



## Rana Bokhari Shares Vision Insights

### Commits to Investing in Infrastructure and Empowering Municipalities

*"It's about balancing priorities & addressing issues that will benefit business, community and Manitoba"*

Winnipeg – Manitoba Liberal Leader Rana Bokhari re-confirmed her commitment to strategically invest in infrastructure, reduce taxes and empower municipalities to make their own budget decisions.

Bokhari was the second speaker as part of an ongoing *"Breakfast with the Leaders"* series co-hosted by Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA) and the Manitoba Home Builders Association (MHBA).

The Liberal leader stated that if elected, her party will ensure the one percent PST increase be allotted towards fixing roads and highways. "We will create a municipal infrastructure fund, to provide accountability and transparency to Manitobans so they can be sure that the money from the PST increase is truly going towards fixing our roads and highways."

Bokhari reminded the audience her party will also eliminate the payroll tax to create more jobs and opportunities for Manitobans. "We will reduce the amount of red tape businesses have to deal with, which will make a significant difference in ensuring that they stay competitive and stay in Manitoba. That is why – as we move towards total repeal of the payroll tax – we will allow businesses to remit the payroll tax annually rather than monthly."

Manitoba's Liberal leader also declared she would rebate the eight per cent provincial sales tax municipalities pay to the provincial government. The City of Winnipeg and the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) have long lobbied for this rebate, claiming the PST they pay amounts to one level of government taxing another. The rebate would be worth \$25 million a year to municipalities. The federal government has remitted the GST back to the provinces for years.

Recognizing that this funding is vital to the municipalities, Bokhari affirms: "We're going to make sure that our roads, our highways, our water treatment, our recreational centres, and our community centres are thriving. It's about balancing priorities and addressing issues that will benefit business, community and Manitoba."

Bokhari acknowledged and promised her support for the seven pillars to "Growing Manitoba's Economy" as endorsed by six leading business organization of which the MHCA and MHBA are two - see following story. They have called Manitoba's political parties to demonstrate their commitment to:

- Fiscal Competitiveness,
- Global Trade,
- Infrastructure Investment,
- Venture Capital
- Aboriginal Engagement,
- Skilled Workforce, and

- New Fiscal Deal for Municipalities.

Mike Moore, President of the MHBA acknowledged Bokhari and the Liberal party for the announcement to exempt first time homebuyers from the Land Transfer Tax, making it easier for young people to afford their first home. But according to Bokhari, it won't stop there, "as the state of Manitoba's finances becomes clearer, we will be proposing additional ways to make the land transfer tax fairer and more practical. We are also committed to attracting more businesses to Manitoba by raising the small business tax rate threshold to \$500,000 once the budget is balanced."

During the question and answer session, Bokhari was asked if the Liberal party was prepared to consider the high cost of construction in Manitoba driven in part by high Manitoba taxes as compared to the other three western provinces. She responded that one of her top priorities was to ensure Manitoba achieves a tax competitive position, and a staged elimination of the payroll tax was but a first step in that direction. In addition, Bokhari added that "once the province's fiscal house is in order my door is open to hearing ideas from your industries on how to further reduce your costs."

She closed by saying, "I can assure you that building relationships whether it is with you (industry), municipalities, the Federal government, or First Nations, Aboriginal and Métis organizations, you have a partner in us to move Manitoba forward towards a more prosperous future."

There is one more session slated for the "Breakfast with Leaders" series. NDP leader Greg Selinger will speak on February 23, 2016, at 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. in the Madison Room the Holiday Inn, 1740 Ellice Avenue.

***For tickets \$35.00 +GST- please email Christine Miller at [christine@mhca.mb.ca](mailto:christine@mhca.mb.ca) or call her at 204 947 1379.***

# GROWING MANITOBA'S ECONOMY

## Pillars in Support of 'Growing Manitoba's Economy'

In today's globally competitive business environment it is imperative that government create a climate that attracts new business and allows existing businesses to grow and thrive. For Manitoba to reach its full potential there are seven key public policy pillars that political parties must address to demonstrate their political commitment to "Growing Manitoba's Economy," in their 2016 Provincial Election platforms.

### I. FISCAL COMPETITIVENESS

Manitoba must have an effective and fiscally prudent government committed to creating a competitive tax jurisdiction to attract and retain new investment.

### II. VENTURE CAPITAL

Commitment to the creation of an accessible venture capital fund and supportive tax credit policies to leverage investment in the growth of new and existing businesses.

### III. GLOBAL TRADE

Commitment to pursuing an expanded global trade profile for Manitoba which derives substantial economic benefit.

### IV. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Commitment to a strategic, sustained, disciplined approach to investment in Manitoba's core infrastructure.

### V. ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT

Commitment to the creation of an Aboriginal Engagement Strategy to ensure inclusion and partnership in economic growth policies.

### VI. SKILLED WORKFORCE

Commitment to attracting, educating, training and retaining a skilled, responsive workforce is fundamental to ongoing economic growth.

### VII. 'NEW FISCAL DEAL' FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Commitment to address the existing fiscal framework between the province and municipalities to meet the challenges of the future.

## CONCLUSION

The above principles are supported and respectfully submitted by the following supporting organizations each of which are committed to pursuing 'Growing Manitoba's Economy,' in the 2016 Provincial Election.

Business Council of Manitoba (BCM)  
Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME)  
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (MCC)  
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA)  
Manitoba Home Builders Association (MHBA)  
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce (WCC)

