

Bike to the Future 3rd Floor – 303 Portage Ave. Winnipeg, MB R3B 2B4 www.biketothefuture.org

October 18, 2011

Honourable Greg Selinger Premier of Manitoba

Dear Premier Selinger;

Congratulations on your new mandate!

We look forward to working with you and your Government on active transportation policies and programs. We appreciate that there are many issues on the Government's agenda, and four years can pass quickly.

We are writing to ask you to take steps right away to ensure that the Government will be able to make real progress in the coming years. We see three important first steps arising from the "Greater Strides" report submitted to your government by the Active Transportation Advisory Group, and publicly released in June:

- 1) Developing a Provincial active transportation policy;
- 2) Dedicating resources to support the policy, including funding for infrastructure and education and full time staff to oversee its implementation; and
- 3) Establishing a process for public input and advice on active transportation issues.

It is our understanding that your government is committed to these actions. They formed the basis of a question put to Gordon Mackintosh and others at the Canadian Automobile Association election forum on infrastructure, consumer and safety issues. In response, Minister Mackintosh agreed that within one year of becoming elected, your government will put these three elements in place.

- We ask that you designate a minister responsible for active transportation in this fall's cabinet appointments, to ensure that there is someone with the authority to take the lead in implementing commitments that may range across various departments.
- We would like to meet with you to discuss how we can work with the Province in developing and implementing its vision for active transportation.

We are very thankful for the NDP's commitment to build an AT overpass near the Hwy 59N intersection with the Perimeter. We were very concerned that, without that commitment, planners of the new highway interchange considered AT needs "beyond their scope," and that they were going to inadvertently create a very dangerous situation for cyclists and pedestrians travelling in that area.

We are looking forward to what the next four years will bring. Great progress has been made by our neighbours in Minneapolis and Wisconsin – why not in Manitoba?

Sincerely,

Heaver

Charles Feaver province@biketothefuture.org For: Bike to the Future Board of Directors