

Sou'wester

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Spring means plenty is happening



Janice Morley-Lecomte
SEINE RIVER MLA
CONSTITUENCY
REPORT

We have been in session for a little over a month now, and in that time many exciting announcements have been made.

One announcement Manitobans always eagerly anticipate is that of the government's annual budget. On April 7, the provincial budget was released. It was filled with important announcements highlighting our province's finances and funding opportunities. If you were unable to virtually attend the budget speech and would like more information on the details of the 2021-22 budget, please visit www.gov.mb.ca

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Spring has officially sprung! With the beginning of spring, we have not only enjoyed warm weather and above-seasonal temperatures, we have also had the luxury of our greenhouses opening for our garden season.

As an avid gardener, I am always happy to visit the greenhouses, and explore all the beautiful plants and flowers starting to bloom; it is welcomed after our long and cold Manitoba winters. I was honoured to bring forward a resolution celebrating backyard and community gardeners. The health



Supplied photo

Seine River MLA Janice Morley-Lecomte (far left) was on hand to see Pam Hadder (middle) of Willow Place accept a cheque for \$1,000 from Asian Women of Winnipeg, represented by Saadia Maryam (on the left) and Sharan Tappia (right).

benefits, access to locally grown produce and ability to appreciate where our food comes from are a few of the many benefits gardening offers.

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On March 13, I had the pleasure of attending an International Women's Day event was hosted by the Asian Women of Winnipeg. AWOW is a wonderful non-profit organization that aims to promote, educate, and empower women living in Winnipeg.

The event was a celebration to recognize Isha Khan for her tremendous achievements and contributions as the new CEO of the

Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

After honouring Isha for her outstanding work in bettering the community, AWOW presented a cheque for \$1,000 to a local women's shelter. I'm honoured that I was able to attend and be a part of this lovely event, which not only celebrates the incredible women living in our province, but gives back to the women in our province who need it most.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my constituency office at janice.seineriverMLA@mymts.net or 204-794-8079.

Yazidi community finds home



Sarah Guillemard
FORT RICHMOND MLA
CONSTITUENCY
REPORT

What a month for spring traditions. The Jewish community celebrated Passover in March and April, Hindus commemorated Holi, the "festival of colours," and Christians celebrated Easter on April 4. Eastern Christians and the Yazidi community will also mark Easter on April 14.

Thank you for celebrating safely during this second spring holiday season of COVID-19.

Throughout April, Yazidi people around the world are also observing the Yazidi new year. For the safety of families, it will be commemorated at home, rather than with the traditional communal feast.

Hadji Hesso of the Yazidi Association of Manitoba notes the Yazidi people settled in Canada are proud Canadians, happy to

be part of our city and province. They look forward to better times for celebration in the years to come, hopefully with new Yazidi arrivals. Hesso has volunteered for years to bring persecuted Yazidis over to Canada and help them settle in Winnipeg and other cities across North America.

Fort Richmond and Winnipeg have a rich, recent history of welcoming Yazidis, many from Northern Iraq and Syria, into our community.

In 2014 Yazidis were targeted for genocide by the Islamic State terror group in their homeland. Two hundred Winnipeg Yazidi refugees — who had been rescued from persecution over 10 years before — raised awareness of what was going on. In response, Winnipeg's Jewish community created a partnership of faith groups and volunteers.

Hundreds of Yazidis have been admitted to Canada as a result, many landing in Winnipeg. Many families settled in south Winnipeg, bringing their children to the Pembina Trails School Division. About three-quarters of Winnipeg's Yazidi

community now lives in the south end of the city. Until recently, most support services for refugees were more centrally located.

In 2019, the Newcomer Community Hub was created in Fort Richmond's Ryerson School to help new families and students adjust to life in Canada, especially after experiences of violence, trauma, and displacement. The Hub was created through the efforts of the Pembina Trails School Division, Immigration Partnership Winnipeg, and 15 other organizations to support all newcomers, with particular focus on the Yazidis' unique challenges as a persecuted group.

Now integrated into Fort Richmond, the Yazidi community reaches out wishing everyone a healthy, prosperous year and happy Easter.

What a beautiful, rich mosaic of traditions our community has to offer.

I love to hear from you, so please feel free to reach out to my constituency office at 204-221-8881 or email contact@sarahguillemard.com.