MEDIA STATEMENT
Tuesday November 17, 2026

MANITOBA FEDERATION OF LABOUR
Strong Unions, Strong Manitoba

Throne Speech's focus on rebuilding public services and strengthening workplace health and safety shows government is moving in the right direction

Statement by MFL President Kevin Rebeck in response to the Kinew government's 2026 Speech from the Throne:

Working families want to know that quality health care and public services will be there when they need them. Manitoba has suffered from a staffing crisis in health care, education and the broader public service for years and we are glad that this Throne Speech continues the government's focus on rebuilding the public services that we all rely on after years of cuts and neglect under the previous PC government.

This government is moving in the right direction, but there is still a lot of work to do to staff up our public services and address longstanding vacancies. Manitobans are counting on this government to make the necessary investments to ensure safe and appropriate staffing levels and to reduce long waits and barriers to accessing services. We are also glad to see a commitment to follow through on an election pledge to raise wages for community disability support workers.

Last month, the Manitoba Federation of Labour revealed troubling new data that shows Manitoba has the worst workplace injury rate in the country, pointing to major problems with WCB's current injury prevention system and a failure to hold employers accountable when it comes to keeping workers safe on the job. We are encouraged by the government's commitment to work with the labour movement to revamp Manitoba's workplace injury prevention system and get Manitoba out of the basement when it comes to workplace injuries.

As part of these efforts, we are glad to see that government is committing to address not only physical but also psychological health and safety at work, with first-in-Canada protections for psychologically safe and healthy workplaces. New actions will also target Manitoba's concerning levels of workplace violence, which require urgent attention.

There are other important commitments for workers in this Throne Speech, including making it easier for working parents to qualify for maternity and paternity leave by drastically reducing the qualifying periods for these family-supporting benefits.

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