

Time to transition from restraint to growth: Lorenc

MHCA co-sponsor at deputy ministers' dinner



MHCA President Chris Lorenc at the Deputy Ministers' Dinner. Photo: Manitoba Chamber

The Pallister government has had a tough go of it, turning around the provincial finances by controlling spending, but it is time now to begin the transition to another level, MHCA President Chris Lorenc told the annual Deputy Ministers' Dinner hosted by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce June 8.

Lorenc acknowledged and thanked the deputy and assistant deputy ministers in the room for their work in assisting reducing provincial deficits in the past two years. "That was hard work, it's not easy," said Lorenc.

The dinner's format saw deputy ministers from across the provincial departments circulating for each meal course amongst

the tables, to chat with a variety of business and industry representatives.

But, Lorenc noted that cuts and restraint cannot be the economic policy. "The destination cannot be economic stability; it must be sustained economic prosperity."

And now that the path toward a balanced budget has been paved, it is time to look at opportunities for investment that have clear a return to the economy, he said, pointing to infrastructure investment. "Restraining investment in infrastructure is not only unsustainable, it is counterproductive."

The MHCA prepared for the table settings a flyer setting out the infrastructure challenge, which is underscored by the multi-billion-dollar infrastructure investment deficits at the municipal level, where revenue sources are scarce.

The solution includes striking and transitioning in a new fiscal deal between the province and municipalities to balance and share roles, revenues and responsibilities. The full text of Lorenc's address at the dinner, along with the flyer, can be found inside, on pages 2 and 3.



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