Nursing\_Enrolment.html



Jobs\_Training.html



Northern\_Manitoba.html



moretodo.html

Jared

Here are the News Releases from the 2003 campaign. I am working on the 99 campaign

Wayne Copeland

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Homecare  
Arts\_Education  
Burn\_Unit  
Cancer\_Treatment  
Manitoba\_Future  
Take\_one  
Fighting\_Crime  
Technologists  
Ag\_Research  
Rural\_Strategy  
Energy\_Affordability  
Healthy\_Living  
Call  
Nursing\_Enrolment  
Jobs\_Training  
Northern\_Manitoba  
moretodo

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

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## Five priorities for the next four years

Our plan for the next four years sets out five priorities that are realistic and achievable. Here they are:

### 1) We will continue to improve our health care system.

We will reduce waiting lists by educating and hiring more nurses, doctors and medical technologists, and investing in medical equipment and facilities. By the end of our term, we will be educating 3,000 nurses in Manitoba.

### 2) We will make it easier for young people to stay in Manitoba.

We will support the creation of new jobs, improve access to education, training and apprenticeship opportunities, freeze tuitions and expand bursaries, and invest in universities, colleges and public schools.

### 3) We will continue to strengthen and diversify our economy.

We will continue to build on the partnerships between business, labour and government, promote high tech industries, build new environmentally-responsible Hydro projects like Wuskwatim, develop alternative energy industries, and invest in rural infrastructure and environmental protection.

### 4) We will make our communities safer and more secure.

We will increase the number of police officers and crown prosecutors. We will double the number of school gyms open after hours and invest more in recreational facilities to provide positive alternatives for our kids.

### 5) We will make Manitoba an even more affordable place to live.

We will continue to balance the budget and reduce provincial debt. We will make affordable tax cuts for middle-income Manitobans and keep Hydro and public car insurance rates low. We will regularly increase the minimum wage.

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## Much Accomplished. More to Do.

### Building on Success and Leadership for Manitoba's Future

(May 2/2003) - Manitobans will go to the polls on June 3rd in what Premier Gary Doer today called an important election for the province's future.

"It is an election about the future. It is about continuing to build on the work and successes that began in 1999. And it is about the kind of leadership it will take to get the job done for all Manitobans," said Mr. Doer at a noon hour campaign launch in Fort Garry.

"I believe that together Manitobans have accomplished a lot during the last four years. Now is the time to put forward our vision and our plan to take Manitoba to the next level."

According to Mr. Doer, the NDP will use the 32 day campaign to detail its plan and priorities for the next four years. That plan will build on the successes since 1999.

"Manitobans know how great our province is. This is an affordable place to live with a healthy environment, great quality of life, good schools, an improving public health care system and a strong economy," Mr. Doer said.

"This is the foundation on which we are going to continue to build our vision - a vision of a province with even more opportunities for young people, as well as new opportunities for new Manitobans who are looking to make our province their home."

Mr. Doer challenged the other parties to put forward their vision for the future in a positive campaign of ideas.

"In 1999, Manitobans entrusted us to work hard on their priorities. They asked us to deliver on five clear commitments: rescuing health care, creating more opportunities for young people, preventing the sale of Manitoba Hydro and creating new and better jobs, making our communities safer, and lowering property taxes and balancing the budget," Mr. Doer said.

"We have delivered in each of those areas and more. Manitobans are telling us we are on the right track, and we are seeking a mandate to continue building Manitoba for the future."

Mr. Doer said he expects a hard fought campaign but is confident that Manitobans across the province would support the NDP's vision and plan for the future.

"Everyday in government, I have worked hard to be a premier for all Manitobans and I will work hard to continue being a premier for all Manitobans," he said. "Our party will campaign hard and take its message to every community throughout the province."



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## Nursing enrolment to grow to 3000

### Strong focus on more education as part of four-year recruitment and retention plan: Doer

(May 6/2003) - Today, Gary Doer announced that a re-elected Today's NDP government will build on the success of the past four years in nursing education, with a commitment to increase nursing program enrolment to 3000 within four years.

"Getting more nurses to the bedside is a top priority for our government," said Doer at a special nursing lab at Red River College that replicates a real hospital ward environment.

"That's why we revived the RN diploma nursing program cancelled by the former government and expanded the others," said Doer. "Now we have more than 600 nursing grads this year, up from 210 when we came to office.

"With this announcement today, we will see this success extend well into the future with thousands of Manitobans educated and working in health facilities across the province."

Today's announcement will see growth in both nursing degree and diploma programs – with a focus on doubling nursing enrolment in Northern Manitoba and increased access to RN education for Rural Manitobans, where shortages are most acute.

"While we have made tremendous progress we cannot rest on our laurels," said Doer. "We have much more to do. Our vision continues to be that investing in the education of our young people is the best way to provide opportunities for the caring careers crucial to the health care system."

Highlights of today's announcement include:

- \$3 million annual injection (by year two) into additional nursing education over the next four years
- Nursing enrolment to grow to 3,000 over four years, up 20 per cent over current levels
- Graduates to grow to almost 900, up from today's level of over 600
- Double Northern enrolment by adding 50 spaces
- Provide more opportunities in the north for Health Care Aides and LPN's to become RN's
- 30 additional spaces for RNs in Rural Manitoba
- Increased support to BN, LPN and RN programs across the province.

"We knew on coming to office that the nursing shortage was a key

bottleneck facing health care in Manitoba,” said Gary Doer. “We have ended the boom and bust cycle of nursing education, recruitment and retraining that reigned before we came to office,” he added.

Though the NDP government reinstituted the diploma nursing program in cooperation with nurses, Doer noted, it remains committed to a multidisciplinary approach with nursing education, including the Bachelor, LPN and RN refresher programs.

“Proper planning and preparing for the future for the benefit of all Manitobans has been our approach in nursing and health care in general - and will as we go into the next four years with the support of Manitoba voters.”

## Much accomplished

### Background Information

- In 2000, we reinstated the RN Diploma Nursing Program that had been cancelled by the Conservatives.
- The number of nursing grads has tripled since 1999/00 to 638 (from 210)
- This year saw the largest graduating class in the history of the U of M Faculty of Nursing. 351 graduates this year compared to 104 in 1998, up over 200%.
- Since 1999 more than 600 nurses have been recruited to Manitoba from other jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S.
- Since 1999 over 150 nurses have gone through refresher programs to help re-enter nursing with another 150 currently enrolled.
- 90% of nursing grads have found work in Manitoba.
- Twice as many nurses have found full time jobs in October 2002 than in May 1999.
- LPN programs are available in two communities each year. Under the NDP, it was offered in the North for the first time - in Flin Flon. Other communities that have hosted the program since 1999 include Dauphin, Portage, Beausejour/Pinawa, Russell, Selkirk, Flin Flon, Arborg, Fisher River, Winkler and St. Malo.

### \*Quick Stats

(pdf file - requires Adobe Acrobat)

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## 'Building Manitoba' jobs training strategy

### Plan to include training program for floodway construction workers

(May 7/2003) - Premier Gary Doer today announced the first of three pillars in the 'Building Manitoba' jobs training strategy, which will provide more training opportunities and create an average of 5000 construction related jobs over each of the next five years through key private and public sector investments.

To ensure young Manitobans will benefit from these new jobs, Doer pledged to commit up to \$1 million annually for apprenticeship and pre-employment training. In addition, we will work to secure new funds under the Canada-Manitoba Labour Market Development Agreement.

"Manitobans know that when we make capital commitments, we deliver," said Doer. "We want to make sure our own people are trained to share in the many opportunities that the private sector is creating. We believe in giving our young people the chance to work in good jobs -- not importing our labour force."

The climate for private investment in Manitoba is strong -- Manitoba is one of only two provinces to achieve four consecutive years of private investment growth.

Speaking at the floodway gates today, Doer announced a new training program that will provide on-site training and certification for those working on the floodway expansion. Doer said that building more and better jobs through expanding training opportunities has been a top priority for his government.

For example, the floodway expansion is the largest capital project in Manitoba since the original floodway was built, generating over half a billion dollars in economic activity. The floodway expansion will create 2500 more full-time jobs, and the Wuskwatim dam will generate 1500 jobs.

More Manitobans are working today under private-public infrastructure projects, including:

- The Simplot Potato Processing Plant in Portage la Prairie;
- The University of Manitoba capital investment program;
- The I.H. Asper Research Institute at the University of Manitoba's SMARTpark;



- Monarch Industries' relocation and expansion of the Winnipeg and Morden facilities;
- The Museum for Human Rights;
- The True North Arena Complex in downtown Winnipeg; and,
- The Manitoba Hydro downtown headquarters.

"Over the next five years an average of 5000 people will be working through the construction phase of these projects. Additional training opportunities in Manitoba's building trades and related industries will be created through direct investments in infrastructure and continuing to foster a climate where businesses will invest," said Doer, who later continued the theme at South Winnipeg Technical College.

"There were 9100 jobs created in the province last year. The Simplot plant is already proving to be a major asset to producers," said Doer. "These are the kinds of results people expect from their government."

Doer noted these jobs will be created within construction-related industries alone. With continued growth in the new economy and energy sectors, there will be more and better jobs for Manitobans.

"As the campaign unfolds, we will announce elements of our jobs strategy for the bio-tech, agri-food and energy sectors. We are committed to continuing to work with the private sector on projects that create quality jobs for young Manitobans."

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## Doer first leader to visit Northern Manitoba

### Premier to focus on health and community development during visit

(May 9/2003) - Premier Gary Doer took his campaign north of fifty-third today, committing to further enhance support under the Northern Development Strategy (NDS) as his campaign visits communities across Northern Manitoba this weekend.

"The communities of the north have begun to re-build their human and physical infrastructure with support from our Northern Development Strategy," said Doer. "Investments in water treatment, transportation infrastructure, natural resources and health care, and respect for community leadership in seizing emerging opportunities. These are the kinds of steps that help make the north's future look very promising."

Doer said that one of his government's most important actions was to lower Hydro rates for Northern Manitobans to equal those in Winnipeg. This now saves Northern and rural residents \$14 million a year. "We have delivered on our commitment to keep and develop our Hydro resources for all Manitobans, especially for those in the north," said Doer.

"We don't believe that any Manitoban should be treated as a second class citizen. So many of our Hydro resources come from the north, so we believe everyone should have access to the same kinds of services and opportunities, which is the goal of our Northern Development Strategy," said Doer. "Our northern team of Oscar Lathlin, Gerard Jennisen, Steve Ashton and Eric Robinson are strong voices for the north."

The premier pointed to a number of initiatives taken by his government to support Northern Communities, including:

- Northern highways budget increased significantly, and Northern Airport infrastructure support increased by 150% since 1999;
- Churchill Gateway Initiative: \$1 million to ensure operation of Hudson Bay rail line and Port of Churchill for 2003 shipping season;
- Construction of the Garden Hill dialysis unit, new ambulance service for Flin Flon, new CT scanner for the Pas, new ultrasound scanner in Churchill;
- \$10 million training initiative to ensure Northerners are in a position to benefit from proposed construction of new Hydro generating stations;
- Water treatment and operating funding: northern communities have received funding for drinking water and waste water treatment, and

- operator training and certification;
- Lowered residential Hydro rates to equalize them with Winnipeg, saving rural and northern Manitobans \$14 million a year;
- Abolishing the \$50 northern health care user fee, reinstatement of funding for Friendship Centres, and implementation of the University College of the North.

Doer will start his northern campaign swing in Thompson today with a health care announcement, and continue tomorrow in Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon and The Pas. During those visits the premier will announce further support for the NDS, focusing on health care and community economic development.

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## Doer announces new award for aspiring filmmakers

### Take One Manitoba Film Award bringing greater profile to vibrant sector

(May 19/2003) - Premier Gary Doer today announced a new \$10,000 award to help emerging Manitoba filmmakers get their first projects off the ground.

"The curtain has risen on a vibrant and exciting time in the film community. We believe this award will help young people with talent and ambition take advantage of this opportunity, bringing their big dreams to the big screen," Doer said.

The Take One Manitoba Film Award would be presented annually with recipients selected from a jury made up of members of the film community. The government will work with the National Screen Institute and hopes to have the films or videos shown at the annual Film Exchange Festival.

The premier noted that the new award builds on the NDP's firm commitment to Manitoba's film community. Doer pledged to continue his government's enhanced support for Manitoba Film and Sound, which received an additional \$1 million in Budget 2003, and for successful programs such as the Manitoba Film and Video Production Tax Credit.

Doer also noted the award is being launched during a boom period for the film community, which has reached record levels of success in recent years. In 2002/03, the film sector was valued at more than \$80 million, breaking the previous record of \$60 million in 2001/02.

"Manitoba Film and Sound, the National Screen Institute, the Winnipeg Film Group, the Manitoba Arts Council, the Manitoba Motion Picture Association, Film Training Manitoba and many other organizations have been doing the heavy lifting to make our film and video community blossom," Doer said. "We see this award as an opportunity to give a young filmmaker a chance to apply their creative forces and continue to grow the reputation and stature of Manitoba's film community."

Currently Annie Potts, formerly of Designing Women, is in Winnipeg working on the film *Defending Our Kids: The Julie Posey Story*. The project is directed by Joanna Kerns who starred in the TV show *Growing Pains*, and it is being shot in the historic Exchange District.

Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez, Sam Neill, Shirley MacLaine, Rob Lowe and Shannon Dougherty are among the motion picture artists who have come to

Winnipeg in recent years to ply their craft.

The films shot in Manitoba help provide employment for more than 1,200 music and motion picture professionals, songwriters, film production companies and sound and film craftspeople.

“Manitoba actors, writers, light and sound technicians, best boys and gaffers participate in this sector,” said Doer. “Their work helps build the type of exciting, vibrant culture that makes young Manitobans want to stay here.”

Today’s NDP has made funding for arts and culture a priority. Manitoba currently has the second highest per capita level of support for arts, culture and recreation in the country according to a recent study by the Canada West Foundation--56 per cent higher than the national average.

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## Doer bolsters efforts to fight crime

### Twenty-eight additional police and prosecutors to focus on gangs and child predators

(May 20/2003) - Premier Gary Doer unveiled his plan today to make Manitobans safer by hiring more police and Crown attorneys to tackle gang violence and child exploitation - and to create a mobile police strike force to fight outbreaks of crime in the province.

"Since 1999, we have worked hard to respond to the needs of front-line police officers and over-worked prosecutors. We have made investments and changes necessary to combat violent crime, gang activity and auto theft, as well as taking steps to prevent crime," Doer said. "Today's announcement builds on this work to make Manitoba safer."

Over its next mandate, Today's NDP will add 20 new police officers and eight more Crown prosecutors, and introduce new measures to increase public safety:

- A new nine-person Integrated High Risk Offender Squad for targeted surveillance of sexual predators, furthering work currently done by the Integrated Child Exploitation (ICE) unit;
- A new eight-person RCMP Mobile Strike Force to fight crime outbreaks across the province (like auto theft, gang violence and break & enters);
- Creating an integrated unsolved case unit with three new officers;
- Introducing legislation to allow police to seize and impound vehicles used in dangerous street drag racing; and
- Eight more crown attorneys, with three dedicated to the Justice Department's Criminal Organization and High Risk Offender Unit (COHROU), and the remainder to mainly focus on domestic violence and drunk driving-related offences.

Doer said the integrated units would be staffed by RCMP and Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), with linkages to Brandon and other local police forces. The \$400,000 in added resources to the Prosecutions Branch builds on the province's justice strategy, which has increased the prosecutions budget by 58 per cent since 1999, including 15 additional Crown attorneys.

Today's NDP has acted to address gang violence, child exploitation and auto theft since 1999:

Working to combat organized crime by:

- establishing a gang prosecutions unit;

- funding a new RCMP-WPS integrated organized crime unit and the RCMP gang awareness unit; and
- bringing in the toughest legislation in the country to shut down drug dens and biker bunkers.

Protecting children with:

- ground-breaking work to protect children from Internet luring and sexual exploitation through the Cybertip Line and anti-Internet luring initiatives;
- the establishment of Lighthouse programs across the province; and
- the development of a high-risk offender web site in Manitoba, and lobbying the federal government to create a National Sex Offender Registry.

Reducing auto theft through:

- new licence suspension penalties for convicted auto thieves;
- creating an Anti-Auto Theft Task Force;
- establishing an auto theft prosecutions team; and
- MPI's payment plan to encourage the installation of anti-theft immobilizers.

The premier said that not only has his government been tough on crime, but it's also been tough on the causes of crime. "We've created a number of programs, like Lighthouses, Turnabout, Ototema and Project Gang-Proof, which work to support youth who have or may come into conflict with the law. Kids need positive alternatives to stay on the right path."

As well as hiring more Crown prosecutors, today's NDP has also invested \$13.2 million since 1999 to bolster the RCMP to reach its full complement for the first time since the 1970s, and to support police officers in the City of Winnipeg, Brandon and for aboriginal policing. Doer said his government has also introduced some of Canada's toughest laws on impaired driving.

**\*Quick Facts - Prosecutions Funding**  
(pdf file - requires Adobe Acrobat)

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## NDP to hire 200 technologists

### Investment in human resources and diagnostic equipment key to reducing wait lists

(May 21/2003) - Premier Gary Doer announced today a further step in his plan to cut waiting lists for diagnostic tests by hiring 200 more technologists over the next four years.

"We need to ensure our investment in people keeps pace with our investments in diagnostic equipment," Doer said. "We want to boost the number of tests and increase the hours the equipment operates."

Doer said \$1 million will be invested annually over the next four years to hire technologists to fill existing vacancies, hire new staff to accommodate expansion of diagnostic testing to rural and northern communities, increase operating hours of existing technology and operate new equipment in Winnipeg. The move is expected to save about \$500,000 in reduced travel and overtime costs.

"By offering diagnostic tests in rural and northern communities, we can reduce travel time and take pressure off health facilities in Winnipeg," Doer said.

The effort to hire more technologists builds on the plan by today's NDP to invest in both equipment and training. Last week, Doer announced several new measures including expanding training for technologists with a \$1 million fund, which will help address shortages across the province.

Today's announcement to hire 200 additional technologists will build on earlier actions and will increase the number of tests by:

- Offering 5,000 additional CT Scans in Winnipeg on top of 2,600 new tests per facility at Selkirk, Steinbach and The Pas;
- Providing 10,000 more MRIs at the Brandon Regional Health Centre, Health Science Centre and Pan Am Clinic; and
- Using new digital technology to make more efficient use of radiologists and offer health care closer to home, such as the recently announced computerized radiography module at Beausejour, which transmits x-rays taken in one facility to a specialist in another city for diagnosis.

"By hiring more technologists, we can operate equipment after hours and on weekends – allowing more Manitobans to receive high-quality diagnostic testing," Doer said.



The announcement today builds on the achievements today's NDP have made in increasing access to diagnostic tests and treatment. They include:

- Funding 14,000 additional ultrasound tests in Winnipeg hospitals – increasing the volume by 18 per cent;
- Re-instating the training program for lab technologists cancelled by the former Tory government;
- Introducing education programs tailored to the needs of rural Manitoba – cross-training lab technologists to operate x-ray equipment;
- Investing in replacement CT scanners at the Health Sciences Centre, Victoria, Seven Oaks, St. Boniface, Concordia and Misericordia hospitals;
- Expanding CT scan technology to Thompson, Boundary Trails and Selkirk hospitals, Bethesda Hospital in Steinbach and Children's Hospital and allocating funding for a CT scanner for The Pas; and
- Cutting the wait time for cancer radiation treatment by more than half since 1999 from 10 weeks to 3.3 weeks and for all radiation treatment from six weeks to 2.4 weeks.

“We have gone a long way to fill the equipment and diagnostic test deficit created by the Tories by investing in people and equipment,” Doer said.

“But we still have work to do to ensure timely access to diagnostic care.”

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## Doer supports agriculture research and innovation

### Targeted support for students pursuing graduate studies in agriculture

(May 22/2003) - Premier Gary Doer announced today that a minimum of \$100,000 of the NDP's new post-graduate scholarship fund, 'Hope Manitoba', will be targeted to students pursuing post-graduate studies in agriculture research and innovation.

Premier Doer made the announcement while speaking at the University of Manitoba.

"We want to build Manitoba into a leader in agriculture research and development," said Doer. "The same brains that gave us canola 25 years ago are going to bring us the nutraceutical industry in the next 20 or 30 years. Nutraceuticals, like canola, present enormous opportunities for farmers, are one of the fastest-growing areas in food production, and are expected to generate annual sales of \$500 billion worldwide in the next decade. We want Manitoba producers to be part of this development."

"We want to build on our commitment to agriculture innovation by targeting a minimum of \$100,000 of Hope Manitoba scholarships to students wishing to pursue graduate work in emerging, high-tech agricultural sciences," said Doer.

Doer noted that today's announcement builds on the NDP's support to agriculture research including \$9 million for the Richardson Centre for Nutraceuticals and \$11 million in renovations and additions to the Food Development Centre in Portage la Prairie – a combined provincial investment of \$16.9 million.

"More young Manitobans are getting a post-secondary education because they know there are greater opportunities in the private sector with new developments and growing industries like bio-tech, agri-food and energy," said Doer. "The increased complexity of today's farming operations has made any post-secondary education a valuable investment. We want to ensure our graduate students are provided the support they need to further agriculture research that will help our producers diversify into, and take advantage of, future agricultural discoveries."



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## Doer outlines commitments to rural Manitoba

### NDP plan builds on the strengths of today for innovation tomorrow by expanding access to post-secondary education, supporting soil testing, irrigation, drainage, highways, and tax cuts on farmland

(May 22/2003) - (Souris) - Premier Gary Doer announced today that rural access to post-secondary education will be expanded, agriculture soil testing will be subsidized, farmland taxes will be decreased, and that Manitoba will continue to support irrigation and drainage infrastructure under an NDP government.

"We are committed to an improved quality of life for all Manitobans by building on the strengths of today for innovation tomorrow," said Doer. "We believe in rural policies that contribute to the economic and social well being of rural communities by making investments in not only the rural economy, but also education, healthcare, agriculture and the environment."

Doer's commitments to rural Manitoba will improve rural health services, make it easier for people to stay and work in rural Manitoba, diversify the agriculture economy, make our communities safer and more secure and make Manitoba an even more affordable place to live.

"We've accomplished a lot in rural Manitoba, but there's more to do. We want to provide rural Manitoba with access to quality jobs, a healthy economy, safe water, safe communities, and quality public services. In short, we want to give rural communities every opportunity to enjoy life and contribute to society."

Doer's five priorities for rural Manitoba focused on:

1. Continued improvements to rural health care
  - We will expand to rural areas the successful Family Doctor Connection Line, support a centralized doctor recruitment effort currently being developed by the Regional Health Authorities of Manitoba, and hire additional nurses, doctors and technologists.
2. Making it easier for young people to stay and work in rural Manitoba
  - We will improve rural access to post-secondary education by giving

high school students and adults the opportunity to complete up to 2 years of post-secondary credits while remaining in their home community.

- We will continue to invest in our public schools, universities, and colleges.
- We will introduce new opportunities for our best and brightest students, including a minimum of \$100,000 of the NDP's new post-graduate scholarship fund, "Hope Manitoba," to be targeted to students pursuing post-graduate studies in agriculture research and innovation.

### 3. A strengthened rural economy

- We will build Manitoba into a centre for agriculture research and innovation by building on the strengths of today for innovation tomorrow through continued support for the Richardson Centre for Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods and the Food Development Centre.
- We will assist producers with nutrient management through subsidized soil testing and decreased taxes on farmland.
- We will continue to assist producers in their efforts to diversify through long-term support for irrigation and highway infrastructure, drainage, a flexible crop insurance program and healthy livestock.

### 4. Making rural communities safer and more secure

- We will hire additional crown attorneys, create new police units including the creation of a mobile strike force to fight outbreaks of crime across the province, open rural school gyms after hours and invest in more recreational facilities to provide positive alternatives for our kids.

### 5. Making Manitoba an even more affordable place to live

- We will cut taxes over the next four years by \$88 million including a \$63 million reduction in personal income taxes and a \$16 million decrease in corporate and small business taxes.
- We will cut education property taxes on farmland by 20 per cent.
- We will continue to balance the budget and reduce provincial debt.
- We will cut taxes for middle income Manitobans and keep Hydro and public insurance rates low.

"We know how important it is for rural Manitobans to shape their own future," said Doer. "This means giving rural Manitoba the framework, support, and flexibility within which rural communities can adapt to change and support new enterprise while preserving what rural citizens value the most: a sense of space, community and the rural way of life. We also believe that a vibrant rural economy depends on strong support from the federal government as a partner in agriculture."

"We want rural Manitoba to continue facing the future with confidence so that rural Manitoba is better equipped to manage change, maximize opportunities, and create a more sustainable future."

**\*Quick Facts - Rural More to do List**  
(pdf file - requires Adobe Acrobat)

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## Doer improves energy and affordability edge

### Multi-pronged strategy to further improve Manitoba's advantage as the best place to live, work, do business and raise a family

(May 23/2003) - Premier Gary Doer said today that he would extend the Manitoba affordability advantage through a second term with a multi-part strategy that will ensure the province improves upon its enviable position as a stable and prosperous place to build a future.

Among the elements of the strategy are new clean-energy initiatives for homeowners and businesses, more housing developments and protecting Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI).

"Manitoba is the best place in Canada to live, work and raise your family – bar none," said Doer. "We have tremendous advantages with the lowest auto insurance rates in the country, the lowest hydro rates in North America, an affordable cost of living and a great quality of life. We want to extend the Manitoba affordability advantage into the future."

The Premier announced three new energy initiatives to reduce heating bills, encourage more widespread use of cleaner forms of energy and provide incentives for businesses to expand. The programs will build on the energy advantage Manitoba residents and businesses already enjoy.

"Unlike the telephone system, which was sold and rates were increased, Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba Public Insurance will be kept for the benefit of all Manitobans. Both hydro and MPI provides the lowest rates in North America and we are committed to keeping and building these vital corporations," he said.

To promote our Hydro advantage, Today's NDP will:

- establish a Bill Cutter program to reduce rural homeowners' heating bills by up to \$750/yr through a new clean energy program;
- extend the Power Smart loan program to more homeowners by cutting the interest rate by 2 per cent;
- establish an energy rate guarantee for businesses that create new jobs in Manitoba; and
- keep the Manitoba Hydro rate advantage -- currently the lowest and fairest in North America and ensure that all Manitobans benefit from current and future hydro projects and infrastructure development.
- maintain the Centra Gas tax exemption, saving ratepayers on their gas

bills.

## **Keeping money in Manitobans' pockets with MPI**

MPI, offering the lowest automobile insurance premiums in Canada, must be protected from privatization, said Doer. "While auto insurance skyrockets by as much as 70% in some provinces, MPI has the lowest premiums in the country. We will pass legislation to stop the privatization of MPI without a referendum, so all Manitobans can continue to benefit from a publicly-owned corporation."

## **More affordable housing**

The premier noted that during the 1990s, Manitoba education property taxes rose by 65 per cent on average, as a result of education funding cuts and cuts to the property tax credit. Today's NDP has restored the balance for taxpayers. Since 2000, education property taxes have been reduced by about five per cent on average, as a result of a strategy that includes funding education at the rate of economic growth and reducing education property taxes.

Doer said while it is important to continue funding education at the rate of economic growth and reduce property taxes through direct measures, he noted that strategies to promote housing growth are also vital to reducing education property taxes.

Doer said part of this strategy is a plan for the development of thousand housing lots in the south Fort Garry area to keep pace with housing demand. He said that the government would re-invest some of the proceeds from the development to in-fill housing in the inner-city areas of Winnipeg. The lots will be developed in stages over the next decade, adding an estimated \$2.75 billion of new housing stock, and will be the first new housing development to make use of Manitoba Hydro's clean energy programs.

"We believe it is important to have a strategy that promotes housing growth within the City of Winnipeg. The true long-term solution to lowering the cost of doing business and providing services in Winnipeg is to promote housing growth within city limits, where we can make more efficient use of already existing infrastructure," Doer said. "This approach also ensures Manitobans have more affordable housing choices."

Doer noted that while some political parties have just recently jumped on the tax reduction bandwagon, Today's NDP implemented Manitoba's most significant cut in property and personal tax reductions in the past decade.

"Manitoba's Crown corporations provide a true advantage and we are committed to keeping them for the benefits of all Manitobans, not a privileged few. We believe that Manitobans want realistic, achievable and responsible measures – not wild-eyed promises. This strategy is about building on our successes and extending our advantages into the future."

## **Background:**

## **Manitoba affordability advantage Using more clean energy**

### **Bill Cutter program**

- Will be available to Manitobans who do not have access to natural gas.
- These will be primarily rural residents – an estimated 50,000 homeowners may be eligible for this program.
- Eligible households will be invited to lease or rent ground-source heat pumps from Manitoba Hydro – reducing the up-front ‘sticker price’ barrier.
- Manitoba has the highest level of geo-thermal heat pump installations in Canada.
- Manitoba Hydro estimates that homeowners will have the potential to cut home heating and cooling bills by as much as \$750/yr.
- Home Energy Audits will be offered to homeowners to provide advice on how to make homes more energy efficient – thereby cutting bills.
- Low interest rate loans will be available so that homeowners can make home improvements that will improve energy efficiency and cut heating bills.

### **Power Smart program**

- Power Smart is designed to help homeowners enjoy an improved living space while saving on energy bills, with programs ranging from educational to retrofitting homes with more energy efficient products and practices.
  - Power Smart loans of up to \$5000 will be available to Manitoba Hydro/Centra Gas customers to undertake comfort and energy improvements to their home.
  - Interest rates on the Power Smart loans will be cut from 8.5% to 6.5% to make the program even more affordable.
  - Power Smart Home Energy Audits will be offered to homeowners to provide advice on how to make homes more energy efficient – thereby cutting bills.
  - Since its January 2001 inception, the Power Smart loan program has provided 9000 energy efficiency loans to Manitoba homeowners, creating more than \$30 million in home renovation work.
  - For more information on heat pumps and existing Power Smart programs: [www.hydro.mb.ca](http://www.hydro.mb.ca)
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## Doer encourages Manitobans to be active

### Healthy living strategy supports more community-based activities for youth and seniors

(May 24/2003) - Premier Gary Doer today announced a healthy living strategy that will focus on encouraging young people to get involved in fitness, seniors to stay active, and communities to develop facilities like recreation centres with walking paths for their residents.

"Lots of kids have energy to spare, and we want to give them more options to harness that in a positive way that contributes to their long-term health and well-being," said Doer. "When we are able to get kids hooked on positive, healthy alternatives early in life, they will keep those habits through the rest of their lives. That's a strategy that makes sense."

The healthy living strategy will be implemented over the next four years and features:

- A capital recreation strategy to support the development of community-based facilities, such as recreation centres that incorporate seniors walking paths;
- Sports Manitoba funding to be increased by 10 per cent, with focus on a new KidSport community outreach initiative;
- A new course credit and employment program for 20 post-secondary students to develop and implement community-based healthy living programs;
- A scholarship for high school students, which will provide \$100,000 to 200 young Manitobans who have shown leadership in promoting wellness and citizenship; and,
- A new community-based Council on Healthy Living to make recommendations to the Premier.

The premier said the strategy builds on successful programs established by Today's NDP, like Lighthouses, that helps kids stay active by opening gyms and community centres after hours. The strategy also builds on support over the last four years for new and upgraded recreation facilities in Brandon, Neepawa, Thompson, Gimli, Selkirk, Stonewall, The Pas, Beausejour, Dauphin, Winnipeg, Rossburn, Reston, Pilot Mound, Mafeking and others.

"We want to encourage young Manitobans to get active as well as help seniors stay healthy by supporting community-based activities like walking paths," Doer said. "There's no question sports and recreation help prevent

disease and illness later on in life, and also give youth an opportunity to make friends and learn an activity that they can enjoy for their entire lives."

Doer said KidSport will be run by Sport Manitoba and will be designed to reach young Manitobans for whom community sport programs are currently inaccessible or unaffordable. The program is designed to introduce kids to both team and individual sports, give them access to sporting equipment and provide access to activities in their home communities.

"A big part of helping kids get active is ensuring they get exposure to activities that may be unavailable to them," Doer said. "The value of sport is immeasurable. Not only does sport encourage healthy lifestyles, it presents an opportunity to bond with family and friends in activities that can last a lifetime."

Doer also announced a new initiative to give 20 post-secondary students an opportunity to develop community-based wellness programs in co-operation with local community leaders and clubs. The government will work with universities and colleges to ensure that students receive course credit for their efforts.

Today's NDP will also provide \$500 wellness and citizenship scholarships to high school students who have demonstrated leadership in encouraging and promoting healthy lifestyles in their home community, so that they can continue to pursue these initiatives as they undertake post-secondary education.

"We want to put young Manitobans in the position so that they are learning by leading kids in activities that promote healthy living," said Doer. "There are also many young people out there doing this kind of thing right now, and we want to recognize that contribution by helping them continue that activity while they pursue a post-secondary education."

A new Premier's Council on Healthy Living will also be created and asked to develop action plans in four priority areas including: raising public awareness of healthy living, expanding the provincial trails network, developing recognition and incentive programs for community volunteers, and exploring options for children's nutrition and wellness programs.

"We know there is more work to do," he concluded. "By establishing a Premier's Council on Healthy Living, with broad-based participation from the community, we hope to tap into the tremendous knowledge Manitobans possess in promoting and encouraging healthy living."

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## NDP to make home care more universal

### Best program in country gets \$1 million boost

(May 26/2003) - Premier Gary Doer announced today his plan to invest \$1 million to enhance the best home care program in the country by providing more support for equipment needed at home, plus new resources for caregivers looking after elderly or sick family members and expanded services for Manitobans with mental illnesses.

"We are using Roy Romanow's report on the future of health care as a blueprint to improve a program that is already considered the gold standard in Canada," the premier said. "Ed Schreyer started the home care program in 1974 because New Democrats believe elderly Manitobans should be able to receive care while living with their loved ones. We know that a comprehensive home care system is cost-effective and compassionate."

Under the plan proposed by Today's NDP, Manitoba's home care system will receive the following improvements, as recommended by Romanow:

- The NDP would reverse the policy introduced by the former Tory government and remove the \$300 co-payment on ostomy supplies--equipment needed at home for chronic or acute care patients. This would cost \$400,000 per year.
- The NDP would invest \$500,000 to expand home care services for people living with a mental illness.
- The NDP would spend \$100,000 to establish a family resource centre so people caring for sick or dying loved ones would have information and support.

The premier said the plan by Today's NDP is in sharp contrast to the Tories who tried to privatize the province's home care plan, cut support for services for families caring for loved ones and introduced user fees for families using home care.

Under the NDP, home care funding has increased by 38 per cent or \$55 million, and was further enhanced in December when the Doer government announced it would cover the cost of drugs for palliative care patients who choose to die at home. The NDP has also improved coordination of services by merging two Winnipeg health authorities that had overlapping jurisdiction. According to Canadian Institute for Health Information, Manitoba has lowered health administration costs by \$16 million since 1999. Doer also noted the NDP has made it easier to access home care on evenings and weekends, and have improved coordination of home care services by hiring more case coordinators—two measures that have helped to take the

pressure off emergency rooms.

“The Tories have been silent on home care--their only solution for health care is to privatize it for the benefit of the very few, despite Romanow’s conclusion that there is no evidence private, for-profit clinics will improve the quality of care for Canadians,” Doer said.

“Today’s NDP stands for finding achievable ways to protect and enhance home care and other health services for the benefit of all Manitobans.”

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## NDP to provide boost to Arts Education

### Doer stresses importance of programs like art and music

(May 27/2003) - Premier Gary Doer today stressed the importance of arts education for children and youth with a \$1 million, six-point plan to further support student education in the arts.

"We want to revitalize arts education in Manitoba schools because we believe that the arts is part of a well-rounded education," Doer said.

"Students who become engaged in art, music, drama, dance and other forms of arts education often do well in other subjects. This is a common sense approach—giving kids a chance to learn new skills and activities by giving them access to more learning opportunities."

Doer said the plan will ramp up funding by \$1 million a year to revitalize arts in our schools and enrich schools and communities. The six-part plan includes:

- Modernizing and updating Manitoba's arts curriculum. The new curriculum would be compulsory from K to grade 8, offered as an option to grade 9 and 10 students, and expanded to include drama, visual arts, dance and music;
- Creating a new after school arts and music enrichment program for students who otherwise wouldn't have access to such programming;
- Adding funding for school divisions to support visiting artists/artists-in-residence;
- Establishing a Manitoba Schools/Youth Awards for the Performing Arts—an annual award to allow 10 school-based performing arts groups to accept invitations to travel to an event or competition in North America;
- Developing a career exploration and mentorship program for students considering career opportunities in the arts; and
- Supporting further professional development for teachers in arts education.

"Winnipeg has a vibrant and growing film industry, and is home to world-class dancers, actors, artists and musicians of all descriptions," Doer said. "We are a world class cultural centre, and we want to ensure that more of our kids can become part of the home-grown talent that continues to build this vibrant sector of our community."

The premier said today's announcement builds on successful programs established by Today's NDP, like Lighthouses, that help kids stay active and learn arts and crafts by opening gyms and community centres after hours. Doer said arts, like sports, are an important part of healthy living.

"We want to encourage young Manitobans to explore healthy new activities and develop their talents," Doer said. "Not only can an arts education lead to other opportunities later in a student's life, the arts also provide youth with a chance to make new friends and learn a pursuit that they can enjoy for a lifetime."

Doe said parents, educators and other Manitobans are expressing concern about opposition comments about re-defining basic education to pay for massive property tax cuts. Doer noted that while the Tories have since backtracked on earlier statements, they still haven't explained how they will pay for their proposed tax cuts without cutting vital programs.

"We need to build on what works, and studies show that the more opportunities students have, the better they do in school," Doer concluded. "The evidence out there is clear--the arts promote student learning, they help keep kids interested in school by providing healthy, positive alternatives."

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## NDP to improve care for burn victims

### New burn unit at Health Sciences Centre to provide access to state-of-the-art care

(May 28/2003) - Premier Gary Doer today announced funding for a world-class burn unit at the Health Sciences Centre to be constructed as part of the \$100 million critical services redevelopment of the province's largest hospital.

"The burn unit is vital piece of the puzzle that will allow HSC to maintain its reputation as a state-of-the-art trauma centre that will serve the needs of all Manitobans," the premier said.

The burn unit will house six beds for adults, four beds for children and will be constructed using the best current practices and standards. Space for the burn unit, including special ventilation and infection control systems, is being included in current construction.

"This project is a perfect fit with the other changes at Health Sciences Centre," the premier said. "Now that construction has begun to renovate the critical care units in the hospital, it only makes sense to include an up-to-date burn unit."

The new burn unit, which was first recommended in 1995, will help recruit and retain doctors and other professionals, said Doer.

"Like the redevelopment of HSC, the burn unit was not a priority of the Tory government," Doer said. "We delivered on the often-broken promise to fund changes to HSC and we are now funding another vital project the Tories ignored."

The Health Sciences Centre Re-development Project is the largest health capital project in Manitoba's history and will include:

- a new adult emergency department;
- a new children's emergency department;
- a new pediatric intensive care unit;
- a new adult surgical intensive care unit;
- a new adult medical intensive care unit;
- new adult and pediatric operating rooms;
- an operating room dedicated to trauma cases;
- a new post-anesthesia care unit;
- a new coronary care unit; and

- a new central equipment processing unit.

The premier praised firefighters for their contributions to burn treatment in Manitoba. The Firefighter's Burn Fund has provided support to purchase specialized equipment, a microsurgery training lab, a burn treatment facility in the Children's hospital, as well as specialized training and education for health care staff.

"Firefighters save lives in more ways than one. They do a difficult and dangerous job rescuing Manitobans when they and their loved ones are at risk," he said. "They also raise money to help treat people who have been injured in fires. We owe them a debt of gratitude."

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## NDP brings new cancer treatment to Brandon

### Cancer radiation therapy delivered closer to home for western Manitobans

(May 28/2003) - Premier Gary Doer announced Today's NDP will invest \$8 million in capital spending and annual operating costs to install a linear accelerator at the Brandon Regional Health Centre providing radiation therapy outside of Winnipeg for the first time ever.

"Today's announcement builds on our commitment to improve access to health care for Manitobans," Doer said. "With this new equipment, Brandon residents will be able to go for therapy in their community, close to their home and family, instead of travelling to Winnipeg. Cost, inconvenience and the lack of comfort associated with travelling can be a barrier to effective treatment."

Radiation therapy is widely used for treatment of a variety of cancers including breast cancer, prostate cancer and skin cancer.

The premier said the delivery of radiation therapy outside of Winnipeg builds on other improvements to the quality of cancer treatment provided to Manitobans.

"We inherited a system from the Tories where wait times were so dangerously high we set up a Critical Shortage Fund to send cancer patients out of province," said Doer. "Thanks to investments in equipment and training, we have cut those wait times in half and are continuing to work on the issue."

Doer said the new investment in western Manitoba will help reduce wait times further by taking pressure off cancer treatment facilities in Winnipeg. The new equipment will also help the Brandon Regional Health Centre recruit and retain doctors, nurses, technologists and other health professionals.

"With the redevelopment of the Brandon Regional Health Centre, the installation of the first MRI outside of Winnipeg and the first satellite site for cancer radiation therapy, Brandon is now a regional health centre of excellence," said Doer. "Better facilities mean better care for patients in their home communities, better working conditions for health professionals, and a more efficient health care system."

The premier noted the continued investment by Today's NDP in facilities,

equipment, innovation and training is in sharp contrast to the legacy of broken promises and service erosion that occurred under the former Conservative government.

“We have delivered on the Conservatives often broken promise to redevelop Brandon’s hospital. And we are delivering on our promise to invest in an MRI for Brandon and to provide cancer radiation therapy in Brandon,” said Doer. “We are continuing to rebuild our health care system for the benefit of all Manitobans living in all regions of the province.”

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## NDP to build Manitoba for the future

### Achievable, responsible strategies will boost health, education, community safety and make Manitoba even more affordable: Doer

(May 29/2003) - Premier Gary Doer kicked-off the final five days of the provincial election campaign with NDP candidates and supporters today, saying he believes a growing number of Manitobans support the achievable, affordable plans put forward by Today's NDP to build the province over the next four years.

"What we're hearing on the doorsteps, in coffee shops, community halls and from people across the province is that they believe in our practical and sensible approach to building Manitoba," said Doer. "They're looking for achievable, affordable plans which will help us to keep building together, not empty proposals that would result in cuts to health and education."

Doer launched the final drive toward Election Day accompanied by NDP candidates and many young campaign workers at MTC's Warehouse Theatre. The premier said that during this campaign his party has made responsible new commitments to invest in health, education, safer communities and making Manitoba an even more affordable place to live.

"We are focused on making targeted investments to build on our nationally-recognized programs like homecare, and to maintain our education and training edge," Doer said. "Building on our strengths, we will make Manitoba even more competitive."

The premier said that unlike Today's NDP, the opposition parties have not presented Manitobans with achievable and responsible proposals – opting instead for expensive promises that they have yet to explain how they'd pay for.

"On Tuesday, Manitobans will be making an important choice. One choice is the doable, achievable plans we have presented that build upon the progress we have made in Manitobans' priority areas over the past 3 ½ years. The other option is expensive, irresponsible tax cut promises that cannot be achieved without deep cuts to health and education, hikes in other taxes and fees, or going into debt or deficits," said Doer.

"We have made great strides since 1999. And we can do much more together. This is the message we will be taking across the province over the next five days."

