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**PROVINCE LAUNCHES ONLINE TOOL TO CONNECT VOLUNTEERS
SAFELY
WITH MANITOBANS NEEDING ASSISTANCE**

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**Made-in-Manitoba Website Application Demonstrates Teamwork,
Technological Innovation, Community Spirit: Premier**

The generosity and innovation of Manitobans to help those in need of assistance is displayed in the new web application www.HelpNextDoorMB.ca, Premier Brian Pallister announced today immediately after the online tool went live.

“This new online tool captures the spirit of our province, where Manitobans in communities across our province can always be counted on to step up to assist others who need help, especially in times of need,” said Pallister. “The innovative tool, created by Manitobans for Manitobans, puts people all over the province who need assistance easily in contact with those nearby – while adhering to social distancing protocols – who want to help them.”

The premiers said www.HelpNextDoorMB.ca is an important initiative for the Manitoba government, safely matching volunteer and community support to needs for goods and services such as groceries, medication, snow-clearing and various other necessities. Residents in greatest need, such as the elderly, disabled and those at high risk of contracting COVID-19 during the current global pandemic, will find the application very useful, he noted.

Built by Manitobans for Manitobans, the provincewide online platform was quickly designed and developed by North Forge Technology Exchange, a non-profit and team-led Winnipeg technology organization, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. North Forge collaborated with others in the community, resulting in development of the app – the first online service of its kind in Canada

– within five days.

“There are a lot of amazing people out there creating volunteer platforms, but we wanted to ensure that security and safety are embedded to protect our citizens”, Joelle Foster, CEO, North Forge Technology Exchange. “As such, we turned to our community of innovators and we are so pleased that software development partners like Permission Click and ID Fusion Software stepped up to collaborate with us and have built this tool in record time.”

The online tool www.HelpNextDoorMB.ca will be vital for requests ranging from home computer and data security assistance to prescription medication pickups and deliveries. Manitobans can access www.HelpNextDoorMB.ca directly or via www.Manitoba.ca/COVID19.

“This is how Manitobans pull together, put their heads together and bring ideas to life to assist each other when help is needed,” said Pallister. “Manitoba has been the home of hope for over 150 years, and we will continue to be the home of hope for generations to come. We will get through this pandemic together.

The premier added the province continues to rely on the recommendations of the chief provincial public health officer and encourages all Manitobans to engage in good social distancing protocols, including practising following the 3P’s – protect yourself, protect your loved ones and protect your community.