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Green Action Centre invites Manitobans to Participate in the Most Popular Commuting Event in Canada!

June 1, 2017 (Winnipeg)—Workplaces and individuals across Manitoba are invited to sign up for the 2017 Commuter Challenge. During Environment Week each year, Canadians are encouraged to use more sustainable modes of transportation for their daily commute - carpooling, transit, cycling, walking, and more.

Today, Green Action Centre was joined by the Honourable Cathy Cox, Minister of Sustainable Development, Councillor Brian Mayes, Chair of the City of Winnipeg's Environment Committee, and Paul Vogt, President of Red River College, to celebrate the launch of the annual Commuter Challenge taking place June 4-10, 2017. Trevor Dineen of the CBC emceed the event.

"We're looking forward to seeing thousands of Manitobans register and log their green commuting kilometers next week June 4-10 for the Commuter Challenge! Participants that embrace these sustainable commuting options are eligible for amazing prizes if they log their KMs at GreenActionCentre.ca", said Elizabeth Shearer the Commuter Challenge Coordinator with the Green Action Centre.

Over 20,000 Canadians participate annually and nearly 40% of them are right here in Manitoba! Winnipeg has won the past 12 out of 13 years for top performing city in its population category. Across Manitoba, there are already 390 workplaces registered for the Challenge. Workplaces not yet signed up can still register at greenactioncentre.ca.

Reflecting on the 2016 Commuter Challenge, Minister Cathy Cox shared "I am proud of the record which actually saw more than 7,300 Manitobans take part in this important challenge, and thanks to you – our province achieved the highest rate of participation of any jurisdiction in Canada!" She went on to say "We know by making choices to participate in active transportation [...] is a great way to ensure we reduce Greenhouse gasses that are contributing to Climate Change."

Red River College is one of only two large employers in Winnipeg to offer a 60% subsidized bus pass, and is adding bike lockers and repair stations to its existing card-swipe secure bike room and showers to accommodate downtown cyclists. At the Notre Dame Campus, over 64 premium parking spots are being used by the expanding student carpool program. "...the College as an organization is committed to reducing its environmental footprint by developing new initiatives that encourage and support people who want to carpool, use public transit and cycle to work.", said Paul Vogt, President of Red River College.

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Following the Challenge, Green Action Centre will launch **GoManitoba.ca** to keep Manitobans commuting in healthy, sustainable ways all year long. This easy-to-use platform will help all Manitobans find options to get from A to B, including carpool partners, transit and cycling mentors, and more.

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