



DEPUTY PREMIER
MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
INVESTMENT AND TRADE
Room 358
Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
CANADA

Submission to the Standing Committee on Industry and Technology

Re: Bill C-235 An Act respecting the building of a green economy in the Prairies

From: Hon. Cliff Cull, MLA, Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade, Province of Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba does not support Bill C-235 and views it as an unnecessary piece of legislation that lacked consultation with the provinces. The Bill has not been brought forward in a timely manner and does not recognize the progress that has been made within the green economy by the provinces, businesses and entrepreneurs.

The Province of Manitoba is concerned that Bill C-235 if passed would create unnecessary bureaucracy and a top down approach that would delay moving forward the green economy, delay decisions on research and development and stifle innovation that is already occurring.

We rather support grassroots efforts of industry and individuals to create new and innovative solutions that help to green our economy now. An example of this is our province has been supportive of the advancement of technology and A.I. through The Enterprise Machine Intelligence and Learning Initiative (EMILI) that seeks to improve production and environmental performance through precision digital farming, research, development and commercialization that will benefit the green economy.

The Province of Manitoba has moved forward with many initiatives through our Climate and Green plan that encourage a green economy, lower our carbon footprint as a province, supports carbon sequestration, and green energy production while growing our economy and mitigating the future impacts of climate change through investments in green infrastructure.

For example under the Low Carbon Economy Fund, Manitoba is taking climate action in the transportation sector. Heavy-duty vehicle emissions account for approximately 11 per cent of Manitoba's carbon output and Manitoba's Efficient Trucking Program will support retrofits in the transportation sector, such as, fuel-saving devices and technologies, reducing energy consumption, and providing environmental benefits.

Manitoba established the Conservation and Climate Fund which provides support to projects occurring in Manitoba that incorporate actions to combat and adapt to climate change and protect the environment in alignment with the priorities and implementation of the Manitoba Climate and Green Plan.

As an initiative of the Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, the Fund supports Manitoba's vision of becoming Canada's cleanest, greenest, most climate-resilient province.

For full information you can visit the [Conservation and Climate Fund at Manitoba GO \(Manitoba Grants Online\)](#) or contact the Climate and Green Plan Implementation Office at ccinfo@gov.mb.ca

Efficiency Manitoba is offering rebates to businesses and homeowners that install solar systems connected to Manitoba Hydro's grid. Manitoba Hydro is already producing low carbon footprint clean energy for Manitoban's and for export. The Province is hopeful that Manitoba's clean energy can help neighbouring provinces reduce their carbon footprint and other pollution levels by increasing the amount of clean energy supply from our electrical grid.

Efficiency Manitoba is a Crown corporation committed to achieving significant annual energy savings targets by offering cost-effective programs and services to Manitobans. The legislated mandate is to develop and support energy efficiency initiatives that will reduce provincial consumption of electricity by 1.5% and natural gas by 0.75% annually. In the process of reducing provincial consumption of natural gas, we enable significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The first three-year (2020-23) plan for energy efficiency in Manitoba is being implemented offering programs and initiatives contributing to meeting Manitobans' needs for energy while helping reduce the impact of energy rate increases.

We are currently developing an energy strategy for the province, a water strategy and a new green transportation strategy that will help to create the charging infrastructure for new EV vehicles and create incentives for the purchase of zero emission and low emission electric vehicles and hybrids.

The Province of Manitoba has been undertaking significant engagements and consultations with indigenous communities, rural and urban communities and all Manitobans over the course of our two mandates that are leading to the completion of these strategies that will support a greener economy.

At the same time we have been investing in green infrastructure such as the Lake St. Martin channel outlet that will help to further mitigate the impacts of future flooding in our province. We have invested significantly in planting of new trees in our province, forest management plans and mine rehabilitation initiatives to improve safety and ensure a clean environment within our province. The forest industry in particular in Manitoba plants millions of trees a year while sequestering carbon in renewable wood products and structures. During the last reporting period ending in March 2021, over 27 million trees were planted on Crown lands throughout Manitoba, and over 80,000 hectares received Certificates of Forest Renewal. Additionally the province has invested in new shelterbelt programs for our provincial highways planting trees along fields, roadways and the Trans-Canada highway, and investing in the urban forest canopy in our cities and communities.

Manitoba's investments in the grow program and new watershed conservation districts have been conserving and re-establishing wetlands in our province that serve to sequester carbon, clean our waters and make our province more resistant to droughts and floods by providing greater water storage capacity on the land. This initiative further enhances habitat for fish and wildlife in our province and improves the sustainability of our agriculture sector with reliable water sources for irrigation that supports local food production.

Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation has been partnering with farmers, ranchers and other conservation groups in North America to preserve Manitoba's grasslands, wetlands, and other key habitats on our landscape important to wildlife, and that help to preserve our soil, water, and air while sequestering carbon. The corporation manages projects funded by Manitoba's Conservation Trust that is invested by the Winnipeg Foundation and investment proceeds are used to invest in green projects by industry and non-profits.

We have also recently established a Parks endowment fund that is also managed by the Winnipeg Foundation and the proceeds will be used to fund annual projects to enhance Manitoba's many Parks that are preserving our natural areas for the benefit of fish and wildlife, the environment, Manitobans and everyone who wishes to visit our province from abroad to appreciate the bountiful natural resources available in our parks and on our crown lands. These visits will contribute to our economy and our conservation efforts in the future. Many of the projects funded in the future by the parks endowment fund will support conservation efforts, education on the environment, and improved emission reductions through enhanced and renewed parks infrastructure.

Our government is in a multi-year project to invest in the rehabilitation of our government owned and operated buildings to improve their energy efficiency and lower emissions and we are investing in green energy retro-fits through rebates for home owners and small business through efficiency Manitoba to reduce their energy usage, helping consumers save money and lower emissions.

Manitoba has sought to reduce red-tape for individuals, non-profits and businesses over the past 6 and a half years to attract investment and allow for greater innovation, entrepreneurship and growth within our economy and province. As the Minister responsible for Economic Growth, Investment and Trade I would be concerned that Bill C-235 would create more red-tape and barriers for business and Manitobans that want to innovate within the green economy.

Further, with Manitoba Hydro's significant contribution of green hydro-electric energy and our provinces overall low emission profile the green economy is already alive and well on the prairies in Manitoba and does not need this bill or the Federal Government to "create or build" a green economy; it is already here and well on its way towards future growth as I have outlined in this submission.

Our government is very much focused on outcomes whether it is economic outcomes, social outcomes, or environmental and conservation outcomes, we want to see taxpayers dollars used wisely to accomplish real results and get value for money. As you can see from the above comments and investments we have already moved to grow our green economy, improve conservation efforts and reduce carbon emissions and pollution while increasing energy efficiency.

Thank-you for the opportunity to make a submission on behalf of the Province of Manitoba on Bill C-235

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff Cullen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honourable Cliff Cullen
Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade