



**PREMIER OF MANITOBA**

Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA  
R3C2V8

January 13, 2017

Ms. Molly McCracken  
Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives  
Unit 205-765 Main Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 3N5

Dear Ms. Molly McCracken:

I am writing to invite you to be part of an important journey I will be making in June.

This year marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Selkirk Treaty. The Treaty was the legacy of an extraordinary friendship between Lord Selkirk and Chief Peguis, and laid the foundation for what would later become Manitoba.

The events that led to the signing of the Treaty tell a story of partnership; a story of generosity and humanity.

Between the years of 1812 and 1815, groups of people from Scotland and Ireland arrived in what is now our province. The Selkirk Settlers, as they are now known, were woefully unprepared and soon found themselves in dire need of food, shelter and protection. Peguis befriended them, provided food and guided them to the Hudson's Bay Company post at Pembina for shelter. He and his band protected the settlers from violent confrontations with local fur traders who did not want them in the region.

The importance of Peguis's contribution to the future of both our province and nation cannot be understated. The Selkirk Settlers would not have survived without his help, and the Selkirk Treaty would have never existed if not for his actions and willingness to enter into that agreement. Without the Selkirk Treaty, there may not have been a Manitoba as we now know it.

In recognition and celebration of the bicentennial of the Selkirk Treaty, I will be biking between the location of the original St. Peter's Reserve – land allocated to Chief Peguis and his band under the Selkirk Treaty – and the current Peguis First Nation. The distance is approximately 100 miles and I plan to do it from June 16 to 18 of this year.

When I arrive at Peguis First Nation, I plan to deliver letters from Manitobans residing in every corner of the province, expressing their appreciation to the descendants of Chief Peguis and his band for the vital role they played in the formation of our province. I invite you to join me in this mission of friendship by writing a letter to Manitoba's Indigenous peoples, expressing your gratitude for the vital role they played in the formation of our province, as well as your optimism for the important role they will play in its future.

The story of Manitoba is one of centuries of compassion, friendship and partnership between Indigenous Manitobans and those who arrived after them. That partnership is the bedrock on which our strong and beautiful province was built. It is that enduring relationship that ensures our province's bright future.

Please help me and join many other Manitobans in recognizing and re-affirming our strong partnership with our Indigenous peoples.

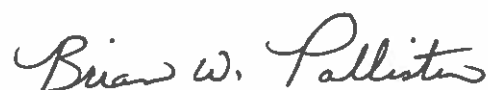
Please send your letter to me at the Legislative Building by no later than April 15, 2017, so that I can deliver it in June. Please send your letter to the following address:

**Premier Peguis Tour  
c/o Manitoba Legislative Building  
204 – 450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8**

Your letter can also be sent to the following email address:  
**PremierPeguisTour@leg.gov.mb.ca.**

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Brian Pallister