

Manitoba Bridge Grant open until Dec. 15



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FORT RICHMOND MLA
CONSTITUENCY REPORT

This is proving to be a challenging season for our community of Fort Richmond, our province, our country, and all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we have all heard so much about this crisis lately, or may be dealing with it directly through illness, the death of a loved one, job or income loss, or mental health concerns, please know that I am here to serve you as best as I can.

My office — while physically closed to the public — can be a source of information, including how and where to get help. Please reach out via phone at 204-221-8881 or email contact@sarahguillemard.com

Also, please follow my social media feeds for current news and resources.

One of the hardest-hit communities has been our small businesses. Manitoba businesses have made and continue to make sacrifices to protect the health and safety of Manitobans. I want to make sure they are aware of all supports available to them.

The Manitoba Bridge Grant can be applied for until Dec. 15 at www.manitoba.ca/supportsforbusiness

Small and medium-sized businesses, not-for-profits, and charitable organizations that were required to cease

operations or close publicly-accessible physical locations as a result of COVID-19 public health orders are eligible for this program.

This \$5,000 grant has the capacity to be extended for a further \$5,000 automatically as of Jan. 1, 2021, should the health order remain in place.

Despite trying times, Fort Richmond businesses and residents continue to inspire me with their resilience and selflessness. As United Way Winnipeg is predicting a great need for winter gear, Perth's Dry-cleaners at 2866 Pembina Hwy. and Access Storage at 3101 Pembina are local drop-off centres for Koats for Kids. Gently-used coats, ski pants, toques, and mittens for children and adults can be dropped off at these locations. Both businesses are also open and following COVID-19 protocols to limit contact and keep customers safe.

I hope to feature local stores and businesses as much as possible in the near future to try to let residents know how to #SupportLocal and #saveMBrestaurants. If you have a Fort Richmond organization to highlight, please reach out to my office.

On another note, the South Winnipeg Community Club is also looking for nominations for its volunteer appreciation awards. Although the traditional dinner will not take place, please visit www.swcc1.ca to learn how to nominate someone for the Lida Rodriguez Community Contribution award and the Long Term Service award.

For accurate and timely information surrounding COVID-19 measures, please visit www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html



**Add a layer this fall.
Get a flu shot to help
protect your community.**

The annual seasonal flu vaccine is available to all Manitobans at no charge. It offers protection against four seasonal flu strains.

The flu vaccine helps protect you AND people around you. An annual flu vaccine is especially important for:

- those at increased risk of serious illness from the flu
- their caregivers
- their close contacts

Now, more than ever, you can help protect your community.

If you are 65 or older, or have a chronic illness, talk to your doctor about also getting a vaccine for pneumonia. One pneumococcal vaccine may give you a lifetime of protection.

To get your free flu vaccine, contact your public health nurse, doctor, pharmacist or call Health Links – Info Santé at 204-788-8200 or toll free 1-888-315-9257.

Learn more at manitoba.ca/flu

Manitoba 

NEWS IN BRIEF

Caution urged around waterways

With temperatures dropping and ice forming on waterways, first responders are urging extreme caution.

At this time of year, ice surfaces are thin and fragile and falling into ice-cold water can be deadly. Parents and teachers should speak to children and students about the dangers of waterways, which include drainage ditches, culverts, streams, creeks, retention ponds and rivers. Dog owners are also reminded to keep dogs on leashes around the ice.

"Ice is starting to form on the surface of all bodies of water and the ice thickness is completely unpredictable at this time of year," Mark Reshaur, assistant chief of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, said in a statement. "All residents should stay away from these surfaces and their banks."

"Staying away from the riverbanks, and off of any thin ice, is the only way to prevent the dire consequences of falling through," Jason English, River Patrol Supervisor for the Winnipeg Police Service, added. "The WPS considers all frozen bodies of water within the city of Winnipeg to be unsafe for recreational use with the exception of areas that are monitored in accordance with the City's Frozen Waterways By-Law."

The WFPS responds to approximately 200 water and ice safety calls for service annually. While the WPS River Patrol Unit places "Danger - Thin Ice" signage at specific locations, all ice should be considered unsafe even if warning signs are not present.

— Staff