

**MINISTERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

**Brian Pallister** was elected as the MLA for Fort Whyte in 2012 and re-elected in 2016. He was previously elected as the MLA for Portage la Prairie in 1992 and 1995, and served as the minister of government services. In 2000, Pallister was elected as the member of Parliament for Portage-Lisgar and served eight years including as chair of the Finance Committee. A graduate of Brandon University, he holds degrees in arts and education, and taught social studies at William Morton Collegiate in Gladstone before starting a financial services company in 1980 that grew into Pallister Financial. He and his wife Esther have two daughters.

**Heather Stefanson** was elected as the MLA for Tuxedo in 2000 and re-elected in 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2016. In 2016, Stefanson was appointed minister of justice and attorney general, Keeper of the Great Seal of the Province of Manitoba, and deputy premier. She is now minister of families and retains her role of deputy premier. An investment advisor, Stefanson earned her bachelor of arts from the University of Western Ontario before completing her financial education at the Canadian Securities Institute. She also worked as an advisor in the offices of the prime minister, the federal minister of agriculture and the provincial minister of education. She and her husband Jason have two children.

**Kelvin Goertzen** was elected as the MLA for Steinbach in 2003 and re-elected in 2007, 2011 and 2016. In 2016, Goertzen was appointed minister of health, seniors and active living. He is now the minister of education and training and government house leader. Goertzen has degrees from the University of Manitoba in economics, commerce and law, and has worked for a major financial institution and a property development company. He is extremely active in his local community, having served as vice-president of both the Steinbach Arts Council and the Steinbach Food Bank. He has received the H.O.P.E. Medal of Honour from the Lions Club of Manitoba and the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. He and his wife Kim have one son.

**Ron Schuler** was elected as the MLA for St. Paul in 1999 and re-elected in 2003, 2007, 2011 and 2016. Since 2016, Schuler served as minister of Crown services and his 2017 appointment minister of infrastructure remains. Schuler is a graduate of the University of Manitoba with a degree in international relations and has served as a trustee with the River East School Division. An entrepreneur, former small-business owner and community volunteer, he has devoted his time to organizations like Big Brothers, Citizens on Patrol, Max Reinhardt Theatre Canada and the Manitoba Inter-cultural Council. He has three children and lives in St. Paul.

**Ralph Eichler** was elected as the MLA for Lakeside in 2003 and re-elected in 2007, 2011 and 2016. His 2016 appointment as minister of agriculture remains. A business owner and former administrator for the Interlake School Division, Eichler is an active volunteer in his community, serving various organizations including the Teulon and Area Lions Club, the Stonewall Royal Canadian Legion, the Interlake Community Foundation Board, and the Teulon Golf and Country Club. He and his wife Gail have three children and three grandchildren.

**Cliff Cullen** was elected as the MLA for Turtle Mountain in 2004 and re-elected in 2007. In 2011 and 2016, he was re-elected in the new constituency of Spruce Woods. Cullen was appointed minister of growth, enterprise and trade in 2016, and in 2017, appointed minister of Crown services as well as government house leader. He is now the minister of justice and attorney general, Keeper of the Great Seal of the Province of Manitoba. Cullen earned a diploma in agriculture from the University of Manitoba and worked in the agricultural and environmental sectors, serving as president of the Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association and as provincial manager of the Association for a Clean Rural Environment. He and his wife Marilyn have three sons.

**Blaine Pedersen** was elected as the MLA for Midland in 2007 and re-elected in 2011 and 2016. In 2016 he was appointed minister of infrastructure and his 2017 appointment as minister of growth, enterprise and trade remains. With more than 30 years farming experience in cattle and grain operations, Pedersen is an active member of his community, serving in many livestock organizations and groups such as Kinsmen, Toastmasters, 4-H program and a local housing corporation. He and his wife Dianne have three children and five grandchildren.

**Cameron Friesen** was elected as the MLA for Morden-Winkler in 2011 and re-elected in 2016. In 2016, he was appointed minister of finance and minister responsible for the civil service. He is now minister of health, seniors and active living. Born and raised in Morden, Friesen earned degrees in music and education, and spent 12 years teaching in the Winnipeg, Hanover and Western school divisions. He and his wife Shelley have three children.

**Scott Fielding** was elected as the MLA for Kirkfield Park in 2016 and appointed as minister of families. He is now minister of finance and minister responsible for the civil service. Fielding graduated from the University of Manitoba with an advanced bachelor of arts in economics and political studies, and has served as a Winnipeg city councillor, where he was chair of the Finance Committee and chair of the Winnipeg Police Board. A business owner, he has served on the boards of organizations including the Winnipeg Convention Centre, the Assiniboine Park Conservancy and the St. James Village Business Improvement Zone. He and his wife Michelle have three children.

**Eileen Clarke** was elected as the MLA for Agassiz in 2016. She was appointed minister of Indigenous and municipal relations in 2016, and her 2017 appointment as minister of Indigenous and northern relations remains. An entrepreneur and municipal politician, Clarke was an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce for more than 35 years before serving for eight years as the mayor of Gladstone and as the Association of Manitoba Municipalities' vice-president in 2010. She and her husband Bob have two children and are proud grandparents.

**Cathy Cox** was elected as the MLA for River East in 2016 and was appointed as minister of sustainable development. Her 2017 appointment as minister of sport, culture and heritage remains. Born and raised in north Winnipeg, Cox has spent many years volunteering for various initiatives in her community including the Sun Valley Parent Association, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba and the Canadian Cancer Society, Manitoba Division. She was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her outstanding contributions to her community. She and her husband Herb have three sons and two grandchildren.

**Rochelle Squires** was elected as the MLA for Riel in 2016. She served as minister of sport, culture and heritage and her 2017 appointment as minister of sustainable development remains and she continues as minister responsible for francophone affairs and status of women. A journalist, Squires holds a bachelor of arts in communications from the University of Winnipeg, a master of fine arts from the University of British Columbia and a journalism diploma from Red River College. She and her husband Daniel have a combined family of five children and two grandchildren.

**Jeff Wharton** was elected as the MLA for Gimli in 2016. His 2017 appointment as minister of municipal relations remains. Wharton is an experienced municipal politician, having been elected as a councillor for the Town of Winnipeg Beach and serving two years as deputy mayor. He and his wife, Mickey, purchased Globe Moving and Storage Ltd., successfully grew the business for over 20 years before selling it in 2010. Wharton continued operating a consulting firm, using his entrepreneurial skills to help others grow their organizations. He has served as president and vice-president of the Lakeside Lions Club, a director on the Evergreen Basic Needs Board, and a director on the Gimli Seniors Residence Board. The Whartons have two daughters and three grandchildren.

**Colleen Mayer** was elected as the MLA for St. Vital in 2016. She is now minister of Crown services. She served as government whip, was a member of Treasury Board and acted as assistant deputy speaker. A long-time resident of St. Vital, Mayer has actively served her community as a former trustee for the Louis Riel School division and former executive director of the Old St. Vital Business Improvement Zone (BIZ). She also volunteered her time with the United Way, the Windsor Community Centre board of directors and the Youth Justice Committee. She and her husband Cory live in the Elm Park neighbourhood with their two children.