

Sou'wester

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Volunteers are core of communities



Sarah Guillemard
FORT RICHMOND MLA
CONSTITUENCY
REPORT

Happy Mother's Day to the mothers honoured this past Sunday!

May 12 is Manitoba Day, and as we again mark this occasion more quietly due to COVID-19, it is still a chance to celebrate our amazing province. Apart from the beautiful, varied landscape, it is the people who make our home so wonderful. Manitobans step up to make differences, big and small.

Peter and Audrey VanderSpek are two such Manitobans. When our community club's mini-soccer program desperately needed volunteers, they signed up to fill the roles of registrar and equipment manager.

Peter regularly helps with the South Winnipeg Community Centre soccer jamboree barbecue, Audrey has coached and they have both been involved with hockey, as well as volunteering at their church's outreach programs and at Harvest Manitoba with their daughter, Lara, five, and son, Matthias, who's eight.

"We were looking for where we were a good fit. We have been given gifts and talents and bear responsibility for those gifts," Peter says, explaining why they signed up to help with the program that serves families in the Fort Richmond, Richmond West, Waverley Heights, and Waverley West neighbourhoods.

As a busy mom and engineer, Audrey says the registrar position is a good fit for her organizational skills and allows for a flexible



Supplied photo

Peter and Audrey VanderSpek with their son Matthias and daughter Lara.

input of her time. She is also an avid Jets fan and enjoys playing frisbee.

Peter says his vending machine business gives him flexibility to spend time with his young kids, to volunteer at his parish for groups like Love Lives Here and Kids Spot, as well as to serve in the community.

"We hope to model social responsibility and empathy. We also want to help other volunteers so they don't burn out," he says.

Peter is proud their son is now a happy volunteer at their church and that he can't wait to help out with the next SWCC pancake breakfast.

While trying to get the mini-soccer program off the ground this year, there are special challenges. Parents are uncertain about the ongoing changes to restrictions, Audrey says. Registrations come in and out, with

new families joining and others cancelling.

"We have been richly blessed in this life, and given the opportunity to make a difference to show love, compassion, and mercy," Peter says. "It's hard in the work, but rewarding in the job of serving not just our kids, but kids in the neighbourhood who have not been able to get out and socialize in the last year. We are all happy to get out and have some fun."

Volunteers like the VanderSpeks are the core of our communities and Manitoba. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit www.swcc1.ca

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

Budget invests in domestic vaccine production



Jim Carr
WINNIPEG SOUTH
CENTRE MP
CONSTITUENCY
REPORT

On April 19 our government presented the expansive and ambitious Budget 2021. In my role as the Prime Minister's special representative for the Prairies I have been speaking with prairie city mayors and business councils, taking part in round-table discussions on early learning and child care, and making announcements on green technology investments.

These engagements enable me to know the depth and diversity of talent in our prairie provinces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that we must strengthen our ability to respond to large-scale health emergencies. We need to increase Canada's capacity for research and development and manufacturing of vaccines and therapeutic treatments. Budget 2021 makes it a priority to do exactly this with proposed investments of more than \$2 billion over seven years — investment in building up capacity in Canada's life sciences and bio-manufacturing sector.

The investment will support training for researchers, procurement of cutting-edge equipment and development of the highly sophisticated infrastructure needed for safe and effective medical labs.

It is notable that the National Microbiology Lab is in Winnipeg — it's the lab where the Ebola virus vaccine was developed and it is

home to highly skilled scientists, equipment and infrastructure that has been critical in the response to COVID-19.

Budget 2021 adds more than \$7 billion to the Strategic Innovation Fund, most of this amount for innovation to decarbonize heavy industry, support clean technologies and meaningfully accelerate domestic greenhouse emissions reductions. The businesses, innovation and research already happening on the prairies is well positioned to attract investment from the fund.

The pandemic has proven to be the challenge of a generation, but it is a challenge the Government of Canada is resolved to meet head-on by making bold investments in the talented and diverse prairie people I am privileged to speak with every day.