

## **Building Manitoba Fund to support transit**

The Provincial Government will increase transit funding through the Building Manitoba Fund by 15 per cent to support public transit systems in Winnipeg, Brandon, Flin Flon and Thompson as well as handi-van services in 62 rural communities. The Mobility Disadvantaged Transportation Program is available to rural communities and provides a one-time startup grant of \$6,000 to establish a handi-van service as well as a one-time capital grant of 50 per cent of the handi-van net cost up to \$10,000 for the purchase of a vehicle. The Province also provides annual operating grants for handi-van services based on a cost-shared formula. Transit funding under the Building Manitoba Fund will be \$21.3 million for 2006-07.

## **Funding for local arts program**

The artistic development of students and communities will be enhanced through \$140,000 in funding for a new school and community arts program. The funding will cover three initiatives including an arts education access program, an after-school arts-enrichment program for students, and a youth performing arts travel grant. Applications will be assessed on the basis of community need, anticipated impact, number of participants served, cost-effectiveness and regional funding distribution. Communities can apply between January and September 2006 – the application deadline will depend on your project's start date. Details and application forms are available at [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/scap/](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/scap/)

## **Elder Abuse Awareness Day**

June 15, 2006 will mark the first World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to promote a vision of *My World...Your World...Our World...Free of Elder Abuse*. In Canada, reports estimate that 4-10% of older adults are affected by abuse, which translates to between 6,000 and 15,000 Manitobans. Actual rates may be much higher since older adults are often reluctant to disclose abuse. The Manitoba Elder Abuse Awareness Day Planning Committee will host an event for June 15, 2006 to increase awareness of elder abuse as well as to increase awareness of available community supports. The Committee encourages communities to raise local awareness by planning an event for June 15 or any time during the year. The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) has developed a resource entitled "Tool Kit to Raise Awareness on Elder Abuse – Taking Action: Step by Step" available at [www.cnpea.ca/INPEA%20GUIDE\\_3.pdf](http://www.cnpea.ca/INPEA%20GUIDE_3.pdf).

For more information contact Susan Crichton, Elder Abuse Consultant, Manitoba Seniors and Healthy Aging Secretariat at 945-1927.

## **Payday loan legislation**

Manitoba could be the first province in the country to regulate fees and interest rates charged by payday loan companies. The Province has requested a federal exemption to allow the Public Utilities Board (PUB) to set payday loan rates, and other consumer protection improvements would proceed under Bill 25 – *The Consumer Protection Amendment Act*. Changes to provincial legislation would require companies to warn borrowers about the high cost of payday loans. As well, the legislation would prohibit additional fees when loans are renewed, extended or replaced by a new loan (unless these additional fees are authorized by the PUB). The practice of signing over future wages and title loans would also be prohibited under the new requirements. The Manitoba Consumers' Bureau would be able to suspend an operator's licence or take other enforcement action under the Act if the operator fails to meet operating requirements. When federal amendments to the Criminal Code are in place, public hearings would be held by the PUB to allow consumers, community groups and business to make suggestions about the fees. Bill 25 is available at <http://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/sess/b025e.php>

## **Manitoba's International Strategy**

*Reaching Beyond our Borders* is the Provincial Government's new approach for building the province and achieving greater prosperity by maximizing international opportunities. The new strategy complements Manitoba's Action Strategy for Economic Growth with three key objectives. The first is to ensure that Manitoba's international activities reflect a corporate, focused and strategic approach. Secondly, the strategy will promote Manitoba's capabilities, strengths and advantages to stimulate economic growth and enhance the province's image internationally. The third objective is to facilitate international development and advance global interests. Further information is available at [www.gov.mb.ca/international](http://www.gov.mb.ca/international)

## **WRAPP Fund supports projects across Manitoba**

25 projects have been awarded Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) grants across Manitoba including a number directed to municipal projects. The WRAPP Fund supports projects working to improve

practices related to waste reduction and pollution prevention. Priority areas include organic waste management and composting, construction and demolition waste management, pollution prevention, and model-integrated waste management system development and planning. Among the municipal projects that received grants: blue box recycling programs, enhancements to recycling facilities, diverting manure and other waste from landfills, and establishing glass recycling programs. The amounts received ranged from \$1,600 to \$15,000. For more information visit: [www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/wrapp](http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/pollutionprevention/wrapp)

## **New AG Centennial 2006 Scholarship at U of M**

To celebrate the University of Manitoba Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Province is providing \$150,000 to establish the new AG Centennial 2006 scholarship. This funding will come through Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives as well as the Rural Economic Development Initiative. A matching amount will be added to the scholarship program via a fundraising venture by the University of Manitoba and agri-food-related industries. The scholarship will provide support for students enrolled in both the four-year bachelor degree program and the two-year diploma course.

## **PESAI receives \$75,000 from Covering New Ground program**

Prairies East Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (PESAI) in Teulon is undertaking projects involving crop and livestock diversification and value-added product development. The Province is supporting these projects with funding through the Covering New Ground (CNG) program. The program promotes agricultural practices that protect resources while maintaining farm competitiveness and diversity. Information derived from local projects is shared with the industry and serves as a valuable resource to producers. PESAI's mission is to develop unique commodity and value-added processing opportunities that will contribute to the long-term success of the eastern prairie region, such as forage-fed beef and improvements to saskatoon berry production. Other projects CNG supports include riparian management, pest control, composting processes, and off-stream watering projects. For more information visit [www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/research/covering/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/research/covering/index.html)

**VIA Rail wins environmental award**

The Railway Association of Canada recognized a textile recovery and recycling initiative by VIA Rail Canada with the Association's 2005 Environmental Protection Award. The initiative involves recycling and/or recovering old uniforms and damaged linen from VIA's employees and operations. Items are resold in Habitat's thrift stores in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Halifax, and the profits fund the construction of homes for needy families. Toronto's partner, Canadian Mill Supply Inc., makes much of the linen into all-purpose towels, most of which are provided to local shelters. In Montreal, the partner is Certex, a charitable organization that takes old uniforms, clothing and linens for donations to third world countries. The initiative is cost effective and adaptable by others, including other laundry services, and assists in diverting waste from landfills.

**Ozone Protection Regulations in effect January 1**

Intended to strengthen Manitoba's efforts to phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) and halons, the Regulations were developed in conjunction with the local

industry association. Controls are needed to support the transition of using alternative substances that are less harmful to the environment, but can contribute to climate change if released to the atmosphere. Amendments to the Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation will phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances and require controls for replacement products: requiring sellers of ozone-depleting substances and other halocarbons to take back and properly manage these substances; prohibiting

owners or operators from refilling equipment with CFCs; implementing the same handling requirements for the recovery and recycling of replacement products, and hydrofluorocarbons; and, mandating the use of refillable containers to handle all ozone-depleting substances and their replacement products. A \$50 permit will be required for CFC chillers and fixed fire-extinguishing equipment containing halons. Additionally, technician certification rates will increase to \$25. Ⓢ



*the timeless beauty of Barkman*

**Barkman Concrete**  
 Classic Precast and GERC Site Furnishings  
 1 800 461 2278  
[www.barkmanconcrete.com](http://www.barkmanconcrete.com)

▲ Pavers ▼ Planters		Landscape Boulders
Picnic Tables, Benches, Bollards and Waste Containers		Custom Signs

**Powell CONSTRUCTION LTD.**

**CONCRETE SPECIALISTS**  
 1503 MORELAND AVE.  
 BRANDON, MANITOBA  
 727-2810 FAX 727-5811  
[trevor@powellconstruction.ca](mailto:trevor@powellconstruction.ca)

- Preparation Placing and Finishing of Concrete Floors
- Concrete and Asphalt Sawing
- All Types of Foundation Work
- Commercial, Industrial, Farm and Residential
- Concrete Pumping
- Concrete Hardening and Coloring
- Concrete Grinding
- Concrete Restoration
- Bonding Available
- Manitoba and Saskatchewan