



CCPA

CANADIAN CENTRE
for POLICY ALTERNATIVES
MANITOBA OFFICE

Donor Newsletter 2023

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SPRING IS A TIME OF RENEWAL, WHICH COULD NOT COME SOON ENOUGH IN MANITOBA.

Our provincial government continues to cut taxes for the rich in pursuit of their austerity agenda. At the same time the government is not acting on policies that reduce income inequality, and gendered and racialized inequalities, such as increasing unionization and supporting progressive taxation.

The Manitoba office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has been working hard this year to publish research and analysis to advance truly progressive ideas, starting with fighting for our collective well-being and against austerity.

In Budget 2023, we did rapid response research to show that more of the government's proposed tax rebates go to the richest 10 percent of Manitobans than to the bottom 50 percent combined. We fact-checked claims made by the Manitoba government in the budget to show how damaging these tax changes are to the public purse, at virtually no benefit to low and middle-income households struggling under the pressure of inflation.

We published research highlighting the damage below-inflation funding is wreaking on our provincial healthcare system and proposed revenue options the government could pursue to revitalize our public services.

We continue to speak out against Public-Private-Partnerships, which are again being proposed to build new schools in Manitoba. In 2018 Manitoba

abandoned P3 schools and instead built five schools for the cost of four P3 schools. We are reminding the public of the overwhelming evidence demonstrating P3s exclude local contractors, lack transparency, lack public control and are far-costlier than the traditional procurement approach. Pushing back against P3s is crucial as the province

P3S REDIRECT PUBLIC MONEY TO PRIVATE PROFIT

<p>P3</p> <p>2 hospitals</p> <p>3 long term care homes</p> <p>1 prison</p> <p>+ risk premium and high interest = \$1.5 billion</p>	<p>VS</p>	<p>PUBLIC PROCUREMENT</p> <p>2 hospitals</p> <p>3 long term care homes</p> <p>1 prison</p> <p>+ 920 long term care beds = \$1.5 billion</p>
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Would you rather line the pockets of private for-profit contractors or spend scarce resources where they are needed?

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is using schools as a pilot for future P3 procurement. Alongside the nine P3 schools the province announced last month, the province tendered an RFP to pre-approve consultants for work on P3 infrastructure projects across the Manitoba government.

CCPA continues to work with local and national child care experts to push for quality, affordable, public childcare. Last winter we were part of a press conference decrying the convoluted roll-out of federal childcare funding. \$10-a-day childcare is extremely positive for parents who can get a space. Manitoba has the lowest available licensed spaces in

Canada for the child population (18%). Watch for more analysis and commentary on this issue from CCPA.

We are also proud to be working with four leading environmental groups on an exciting project outlining how Manitoba can transition off of fossil fuels and help save everyday people money at the same time. *Road to Resilience: Policy Solutions*, outlines steps the Manitoba government should take to put climate action at the centre of government policy.

We are grateful for our collaboration with the Manitoba Research Alliance, a community-academic partnership now on its third of a seven-year partnership grant with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council titled "Community-Driven Solutions to Poverty: Challenges and Possibilities". You can read more about this and other exciting projects in this 2023 newsletter.

Thanks to your support, CCPA Manitoba continues the legacy of our predecessors, like Errol Black, who stated, "We need to set out a vision for a better, more just world, and fight for it."



—Molly McCracken,
CCPA Manitoba Director
Contact: molly@policyalternatives.ca

Research from CCPA Manitoba 2022/2023

IDEAS MATTER.

Here is a selection of the reports, available on our website at www.policyalternatives.ca/manitoba

Tired of Waiting: Rectifying Manitoba's Pay Gap by Anna Evans-Boudreau, Oyindamola Alaka, Lorna A. Turnbull, Jesse Hajer, Natalie Dandeneault, Kristine Barr

71 cents on the dollar. That's how much Manitoba women earn compared to Manitoban men according to new research published by our office in April. It's worse for Indigenous women - who earn 58 cents for every dollar that non-Indigenous men earn, black women and women of colour earn just 59 cents on every dollar compared to white men. These lower paid workers are the ones in the service and health care sectors and were impacted by COVID - through exposure or by losing hours or jobs.



What can be done?

Pay discrimination must be addressed through legislation so that gendered and racialized peoples finally have equal pay for work of equal value.

What is the answer? Pay equity - also known as equal pay for work of equal value. That means if two different jobs contribute equal value to their employer's operations then the employees in those positions should receive equal pay.

The report finds new legislation is needed in Manitoba to achieve substantial equality and addresses intersectional gender discrimination.

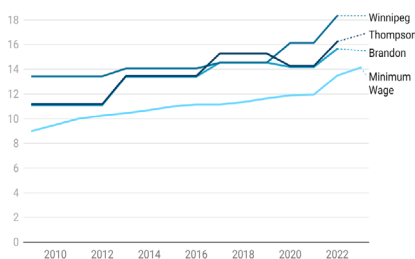


Living Wage and Minimum Wage Update

2022 WAS AN IMPORTANT YEAR for the Manitoba living wage campaign. Attention was focused last year on the rising cost of living, renewing calls for living wage policy in Manitoba. CPI inflation in Manitoba was the second highest amongst Canadian provinces, hitting a high of 9.4% last June.

Manitoba's minimum wage remains below a living wage

In Winnipeg, the gap between the minimum wage and a living wage is growing rapidly



Source: CCPA living wage reports 2008, 2013, 2017, 2020, 2022 • Created with Datawrapper

After years of advocacy alongside our partners in labour and the non-profit sector, the Province will increase the minimum wage to \$15.30 per hour on Oct. 1 2023. This provides a long overdue raise for minimum wage workers in Manitoba, but still falls well

below a living wage, which we calculated to be \$18.34 in Winnipeg last year.

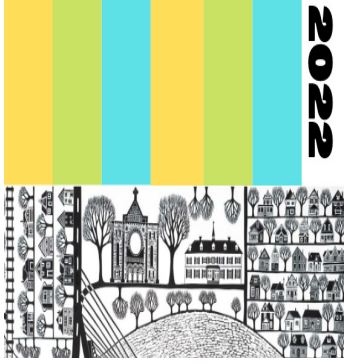
The provincial government has used inflation to justify furthering its tax cut agenda. As we reported in March, tax cuts announced this year will give millions to high-income Manitobans while doing almost nothing to raise low-income families closer to a living wage. Alongside living wage policy, the Province should be funding accessible public services to help households reduce costs, as \$10 per day childcare is doing.

Over the spring/summer we will calculate 2023 living wages for Winnipeg, Brandon, and Thompson, which will capture the cumulative cost of living increases over the last eighteen months. While the roll-out of \$10 a day childcare will certainly lower costs for low-income families, we expect to see a sizable hike to the 2023 living wage. We hope this calculation will remain an important advocacy tool for working Manitobans this year.



—Niall Harney Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues. Contact: nharney@policyalternatives.ca

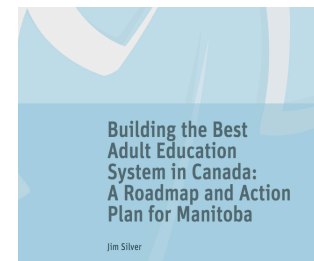
Winnipeg at a Crossroads: Alternative Municipal Budget 2022



The 2022 Winnipeg Alternative Municipal Budget is a community effort co-written by 27 authors from 18 community organizations. After two decades of austerity and two pandemic years, the City of Winnipeg was at a crossroads. Infrastructure was crumbling and services were facing cuts year after year. A housing crisis, heightened police violence, and the effects of climate change all loomed large in Winnipeg. The 2022 Alternative Municipal Budget presented a renewed vision for Winnipeg, based around community approaches to safety, poverty reduction, truth and reconciliation, and protecting the environment. Presented in a balanced financial framework, we showed how Winnipeg can rebuild a more just and sustainable city.

Building the Best Adult Education System in Canada: A Roadmap and Action Plan for Manitoba

Unearth This Buried Treasure found that Adult Learning Centres and Adult Literacy



Programs have been severely underfunded for years. Funding has remained flat; ALCs and ALPs have suffered in many important respects. The numbers of ALCs and especially ALPs have declined - there were 41 ALPs in 2009/10; in 2019, the latest year for which data are available there were 30 ALPs. The amount spent per adult learner is less than the amount spent per inmate in provincial and federal

penal institutions, and less than the per student amount spent on K-12 component of our educational system. This has to change. This report outlines clear recommendations and 'roadmap' for Adult Education policy going forward.

The Burden of Concern: Healthy Neighbourhood, Healthy Environment Project

By Alexandra Caporale and Heather Fast



The Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbourhoods project

documented first-hand experiences of Winnipeg residents in inner city and mature neighbourhoods who live near industrial and contaminated sites, most notably in Point Douglas and St. Boniface. The Manitoba Eco-Network's community-based research also involved examination of government policy and law, with a focus on identifying opportunities that empower citizens seeking environmental justice and better protection of human health and the environment.

Community members who were interviewed shared serious concerns about the negative impacts they have experienced due to industrial hazards in their neighbourhoods. This includes contamination of soil, noise, odours, explosions, and unusual particulate matter observable in the air.

Safer Schools without Policing Indigenous and Black Lives in Winnipeg



School safety is important for all students and families. Feeling safe in schools can provide

the optimal learning space where students feel a sense of belonging and are

able to thrive, academically and socially. Yet, for many Indigenous and Black students in Winnipeg, safety in school is not the norm; schools are spaces where racism permeates their relations with peers, staff and police. This report finds that racism in the school system and from police in schools (School Resource Officers) is one of the main reasons schools are unsafe for Indigenous and Black students.

2023 Provincial Budget Submission

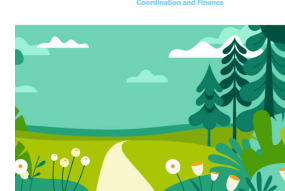
by Molly McCracken



Manitoba is receiving large increases in revenue due to inflation and federal transfers.

The surplus being generated is largely due to Manitoba government austerity. Low spending on public sector wages and services has not kept pace with inflation over the past six years. Budget 2023/24 is not a time for tax cuts, but to target spending to address the affordability crisis, adequately fund public services, address poverty and act on climate change.

Manitoba's Road to Resilience: Volume 3 Policy Solutions, Coordination and Finance



The Road to Resilience: Policy Solutions describes the new financial incentives, laws, and

other efforts our provincial government should implement to achieve the transition described in Energy Solutions. Policy Solutions describes how we can secure enough low-carbon electricity to transition most of our buildings and road vehicles away from fossil fuels while creating financial benefits for households, businesses, institutions, and government.

National Social Housing Conference 2023

SOCIAL HOUSING AND HUMAN RIGHTS: ORGANIZING FOR CHANGE was a national conference that took place on April 20 and 21st. The Manitoba Research Alliance was proud to spearhead this national effort that brought 100 advocates and academics from across the country to Winnipeg to prepare to press the federal government to act.

Situated at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the event brought together advocates from across Canada to kick off a coordinated, national movement focused on social housing supply. Conference participants learned about the history of public policy from national expert Steven Pomeroy, received training from Institute for Change Leaders and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, and began the work of developing a unified call to action and advocacy plan for social housing.

The event included a public talk, “3, 2, 1 Liftoff! A Mission Approach to the



Right to Housing” by Leilani Farha, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing. A recording of this event can be found on CCPA Manitoba’s Youtube channel.

With Canada’s housing crisis as the backdrop, Leilani’s keynote suggested that in order to address this major societal challenge we need to treat it with the single-mindedness, creativity and resources that it took to send someone to the moon. In this case, harnessing human rights standards, government initiatives, and public and private resources in new and extraordinary ways.

The conference was led by the Manitoba Research Alliance in collaboration with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness; Canadian Centre for Housing Rights; Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba; Canadian Housing and Renewal Association; Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative; Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network; End Homelessness Winnipeg; Indigenous Feminist Housing Working Group; National Right to Housing Network; Right to Housing Coalition (Manitoba); and Women’s National Housing & Homelessness Network. It is part of a year-long project funded by a Connections Grant from SSHRC.



Local conference organizers: Left to right - Kayleigh Russell, Shauna MacKinnon, Karen Schlichting, Kirsten Bernas and Jess Klassen

A BIG THANK YOU TO ANDRÉE FOREST for her work as the MRA Coordinator for the past three years! Andrée brought a great perspective, organizational capacity and insight into her position with the MRA. We miss her energy and life perspective and comradery at the office. But we are happy to know her good work continues with her new role at the City of Winnipeg.





THE MANITOBA RESEARCH ALLIANCE

(MRA) received its fourth Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant in June 2020. The project, *Community-Driven Solutions to Poverty: Challenges and Possibilities*, is now three years in. In this grant, the MRA has supported 50 community-based research projects and counting, all working towards responding to the research question: how do systems, structures, contexts, ideas and relations work to perpetuate complex poverty, and how do we achieve transformative change to reduce complex poverty?

Community-based research responds to the current needs of the community, seen in this year's MRA publications. Media headlines and price tags alike are sending the message loud and clear: the cost of living is increasing, with price inflation being higher than we've seen in decades. University of Manitoba professor Jesse Hajer added to the conversation by authoring "Understanding and Responding to the Rising Cost of Living in Manitoba". University of Winnipeg professor Julie Chamberlain and student Dagen Perrott partnered with the new South Valour Residents Association on the project "Exploring anti-oppressive approaches to improving sense of safety in South Valour". You can find a list of all MRA projects here: mra-mb.ca/research/current-research/.

The Community-Based Research Training Centre continues to host well-attended workshops and training on various aspects of community-based research. Our programming has reached over a thousand people between online and in-person events, classroom outreach, and YouTube recordings. Building capacity and creating a new generation of community-based researchers is part of the MRA's goals, and this project helps us do just that.

We look forward to another year of research in partnership with community organizations!

Stay in touch by subscribing to both the MRA and CBRTC newsletters found on our websites.



—*Jess Klassen, MRA Coordinator.*
Contact: mra@policyalternatives.ca

EBC Brunch

WE CELEBRATED THE WORK OF JIM SILVER at the annual Errol Black Chair In Labour Issues fundraising brunch this past November, 2022. Armine Yalnizyan was the guest speaker.

Elizabeth Comack says "Jim Silver brings a down-to-earth, egalitarian perspective to all that he does — in his academic work as a teacher and a researcher, in his writing, and in his activism. He has been a tireless advocate for social justice, challenging the colonial, capitalist, patriarchal mainstream and offering practical alternatives for creating a more socially just society."

We are so grateful for people like

Jim Silver who continue to articulate, through commentary, research, and publications, the alternatives: strong public education systems and adult education, the call for continued public funding of healthcare and longterm care, alternatives for people living in poverty for training and supports and for safe, affordable and accessible housing.

The Brunch is a great fundraiser for the Errol Black Chair position at the CCPA-MB. Each year raising over \$16,000.00 towards this research chair.

The Brunch is a reminder to all of us that there are so many great people who are working against the strong tides of austerity, personal private gain and individualism.

The Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues annual fundraising brunch celebrates those who've contributed positively to Manitoba's progressive community and inspire us for the continued struggle for social justice. Thank you to all who attend this annual event. Thank you to the honourees and to the guest speakers who inspire a way forward.

BRUNCH 2023 SAVE THE DATE! NOV 12



CCPA-MB Steering Committee and Staff at Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues Fundraising Brunch November 2022. Left to right: Molly McCracken, Max Patches, Wayne Antony, Bernice Pontanilla, Karen Schlichting, Jim Silver, Niall Harney, Andrée Forest, Mark Hudson, Matt McLean and Tim Smith.

Donor Profile

FOR DON DERKSEN, it's the work of CCPA Manitoba that has kept him donating for the last decade.



Don Derksen

"I think it's worthwhile to have more than one perspective or metric on how to spend public money," said Derksen, a massage therapist who has been a CCPA Manitoba donor since 2013. Derksen said he learned of the CCPA through news reports that cited CCPA research and liked their evidence-based approach, and the emphasis on hard numbers/data. This is key, he believes, to providing an alternative to the status quo budgets that we see time and again coming from all levels of government. "It's crucial that there is evidence-based reasoning," he added during our telephone interview on a recent lovely, sunny spring afternoon. "The evidence is the evidence and when they (CCPA Manitoba) do their research, it's something tangible." With this tangible research, evidence and material numbers, one can affect policy, especially when it comes to politicians, he said.

Derksen said his support for CCPA Manitoba doesn't come from an ideological point of view, in fact, he said that in many opinions and beliefs he has, he could be labelled as a typical "middle-aged white guy" and, depending on the topic, on the Conservative side of the political spectrum.

6 www.policyalternatives.ca/mbappeal

For example, he really dislikes government waste.

However, he also thinks it's unhelpful to hoard wealth, which he sees happening all too often in our modern world.

One thing that he is passionate about is homelessness.

The CCPA has conducted a lot of research on the lack of affordable housing across Canada, and the Manitoba office, in particular, in 2021 found that Winnipeg was the only one out of nearly a dozen cities that didn't have an affordable housing strategy.

This study, titled *Staffing the Crisis: The Capacity of Eleven Municipal Housing Departments Across Canada* by Stefan Hodges, also found that other cities had "planning documents consistently cited the creation of affordable rental housing as both a key priority and an area where the municipality could play a role."

Hodges' study used data to make the case "for raising the number of full-time equivalent staff to two, at the very least, to ensure consistency during moments of turnover. The median staff size relative to population was approximately one staff per 100,000 residents, which was roughly embodied by both Regina and Calgary. If Winnipeg should seek to meet this modest standard, it would need to dedicate seven full-time equivalent staff to the creation of affordable rental housing." This level of scrutiny seems to have had an effect, as Winnipeg Mayor Scott Gillingham, elected in 2022, said that his government is working with the provincial and federal governments to address the homelessness crisis. This past February, Gillingham announced a plan with the Manitoba government for 700 social housing units across the province.

And just this past April 18, the Canadian government via Dan Vandal, the Minister of Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for PrairiesCan and CanNor, announced \$7.3 million in funding for 22 new supportive tiny homes for people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg.

For Derksen, it all comes down to this: "We are all interconnected and inter-dependent, and we have lost sight of that in our market-driven economy," he said, adding a message to fellow donors, "keep the faith."



—Bernice Pontanilla is a Manitoba Nurses Union representative on the CCPA-MB Steering Committee.

Tribute to Pete Hudson

IT IS WITH DEEP SADNESS that we mark the passing of Pete Hudson in April 2023. Pete was among the CCPA-MB's earliest research associates and a passionate advocate for social justice and progressive politics in Manitoba. Well into his retirement, Pete wrote for the CCPA on funding for public health care, progressive tax policy, improvements to home care, and against privatization.

Pete rarely shied away from an opportunity to voice his opinions. He was known for his spirited media interviews and willingness to stand up for his principles regardless of personal consequences. Pete was clear that living out one's principles demanded action as well as words. As a long-time advocate for labour rights, Pete walked picket lines throughout his life, including four times at the University of Manitoba.

Pete's boisterous personality, principled politics, and kind demeanor will be sorely missed by his many friends within the CCPA community. His work will certainly live on through his family, who are deeply engaged in the CCPA's work and through the many friends and students he has influenced over the years.

—Niall Harney Errol Black Chair in Labour Issues. Contact: nharney@policyalternatives.ca

Meet Jess Klassen

A FAMILIAR FACE TO CCPA-MB AND SHE'S BACK!



Q: What have you been doing for the past 5 years? What was the highlight of that time?

Since my initial time with the Manitoba Research Alliance from 2014-2019, I was the Director of Research Grants at Canadian Mennonite University. The highlight of this role was when I led the institution's involvement as academic partner on a Global Affairs Canada grant application. I traveled to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe to work on project planning with local implementing partners and Zimbabwean academic institutions on a project that focused on nature-based solutions to climate change.

Q: What in your mind has changed for the MRA over those 5 years?

I see the MRA recognizing the delicate balance of when to engage in more research and when to mobilize. We recently planned the Social Housing and Human Rights Conference, which is starting an advocacy campaign to mobilize federally for more social housing. The MRA has produced countless reports on the need for more social housing, and we're going to continue to demonstrate why this is necessary. The conference was moving this community-based research into community-based action.

Q: What are you looking forward to in your job?

I am looking forward to developing even closer connections between the MRA and the Community-Based Research Training Centre (CBRTC). It is a fantastic resource for folks new to community-based research to gain skills and connections. We want to help with the transition from the skill development stage to helping those students and community researchers get their first opportunity to put their new skills into action with MRA research projects.

Q: What do you see as the key burning issues for Manitoba? For research in Manitoba?

The cost of living crisis is obvious on a daily basis, with income inequality deepening. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed that government redistribution of resources is possible if the political will is there. The MRA will continue to produce relevant research in collaboration with communities most affected by regressive public policies to lead to the transformative change we seek to see.

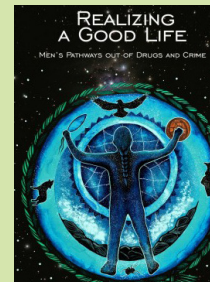
Q: If people want to get to know you more, can you give us other interests of yours?

I am an avid sewer and rug maker! I sew and thrift the majority of my clothes, and I have a rug tufting side hustle called *Stories of Textiles* where I make rugs and wall hangings. These acts of creating converge my interests in sustainability, equity-based production, and the social and political contexts in which craft movements exist.

New books

by CCPA-MB Research Associates

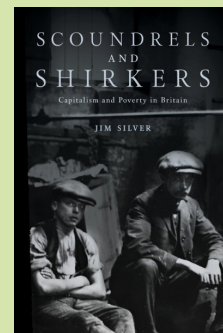
ELIZABETH COMACK - *Realizing a Good Life: Men's Pathways out of Drugs and Crime.*



This book turns to Indigenous knowledge about realizing a good life to explore how marginalized men endeavour to overcome systemic inequalities in their efforts to achieve

wholeness, balance, connection, harmony and healing.

JIM SILVER - *Scoundrels and Shirkers: Capitalism and Poverty in Britain* exam-

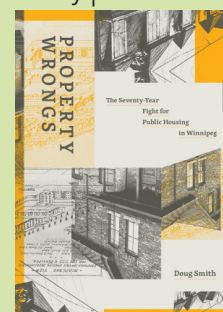


ines the deep relationship between capitalism and poverty in England since the 12th century. It exposes the dynamics of capitalism, from its origins in the long transition from feudalism to its current crisis under neoliberal

capitalism, in producing poverty. **This book is being launched May 25, 7 pm at McNally Robinson, Grant Park, Winnipeg. All are welcome.**

DOUG SMITH - *Property Wrongs: The Seventy-Year Fight for Public Housing in Winnipeg*

Today public housing is once more



under attack. Rather being treated as valued public assets, they are considered embarrassing encumbrances that should be sold.

June 1

7:30 pm

Union Centre, 275 Broadway, Winnipeg

RSVP to 204-927-3200

A special donor evening with CCPA
Senior Economist David Macdonald
on **Tax Give-Aways to the Rich**



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- 
- CCPA-MB Impact Index**
March 2022 - March 2023
10 reports and 23 commentary
- ✓ 340 mentions of CCPA-MB in media
 - ✓ 46 media interviews, op-eds or TV spots.
 - ✓ 80% of our reports were covered in the Manitoba media (Winnipeg Free Press, CBC, Global, CTV and/or Winnipeg Sun)
 - ✓ 68% of our commentary published in the wider media

