



PREMIER of MANITOBA
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and International Relations
Minister responsible for Indigenous Reconciliation

Legislative Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8 CANADA

November 13, 2024

Dear Minister Bushie,

I am honoured that you have agreed to serve Manitobans as the Minister for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures.

Our government is a listening government. As a Minister, I expect you to respect the excellence and expert advice of the public service and to work with them on our shared mission to serve the people of Manitoba.

Manitobans told us it was time for change. We have promised to deliver a government that builds a shared future for our province. Our platform offered an ambitious and responsible plan to make health care better, lower costs, and grow the economy with good jobs and a balanced budget.

Manitobans expect us to fulfill our commitments, and it is my expectation that you deliver on the commitments that pertain to your Ministry. Delivering on our core election commitments within a balanced budget is critical to fulfilling the mandate Manitobans have given us.

As the Minister for Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, you will grow our economy by working with Manitoba's Indigenous Nations to unlock their potential. You will market Manitoba as a jurisdiction with high standards for labour practices and Indigenous engagement fueled by the clean energy of Manitoba Hydro. You will develop policies that unite Manitobans, including traditional rights of First Nations and Métis hunters as well as respecting the important practices of non-Indigenous hunters. You will also protect our environment so Manitobans from all walks of life can enjoy our great outdoors for years to come.

Building on the success of our government's historic agreement with First Nations regarding timber harvesting in the Parkland region, you will protect jobs while respecting Indigenous Rights, acknowledging that forging a new nation-nation relationship with Indigenous governments takes time, humility, and a solutions-focused mindset. You will lean into Manitoba's competitive edge in the contributions of Indigenous Manitobans by improving the participation rate amongst Indigenous Manitobans and supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs and economic partnerships.

In particular, I ask that you work with your Cabinet colleagues and through legislative, regulatory and department processes to deliver on these immediate priorities:

- Work with the Minister of Finance to develop and facilitate the new Indigenous Loan Guarantee program for nation-nation partnerships in economic development.

- Develop and implement natural resource laws and policies that unite Manitobans, recognizing everyone has a role to play in the responsible stewardship of the land.
- Explore ways to expand hunting opportunities for all Manitobans and support outfitters.
- Listen to Conservation Officers, Indigenous Land Guardians, and the communities they serve, and work with them to improve respect, relationships, and workplace culture in the spirit of reconciliation.
- Take new steps to support commercial fishers in Manitoba.
- Support the forestry industry, working with Indigenous nations and industry to establish good relationships that advance economic reconciliation, protect wildlife and the environment, and grow the economy.
- Advance economic reconciliation by partnering with new and existing Indigenous developments and pursuing future opportunities with Indigenous communities through the Indigenous Economic Development fund.
- Work with Indigenous nations and industry to protect heritage resources and ensure the permitting process is efficient.

Additionally I ask that you work with your Cabinet colleagues and through legislative, regulatory and department processes to deliver on our other key commitments:

- Work with Indigenous communities, hunters, anglers and outfitters to establish protected areas that safeguard our natural resources and allow Manitobans to enjoy hunting, fishing and recreation in other areas of the province.
- Support the Community Economic Development Fund to help communities grow their local economies and create good jobs.
- Develop a new whole-of-government standard for Indigenous engagement that seeks enthusiastic consent and makes Manitoba a leader in economic reconciliation.
- Promote economic development and urban revitalization by creating an accessible pathway to establish Urban Indigenous Development zones.
- Prevent the spread of chronic wasting diseases.
- Improve the relationships with other orders of government to expedite Treaty Land Entitlement.

In addition to these priorities, I also expect that you uphold your role with integrity, professionalism and a commitment to accountability. That includes working closely with your Deputy Minister and your senior officials to ensure all decisions are made in the public interest. Just like any high-performing organization, our government will set metrics and measurable goals, listen to evidence and frontline workers, regularly assess our work and report on our progress in order to deliver on the results Manitobans deserve.

The road ahead will have challenges. Change does not come easily. But we owe it to the people of this great province to deliver on our commitments. I know you are as committed as I am to working hard every day to deliver for the people of Manitoba. Our Cabinet will reflect the values all Manitobans share of honesty, hard work, pragmatism and kindness.

Manitobans can accomplish amazing things when we stand together as one province. I firmly believe there is no challenge that we cannot meet when we are united as one Manitoba.

I know I can count on you to fulfill these important responsibilities. As Premier I promise to support you as a Minister, consult with you as a Manitoban and lean on you as a friend. Together, we will work to honour the trust Manitobans have given us.

Miigwech, Merci, Thank you,

Original signed by

Wab Kinew, Premier of Manitoba