

**FULL FRONT DOOR ACCESS TO MANITOBA LEGISLATURE**

The Honourable **Gary Doer**, Premier of Manitoba, recently announced that the Manitoba Legislative Building is the first in Canada to provide full access to the front entrance.

The universal access ramp, located on Broadway Avenue, comes at a cost of \$1.8 million. Handicap accessible parking stalls are available near the entrance to the ramp. The ramp allows two way traffic for wheel chairs as well as providing a circular landing that enable visitors to view the legislative building and grounds. Custom made front doors will soon be installed to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers and visitors. All improvements reflect the architectural style of the legislative buildings, which are 87-years-old.

**NAME CHANGES**

According to *The Municipal Act*, changing from Reeve to Mayor is allowed. The most recent name change is Mayor Steve Strang (formerly Reeve) of the RM of St. Clements. The RM of Tache and the RM of Ritchot have also made the change. The term Mayor is more identifiable when dealing with other provinces or countries.

**SELLING NAMING RIGHTS TO WINNIPEG'S CIVIC BUILDINGS**

Mayor **Sam Katz** recently announced that the City of Winnipeg plans to sell the naming rights for the city pools, arenas, buildings and services. This decision is as a result of a \$2 billion infrastructure shortfall. Money raised through this program will go to infrastructure, city services and competitive taxation. The sponsorship program will go through council debate and if approved, the City will announce a list of partnerships that they are interested in. A website will also be constructed for those businesses that are interested. Historical buildings will not be included in this plan. Canadian cities such as Calgary, Ottawa and Toronto already have sponsorship programs in place.

**PROGRAM PROVIDES WAGE SUBSIDIES FOR MANITOBA EMPLOYERS**

Manitoba employers can now receive up to \$500,000 in wage subsidies from the Manitoba Works program through Employment Manitoba. Municipalities and non-profit employers can receive a full minimum wage salary for up to one year to provide

employment and training for people receiving welfare. Other employers can receive up to a 50% wage subsidy to provide on the job training.

Manitoba Works is striving to provide permanent employment for subsidized employers.

**ALTONA TOWN COUNCIL SAYS "GOODBYE" TO BOTTLED WATER AND COOLERS**

The Altona town council has decided that what is good for town residents should be good enough for town employees. Town offices will no longer have water coolers or bottled water available for employees. Altona's water supply is purchased from the Pembina Valley Water Co-op. Water quality is monitored by town staff. Financially, this will result in a savings of \$500 to \$600. This is also an environmentally friendly decision, as fewer plastic bottles will end up in the local landfill site.

Employees can bring their own bottled beverages to work if they so choose. A municipal resolution also enables bottled water to be supplied in emergencies and for local firefighters when fighting fires. ♻️

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