

MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN MANITOBA

New education and job opportunities are now available in Manitoba's medical sector. The Province will increase the number of funded nurse practitioner positions to 76 through the addition of 30 new nurse practitioners announced since February. These positions will be allocated as follows: 13 in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, three in Brandon and South Eastman, two each in NOR-MAN, Parklands and Burntwood, and one in each of the Assiniboine, Central, Interlake and North Eastman regional health authorities (RHAs). There will also be one nurse practitioner position assigned to the nursing station at Grand Rapids. The Province will also invest an additional \$500,000 in the Nurses Recruitment and Retention Fund to expand access to continuing education, staff development and other opportunities that strengthen nurse retention.

Further opportunities are available as the University of Manitoba and Red River College will each offer an additional 16 nurse training seats this fall, along with eight new seats at the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface. As well, a new program will be introduced at the U of M in September 2008 with the acceptance of 12 candidates for a two-year masters program for physician assistants. For medical students, the Province has announced a new incentive to keep graduates practicing locally. Graduates will be offered a guaranteed residency position in the specialty of their choice in Manitoba in return for a minimum of two years of service to a

northern Manitoba community. The new program will begin this fall with up to two positions, expanding to 10 positions per year in 2009-10.

Emergency medical services also received funding of \$2.7 million for RHAs to permanently hire additional full-time and part-time paramedics, and \$553,000 to refurbish 30 ambulances and purchase four new ambulances for the provincial fleet.

LAKE FRIENDLY LABEL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The Honourable Christine Melnick, Minister of Water Stewardship recently announced \$25,000 in provincial funding to promote the use of environmentally friendly products. The focus of the campaign is to identify environmentally "lake friendly" products available for sale in local communities. Leading the initiative are the municipal leaders from cities, towns, and rural municipalities of the south basin of Lake Winnipeg. The awareness campaign was one of the recommendations from the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board's final report.

Students from the local schools in the south basin of the Lake Winnipeg, along with mayors and Reeves, will design a label for products such as phosphorous free detergents, lawn fertilizers and other environmentally friendly products. The winning student and his or her school will equally share the \$1,000 prize.

NEW APPRENTICESHIP SPACES AND TAX CREDIT

The Honourable Andrew Swan, Minister of Competitiveness, Training and Trade recently announced \$3.8 million in funding

for 1,100 new apprenticeship training seats along with a new apprenticeship tax credit for businesses. As well, the Province committed to create an additional 4,000 training spaces over the next four years.

The Apprenticeship Tax Credit provides employers hiring a certified journey-person from an apprenticeship program a tax credit of up to \$2,500 a year up to two years for each journey-person hired. The apprentices are entitled to the province's tuition fee income tax rebate and will receive sixty percent of their tuition should they live and work in Manitoba upon completion.

MOBILE TRAINING LABS

The Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board on behalf of **The Honourable Rona Ambrose** and **The Honourable Andrew Swan** recently announced \$3.12 million in funding under the Canada-Manitoba Economic Partnership Agreement for two mobile training labs for rural communities through Red River College.

Each lab is contained in a 53-ft. trailer that is transformed into a 950 sq. ft. unit. Diesel generators supply the power to the electrical equipment, lighting, heating and air conditioning. Connecting to the lab are supply trailers, housing materials, training aid, additional tools and equipment increasing the facility to almost 2,000 sq. ft.

The training labs provide students in rural communities the opportunity to obtain training as an automotive service technician, carpenter, electrician, machinist, pipe fitter, plumber, welder or an industrial mechanic. They increase access for training opportunities with community-based projects and emerging industry.



TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

A commitment to building a safe, modern and reliable transportation system is a commitment to a prosperous and competitive economy for all Manitobans.

As Canada faces a total transportation and infrastructure deficit of more than \$120 billion, it is clear that municipal and provincial governments cannot fix the problem alone. It requires sustained federal participation.

The Manitoba Heavy Construction Association will continue to press all governments to make transportation and infrastructure a top policy priority.

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RECREATION, WELLNESS AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The Honourable Eric Robison, Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism recently announced \$4.5 million in funding through the Community Places Program for recreation and wellness infrastructure.


In 2008-2009 the provincial support will result in over \$69 million in community based construction projects to upgrade existing or create new facilities. The funding increase is a result of the commitment to double funding for recreation facilities from the throne speech last fall.

TRUCKING INDUSTRY TRIES TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The Honourable Vic Toews, President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of **The Honourable Lawrence Cannon** recently announced funding under the Freight Technology Demonstration Fund for a Manitoba freight transportation company.

This fund helps test and measure new and underused freight transportation technologies that can reduce emissions when operated in extreme Canadian conditions.

The Freight Technology Demonstration Fund and the Freight Technology Incentives Program together are part of Transport Canada's ecoFREIGHT Program. This program aims to reduce the effects of freight transportation on human health and the environment by promoting environmentally sound technologies and best practices in the industry. "These ecoFREIGHT initiatives help transport companies acquire available technology. The result is lower emission of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants," said Minister Cannon.

Winnipeg-based Bison Transport will receive up to \$500,000 towards a large-scale, fleet-wide demonstration of the operation effectiveness of aerodynamic trailer fairings. These items attach to the undercarriage of a standard van semi-trailer and are designed to reduce fuel consumption by reducing the aerodynamic drag caused by the trailer's wheels and axle components. 



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