



**MINISTER
OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING**

Room 358
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

December 30, 2020

Mr. Spencer Day
President
Brandon Chamber of Commerce
Email: info@brandonchamber.ca

Dear Mr. Day:

Thank you for your recent emails to The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba and Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer with your recommendations for reopening the economy in different regions and specific sectors across Manitoba. As Minister of Economic Development and Training, I was asked to respond.

The provincial government recognizes the significant impact that public health restrictions have on all Manitoba businesses. Manitoba's Pandemic Response System was designed to be flexible and responsive, allowing public health officials to impose restrictions only where necessary, and for the shortest amount of time required to reduce COVID-19 transmission and to protect the health and safety of all Manitobans. The recommendations you provided for additional guidelines for reopening to the public will be taken into consideration as we move forward into 2021.

Actions taken by the Manitoba government are carefully assessed and informed by expert advice. Please be assured that provincial public health officials are constantly monitoring the risks and threats to Manitobans posed by COVID-19, and will continue informing Manitoba's response to the pandemic. The Manitoba government is working to ensure the safety of all Manitobans, and is taking the necessary proactive steps to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we move forward, we will continue to make evidence-based decisions to protect the health, safety and overall well-being of Manitobans.

Your suggestion to provide the business community with more clarity around impacts when moving from one level to another in the Pandemic Response System has been raised with senior government officials. Although the situation is fluid, it is our intention to provide advance information as to when we anticipate a move back to level orange, if possible.

The province has asked business groups, including the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and Economic Development Winnipeg, for input on recovery programs to encourage the long-term sustainability and adaptation of Manitoba businesses coming out of COVID-19. Our government has committed to initial supporting funds of up to \$50 million. I would encourage you to share any proposals you may have to the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce. To date two projects have been announced, the first to support local retail in partnership with organizations like yours and the second to support dine in restaurants. The \$5 million Dine-in Restaurant Relief Program will be delivered by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce in partnership with the Manitoba Restaurant and Foodservices Association. The rebate program will help offset additional costs related to food delivery services, whether a restaurant provides its own delivery service or uses a third-party delivery company

As an important industry partner and voice for your members in Brandon, I appreciate the ongoing efforts your organization is making and thank you for your continued efforts to help protect all Manitobans. My department remains committed to maintaining open lines of communication, and I encourage you to continue to share information and ideas on behalf of your members as we collectively move forward to safely restore our economy.

Thank you again for your commitment to this important work and for sharing your insights during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,



Honourable Ralph Eichler
Minister of Economic Development
and Training

- c. The Honourable Brian Pallister, Premier of Manitoba [EXC20-12817]
Honourable Cameron Friesen, Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living
Honourable Cliff Cullen, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
Honourable Reg Helwer, Minister of Central Services
Honourable Len Isleifson, MLA for Brandon West
Tracey Maconachie, Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Training
Mayor Rick Chrest, The City of Brandon
Chuck Davidson CEO, The Manitoba Chambers of Commerce