

Doer gives \$1M to Manitoba leg of Trans Canada Trail

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The Manitoba portion of the Trans Canada Trail received a \$1 million financial boost from the province Wednesday.

Premier Gary Doer was in Pinawa Wednesday morning to hand over half the contribution to the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association, the official trail council in the province.

The remaining \$500,000 will be provided to the organization as needed over the next three years.

Broadcaster and national Trail Foundation chairwoman Valerie Pringle was on hand to accept the province's contribution Wednesday.

"They get how important trails are and that trails are good for people's health, for the environment, for economic development, for education," Pringle said.

"There's economic benefits to be had, and I must say this province is pretty far ahead in terms of understanding that."

Doer said the funding will help volunteers administer the trail, implement a maintenance plan and build interpretive signage and special projects for the trail.

The Trans Canada Trail, which aims to run 18,000 kilometres linking the country's three oceans, will eventually cover more than 1,300 kilometres in Manitoba.

Approximately 75 per cent of the multi-use trail's Manitoba portion already has been completed.

The trail crosses from San Clara in the west to Falcon Lake in the east and reaches down to the United States border at Emerson.

It also travels through Whiteshell Provincial Park, Belair Provincial Forest, Grand Beach, the Mars Sand Hills, Spruce Woods Provincial Park, Asessippi Provincial Park, and the city of Winnipeg.