



**Submission to
Manitoba Keewatinowi
Okimakanak Inc.**

April 17th, 2016

Fiscal Relationship & Resource Equality

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

(a) Implement resource equity initiatives and a sharing of provincial resource revenues and taxes with First Nations?

We are committed to the development of a resource revenue sharing framework that recognizes that in order for Manitoba to reach its potential, we must negotiate reasonable resource revenue sharing agreements.

(b) Make direct investments in infrastructure in First Nations communities?

We are committed to investing no less than \$1 billion a year in strategic infrastructure projects with the goal of supporting economic growth in Manitoba. This will include First Nations communities.

(c) Make the sales tax exemption for Treaty First Nation citizens universally applicable at the point of sale, such as the practice in Ontario, instead of Manitoba's approach to require a "point of delivery" on reserve?

We are committed to instituting a government-wide program review to identify efficiencies and better allocate resources to the priorities of Manitobans. This review will include reviews of tax collection infrastructure in order to identify process improvements such as that which you describe.

Education

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government work directly with First Nations and First Nation school boards to:

(a) Ensure that the space or size of schools are adequate to teach the provincial curricula?

We are committed to investing frontline services and the key priorities of Manitoba families, including increased supports for education so that schools are of adequate size to allow students to reach their full academic potential.

(b) Revise the provincial curricula to more accurately reflect the Treaty relationship and the history, culture and language of Indigenous Peoples in Manitoba?

As Progressive Conservatives we recognize that the treaty relationship is constitutionally enshrined and would welcome discussions with Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) on how the provincial education curriculum could better reflect the treaty relationship and history, culture and language of Indigenous peoples in Manitoba.

(c) Collaborate with First Nations, First Nation school boards and First Nation education organizations to develop curricula programs which reflect culturally relevant Indigenous approaches to teaching?

Our vision is one of a clean, open government that works with the MKO and its member First Nations, and indeed all Manitobans because, above all else, Manitobans deserve a government that works alongside Manitobans, not above them.

Our vision is of a government that is ambitious and enthusiastic about Manitoba's future, we will work collaboratively with the MKO and all those who have a stake in the education system to better develop curricula that reflects relevant indigenous approaches to teaching.

Children & Families

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

(a) Take steps to restore the authority of First Nations over all matters relating to First Nation children and families

Our vision is one of a clean, open government that works with the MKO and its member First Nations, and indeed all Manitobans because, above all else, Manitobans deserve a government that works alongside Manitobans, not above them.

In the final report of the Phoenix Sinclair inquiry, released in 2014 Justice Ted Hughes noted deficiencies in coordination among the various government departments that deliver child welfare services. The report recommended changes to legislation to allow for greater transparency and information sharing in the child welfare system.

With respect to children and families we are committed to introducing the *Protecting Children Act* to make it easier for government departments, child and family service authorities, community service providers and law enforcement agencies to share information and collaborate when dealing with victimized and at risk children.

We need to listen and respond to front line service providers who say this is an essential tool to help them help children. This legislation is the necessary first step towards the establishment of a made-in-Manitoba collaborative model that puts children first.

(b) Ensure that customary practices for the well-being and protection of First Nation children and families will be applied?

A Progressive Conservative government believes the needs of vulnerable children must be put first. We will establish a made-in-Manitoba model that reduces barriers to promote collaborative service provisions to improve the safety, security, education and health of our most vulnerable children.

(c) Immediately stop the “claw-back” by the province of the Children’s Special allowance paid by Canada for children in care and permit Child and Family caring agencies to apply the CSA to the needs of children in care?

A Progressive Conservative government will conduct a comprehensive value for money review that will eliminate the waste in government. This review will gain an independent assessment of government spending and ensure better value for taxpayer dollars. Our review will include a diligent tracking process that measures benefits and impacts.

Women & Gender Equality in the Workforce

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government, in partnership with MKO and the MKO First Nations:

(a) Ensure that no person fleeing domestic violence is without a place of safety by ensuring Manitoba has a network of shelters and transition houses?

We will work to ensure that all those who are victims of and affected by domestic violence have a safe place to go, including shelters and transition houses.

(b) Support entities and facilities which will provide access to leadership mentoring, training, employment supports and advocacy programs for Indigenous women?

Education is about inclusion and opportunity and is the path forward for all Manitobans to personnel success and growth. We will partner with post-secondary institutions to develop a comprehensive approach to scholarships and bursaries that will reduce barriers and ensure that every deserving Manitoban has the opportunity to go on and seek a quality education.

- (c) In partnership with the MKO First nations, develop and deliver measures that are intended to enhance the inclusion of indigenous women in the workforce as a priority, with the overall objective being gender equality for the employment of indigenous peoples in the workforce?**

Our *Better Manitoba* plan is focused on lower taxes, better services, and a stronger economy. This will lead to the creation of more jobs and opportunities for all Manitobans including Indigenous women. We will work with you to make progress in this area.

Housing

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

- (a) Facilitate access by First Nations to timber resources nearby First Nation communities in order to use “local lumber” supplies to construct new housing and address the critical housing shortage in First Nation communities?**

Our strategic infrastructure program will invest at least \$1 billion in infrastructure each year. This infrastructure will focus on getting a clear return on investment for long-term economic growth. We will work closely with the federal government on housing shortage issues.

- (b) Work with First Nation communities to enhance fire protection capabilities, including related to forest fires?**

A Progressive Conservative government will conduct a value for money review. This review will eliminate the waste in government, and improve the front line services Manitobans rely on wherever they live.

Water & Wastewater Treatment, Infrastructure & Retrofits

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government make direct investments in infrastructure in First Nations communities such as:

(a) Retrofitting homes to access piped water and wastewater services?

We will provide a more flexible and independent approach to infrastructure spending to encourage local priorities and reduce red tape that costs money and loses time. We will work with our partners to establish a basket-funding model to lessen the application-based funding approach which currently exists.

(b) Enhance the protection of source water quality?

Our infrastructure plan will focus on strategic infrastructure priorities with municipalities and communities in a more responsive way to their needs and local priorities.

Health

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

(a) Construct additional health facilities in and nearby First Nation communities such as dialysis centres?

We appreciate that this is a need in Northern First Nations communities. Quality health care is part of our *Better Manitoba* plan for better services. Our healthcare capital plan focuses on building more personal care home beds. Manitobans in some parts of the province now wait over half a year for a bed, and there is a wait list of over 1,000. By building more personal care home beds we will reduce some of the current strains on the healthcare system allowing for investment in new priority areas.

(b) Work with First Nation health authorities to ensure that provincial health services are effectively and seamlessly integrated with federal and First Nation health services?

We look forward to working with the federal government to improve the quality of healthcare services that Manitobans receive.

(c) Apply Jordan's Principle in the delivery of health services to First Nation citizens and patients with critical needs?

Our party started and passed a private members resolution at the Manitoba legislature ensuring that every aboriginal child in the province receives health care with the same rights as other Manitoba kids.

<p>Inherent Rights, Inter-governmental Relations, Governance</p>

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

(a) Fully honour, respect and protect the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship?

A new Progressive Conservative government will work positively and respectfully with all Indigenous people and communities. We will endeavour to build respectful and effective partnerships involving all levels of government.

(b) Honour and operationalize the crown's duty to consult?

A new Progressive Conservative government will establish a duty to consult framework for respectful and productive consultations with indigenous communities.

(c) Fully implement all modern-day Treaties and Agreements which include the province of Manitoba or Manitoba Hydro, including the Northern Flood Agreement and the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement?

A new Progressive Conservative government will work positively and respectfully with all Indigenous people and communities. We will endeavour to build respectful and effective partnerships involving all levels of government to responsibly and sustainably develop our natural resources.

(d) Endorse and apply the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent?

A new Progressive Conservative government will work positively and respectfully with all Indigenous people and communities. We will endeavour to build respectful and effective partnerships involving all levels of government to responsibly and sustainably develop our natural resources.

(e) Engage in a true Nation to Nation Relationship between Manitoba and First Nations?

We look forward to working with First Nations in the province to form trusting, respectful, and meaningful relationships on this principle. This differs from the NDP method of promising jobs with handshake deals done in back rooms.

Clean Energy and Protection of Water, Land and Food Sovereignty

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

(a) Fully honour, respect and protect the exercise of the inherent and Treaty rights of First Nations to food sovereignty, including the rights to access clean water, medicines, plants, fish, game, timber and lands?

We look forward to working with all First Nations, and want to develop positive and respectful relationships. The best relationships are built on trust, and Greg Selinger broke the trust of all Manitobans when he raised the PST after promising not to in the last election.

(b) Enter into effective land use planning and co-management agreements?

We will work to form effective land use planning agreements that will focus on a cleaner greener environment. These agreements will implement watershed-based planning for drainage and water resource management with a goal of no net loss of water retention capacity in watersheds.

(c) Facilitate the establishment of First Nation community recycling and waste reduction programs?

We look forward to working with all First Nations in a meaningful partnership going forward. This will include consulting on issues important to First Nations communities such as community recycling and waste reduction programs.

(d) Improve transportation systems to remote communities?

Our strategic plan will invest a minimum of \$1 billion a year in infrastructure. This plan will focus on growing the economy, and improving transportation systems are integral to growing the economy.

(e) Create access to cleaner forms of energy supplies, for example, to end dependence on diesel fuel to generate electricity?

We will work to create a made-in-Manitoba climate change action plan. This will be a comprehensive plan that will cover many diverse areas. It will focus on reducing emissions, sequestering carbon and fostering adaption to climate change. This process will be difficult and take time. Collaboration is key though, and best results will only be achieved if we work together.

High Cost of Living

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

(a) Engage in the construction of all-weather roads to remote First Nations?

Our infrastructure plan focuses on growing the economy and we will spend no less than \$1 billion a year on infrastructure. This infrastructure will allow goods and people to travel across the province quicker, improving the productivity and incomes of Manitobans.

(b) Implement measures to reduce the cost of milk and nutritious foods to account for elevated cost resulting from remoteness?

Our plan will lower taxes for all Manitobans. We will reduce the PST to 7% by 2020, and we will index tax brackets and the basic personal exemption to the rate of inflation. These measures will put more money back into the pockets of all Manitobans so they can have more to spend on milk and other food items.

(c) Promote enhanced food-security measures through support of local gardening projects, greenhouses and community freezers?

A new Progressive Conservative government will reduce red tape, making it easier for local gardening projects and greenhouses to operate. We will also lower taxes for all Manitobans. A Progressive Conservative government will reduce the PST to 7% by 2020, and we will index tax brackets and the basic personal exemption to the rate of inflation. These measures will put more money back into the pockets of all Manitobans so they have more money to spend.

<p>Power Smart, Manitoba Hydro Rates & Uniform Energy Cost</p>

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government take to:

(a) Ensure the Power Smart and energy conservation programs are universally available and effectively delivered to every residential and business customer of Manitoba Hydro in the MKO First Nations?

Our energy conservation program focuses on creating an independent demand side management agency as recommended by the experts on the Public Utilities Board. This agency would be separate from Manitoba Hydro. As the Public Utilities Board has stated, there is an inherent conflict of interest when a utility acts as both a seller of electricity and a purveyor of energy efficiency.

The NDP have said three different things about a demand side management agency, and they all contradict each other. That is just another example of the NDP failing to act as a team. Manitoba needs teams to succeed.

(b) Evolve the concept of “uniform electricity rates” to “uniform electricity costs” by requiring Manitoba Hydro to create an “equivalent to natural gas” rate to be applied to the electric heating loads of northern residential electricity customers who cannot switch to natural gas?

We will keep Manitoba Hydro public and keep costs down for Manitobans by not Americanizing it as the NDP are doing. Under the NDP, Manitoba Hydro is now forced to sell power at a loss to American customers, which means Manitobans are paying more and getting less.

(c) Ensure that the costs of Manitoba Hydro’s social and environmental mitigation programs are removed from the costs that are billed to First Nation electricity customers who are adversely affected by Manitoba Hydro projects?

Hydro rates have grown by over 30% while Greg Selinger has been premier. That rate is simply unsustainable, and is the result of the NDP’s political interference in Hydro. The BiPole 3 transmission line is a perfect example of NDP waste and mismanagement at Manitoba Hydro which is costing Manitobans more. We will send the Bipole 3 construction to the Public Utilities Board for a proper review which Greg Selinger never allowed.

Employment & Economic Development

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, how will your government:

- (a) Revise provincial procurement policies to require that a preference be given to qualified Northern and Aboriginal job candidates and Aboriginal businesses in all provincial government and Manitoba Hydro project tenders?**

A Progressive Conservative government will join the New West Partnership so Manitoba companies will have access to more markets, leading to more jobs and investment.

- (b) Monitor and ensure that provincial commitments to train, employ and contract First Nation citizens and businesses, in particular through Aboriginal and Northern employment and contracting preference provisions are fully delivered?**

A new Progressive Conservative government will work closely with industry so that educational institutions can provide them with the skilled workforce that is needed in today's 21st century economy.

- (c) Ensure that the objective of all provincial Aboriginal and Northern employment and procurement and training policies includes gender equality?**

Our plan focuses on growing the economy, which raises wealth for everyone. This means there will be more jobs for Manitobans and their families.

Policing

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your government take to:

- (a) Take immediate steps to establish an RCMP detachment in each remote First Nation community to promote public safety and address long response times?**

We look forward to engaging in meaningful consultations with all First Nations on a variety of issues. Policing is a significant issue, and we look forward to working with the federal government and all groups to improve the safety of all Manitobans.

- (b) Immediately proclaim into law section 80 of the *Police Services Act* to provide provincial power to appoint local Band Constables as Special Constables and peace officers?**

We look forward to consulting with Manitobans on future legislation. A robust committee and public consultation process results in stronger legislation for all Manitobans.

- (c) Construct modern and safe holding cells in remote First Nation communities to temporarily detain individuals when required, as recommended by provincial inquests?**

Our infrastructure plan looks to reduce the red tape and strings attached with funding. Communities will have more freedom to put their share of infrastructure to their priorities, not the priorities of the NDP which is what currently happens.

(d) Immediately initiate work with MKO and the MKO First Nations to establish an MKO Regional Police Force similar to the Dakota-Ojibway Police Service and the Nishnawbe-Aski police service in Northern Ontario

We look forward to working with the MKO and MKO First Nations in the future on issues such as policing.

Resources for Children and Youth

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your government take to:

(a) Work with the MKO First Nations to establish an effective integrated suicide prevention and response program that reflects a youth-focused emphasis?

We look forward to working with all levels of government, communities and MKO First Nations to establish effective suicide prevention and response programs.

(b) Establish more resources for youth and day care facilities for First Nation citizens both on and off-reserves?

Our childcare plan focuses on giving families more options. There are now 550 fewer family childcare home spaces today in Manitoba than when the NDP assumed office. We will reduce the current cumbersome regulatory framework that is currently in place, so it is easier to open and operate childcare centres. We will also increase operating funding for licensed, family childcare home spaces.

Home-based daycare options are part of the solution, but we will work in consultation with school divisions to increase the number of childcare centres in schools. We will continue the partnership with Family Dynamics, which is a community agency specializing in childcare supports for families.

(c) Honour the commitments set out in Agreements with First Nations affected by Manitoba Hydro projects to construct alternative recreational facilities?

We believe Manitoban's energy and financial interests are best served by an independent publicly owned Manitoba Hydro. The NDP currently treats Manitoba Hydro in a reckless manner, making decisions against the advice of experts with long-term implications for our province. We will keep Manitoba Hydro public, and listen to experts and the Public Utilities Board.

Roads

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your government immediately take to:

(a) Ensure that the East Side Road Authority will work in an effective partnership with the East Side First Nations to ensure the maximum value of ESRA projects is retained locally, including as part of the tendering and management of contracts?

A Progressive Conservative government will amalgamate the East Side Road Authority into the department of Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation. This will eliminate unnecessary duplication and save money, leaving more for building roads and improving value.

(b) Complete the upgrade and paving of Provincial Highway 391 from Thompson to Lynn Lake and complete the upgrade and paving of Provincial Highway 280 from Thompson to Gillam?

A new Progressive Conservative government will invest no less than \$1 billion a year in strategic infrastructure with the goal of supporting economic growth in Manitoba. This funding will be guaranteed and predictable to enable better planning. We will not pick and

choose projects based on their potential political payout, which is the current practice under the NDP.

(c) Construct an overland road connecting PR 280 to York Landing and War Lake?

A new Progressive Conservative government will invest no less than \$1 billion a year in strategic infrastructure with the goal of supporting economic growth in Manitoba. This funding will be guaranteed and predictable to enable better planning. We will not pick and choose projects based on their potential political payout, which is the current practice under the NDP.

Airstrips

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your government take to:

(a) Extend airstrips and upgrade airports in remote First Nations to ensure that scheduled and charter flights and aircraft can safely land with a full load of passengers and cargo?

Our strategic plan will spend at least \$1 billion a year on infrastructure. Our infrastructure investments will focus on growing the economy. Projects such as extending airstrips and upgrading airports would be considered.

Connectivity & Telecommunications

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba, what steps will your government take to:

(a) Address inadequate wireless or cellular telephone services in many remote First Nation communities?

Our strategic plan will spend at least \$1 billion a year on infrastructure. Our infrastructure investments will focus on growing the economy. Projects that would address poor cellular service in remote communities would be considered.

(b) Partner with First nations to address significantly inadequate broadband internet capacity?

Our strategic plan will spend at least \$1 billion a year on infrastructure. Our infrastructure investments will focus on growing the economy. Projects that improve broadband internet capacity would be considered.

(c) Immediately address the connectivity-related impacts on health, emergency and child and family services related communications?

Improving the healthcare system requires many components. Improving connectivity issues is a part of the solution and we look forward to working with communities to develop the best ways to go about this.

Climate Change Adaptation

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba:

(a) What steps will your government take to address climate change?

We recognize the growing challenge of climate change and what it means to Northern Manitoba. A new Progressive Conservative government will work with the federal government and other jurisdictions as we develop a made-in-Manitoba climate action plan containing the following elements:

- Carbon pricing that fosters emissions reduction, keep investment capital here and stimulate new innovation in clean energy, businesses and jobs.
- Land-use and conservation measures that sequester carbon and foster adaptation to climate change.
- Reduce emissions from commercial buildings through building codes and other measures putting government operations and infrastructure on a path to carbon-neutrality.
- Encourage the adoption of fuel saving technologies and measures within the transportation sector.

(b) How will your government work in partnership with MKO and the MKO First Nations to develop and implement Climate Change Adaptation strategies to address the increasing variability, frequency and severity of weather, flooding and forest fires?

We look forward to working with the MKO, MKO First Nations and all groups in developing strategies to address the severity of weather, flooding and forest fires. We are the only party committed to starting construction of the Lake St. Martin channel in our first term.

National Inquiry into Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

If your Party forms the next government of Manitoba:

(a) What steps will your government take fully support the conduct of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered indigenous women and girls?

We know that indigenous women and girls across Canada are disproportionately affected by violence. Here in Manitoba, we have seen a number of high profile instances of violence against indigenous women and girls which have helped prompt this national discussion.

In 2014 our party moved a resolution in support of an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls.

A new Progressive Conservative Government will support the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. It is essential, during this process, that resources for front-line services to Canada's indigenous population be maintained and protected. This is a non-partisan issue and a true tragedy.

We stand ready to work with all levels of government, including our indigenous partners.