



Assiniboia

constituency news

Spring 2004

Jim Rondeau, MLA for Assiniboia

Dear Constituents:

These are challenging times economically for Manitoba. The closing of the US border to Canadian cattle and beef continues to take a toll. Last summer, we had one of the worst forest fire seasons on record and Manitoba lost more hectares of forest than any other province. More recently, the sudden rise in value of the Canadian dollar has put the squeeze on our manufacturing, resource and agriculture sectors. Nonetheless our government is holding a steady course. Our expenditure per capita is the second-lowest in Canada and we are one of only two provinces balancing their budgets while still reducing taxes and paying down the debt. Looking ahead to the new fiscal year, we expect to maintain core services Manitobans depend on, while continuing to balance the budget and fulfill our commitments to Manitobans.

Locally, we have much to appreciate: in May the new YM/YWCA will open; planning for a new skateboard park continues; and our government's investment in training at Boeing Canada will see the design of a new airliner and the development of a more highly skilled workforce.

Since my appointment as Minister of Healthy Living in November, I have been working to clarify our government's expanded focus in dealing with the complexities of being healthy and staying healthy. I am optimistic that residents of Assiniboia and all Manitobans will view this as a much needed natural progression in dealing with the personal practice of keeping body and mind healthy.

In these pages, you will find details about health information resources and about opportunities for affordable, active living right here in our community.

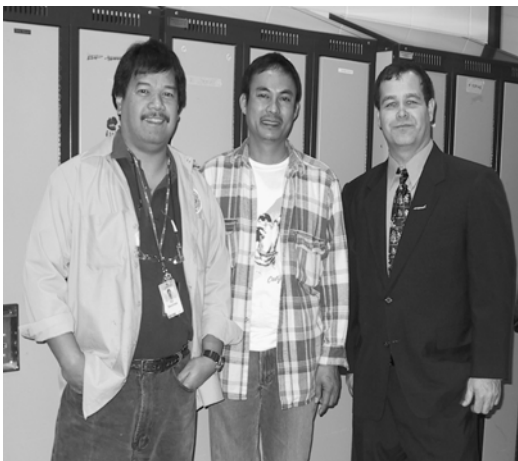


Boeing General Manager Mark Ross, Jim and Industry Minister Scott Smith

Stay Active, Stay Healthy, Keep well,

Jim Rondeau

economic boost for Assiniboia



Eduardo Barcinos and Frederico Bilderos talking with Jim at the Boeing plant

Gary Doer recently visited the Boeing Canada site in Assiniboia to announce our province's investment in training workers for the design, development and production of the new Boeing 7E7 Dreamliner. The training funds we invest over the next seven years will allow this Murray Park plant to reach a new level of design capacity and to train a more highly skilled workforce. The Dreamliner, a technologically advanced, 250 seat airliner, will incorporate high efficiency design and advanced non-metal materials such as fiberglass, graphite and Kevlar. Due to the stronger and lighter material, it will consume 20 per cent less fuel per passenger than similarly sized aircraft. Boeing Canada opened its Winnipeg plant in 1971 and currently employs approximately 900 people.