



**MANITOBA
LIBERAL**

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**DOUGALD LAMONT
& THE MANITOBA LIBERALS**
— PLATFORM 2023 —

REAL CHOICE. REAL CHANGE.

REAL CHOICE FOR REAL CHANGE

Dougald Lamont and the Manitoba Liberal Party

LEADER'S INTRODUCTION

I love our province of Manitoba. We have so much potential and so much talent.

Yet too many of our neighbours have been left to struggle. Services Manitobans rely on, like our health care system, are in crisis. Crime, the cost of living, and homelessness are increasing across the province and our environment - land, water, air - all need care and protection.

Being in government means working every day to make the future better.

While Manitobans look to government for leadership, for decades, Manitobans have been let down by successive NDP and Progressive Conservative governments who have passed the buck and kicked the can down the road.

Manitoba Liberals know that the upcoming election will be extremely important to the pocketbooks and health of all citizens. That is why we are asking all Manitobans, when it comes time to cast your vote, to make a real choice for real change in this province.

We know this platform will work - because the ideas are ones gleaned from experts and people at the front lines. Practical solutions to tackle the biggest problems of our time.

It's fiscally and socially responsible. That's what Manitoba Liberals stand for.

And we have assembled an extraordinary team of candidates who can deliver on this plan.

Manitoba Liberals have developed a plan to:

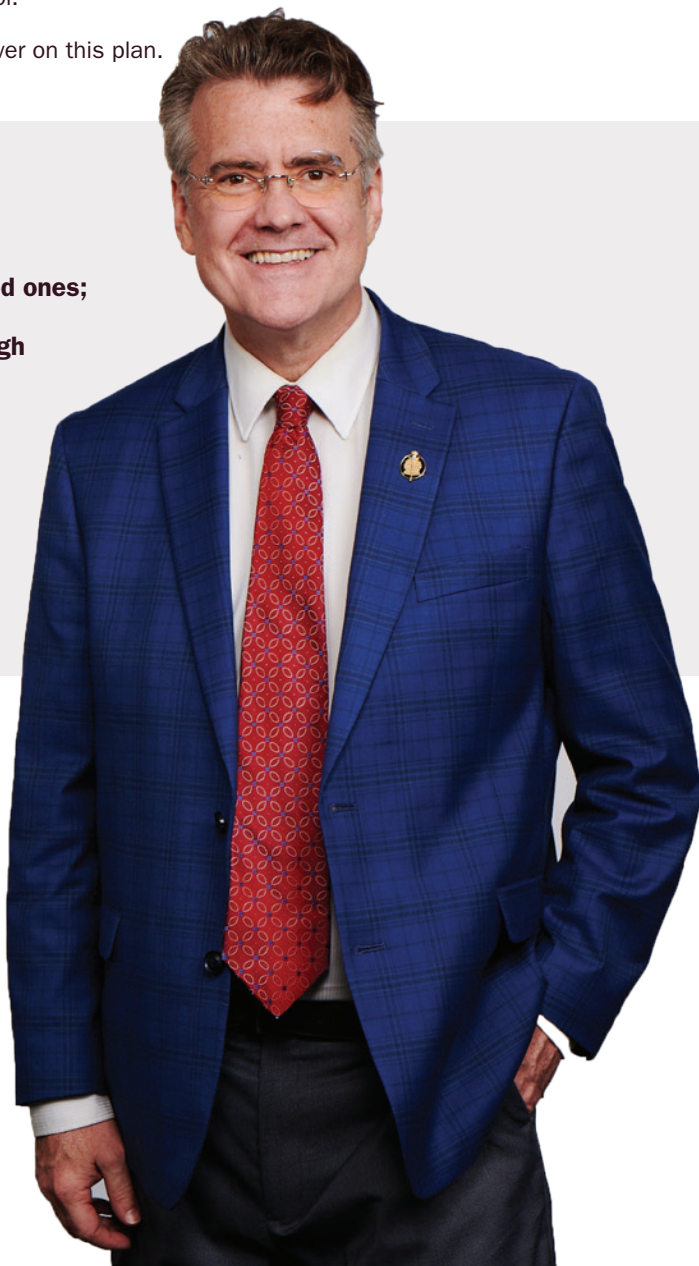
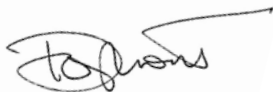
- » **Take our system from health crisis back to health care;**
- » **Provide genuine relief for the cost of living for you and your loved ones;**
- » **Deliver safer streets through investments in prevention and tough new anti-gang measures;**
- » **Invest in education that prepares Manitoba for the future;**
- » **Act on climate change with a bold new plan;**
- » **Treat Indigenous people equitably with full rights under the law;**
- » **Restore accountability in government.**

For too long, Manitobans have placed their trust in an NDP or a PC Government. It has never been more clear that neither of those two choices have made Manitoba stronger, healthier, or safer.

The time has come for Manitobans to put their trust in real leadership in candidates that have proven track records of delivering in their communities, and in a plan that presents solutions founded in real world experience. Now is the time for Manitobans to elect a Manitoba Liberal Government.

We are the only party offering a real choice for real change.

Dougald Lamont





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Taking Health Care Back: From **Crisis** to **Care**

We have an opportunity to rebuild our health care system the way it should be – focused on patients in their communities and investing in catching small issues before they become big ones.

The problems in Manitoba's health care system did not start under Heather Stefanson's Progressive Conservative (PC) government. They have been happening for years. COVID-19 in Manitoba demonstrated that successive Progressive Conservative and NDP governments have mismanaged our health care system for far too long. Reckless decision-making, massive underfunding and poor leadership has put our health care system into crisis.

Both NDP and PC governments alike refused to fund basic prevention programs, failed to invest in training and education, and underfunded critical frontline services. Despite being warned against it by experts in the field, the PCs, under then Minister of Health Heather Stefanson, underwent a health care system overhaul before and during the pandemic. The result has been chaos for patients and workers alike. Manitoba still has unmanageable wait times for lifesaving surgeries, and our frontline doctors and nurses are burnt out to the levels that many are considering retiring or moving elsewhere, or worse, fleeing the public system for positions in privately run agencies.

Ironically, the Stefanson government is having to address shortages in the public health care system by contracting positions through privately funded agencies, which in turn, is costing the province more to deliver with less. For a government determined to save money, this is just bad economics.

We need to be doing all we can to care for those working in the public system by prioritizing investment in people - not just buildings.

Manitoba Liberals will also make changes to enable more effective local decision making where possible within the health care system.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION BONUSES TO CLOSE GAPS IN STAFFING SHORTAGE

In April 2022, the PCs received a confidential report from Deloitte stating the health care system was in crisis with proposed measures on how to fix it. It is evident the government ignored the recommendations contained in the report as what was proposed by frontline staff was never addressed. The most important factors for why frontline staff are leaving the public health system province-wide is that they are being overworked, being underpaid, and the constant overhauls to the systems by successive governments.

To date, the PC government has yet to meaningfully address these concerns to the point that the healthcare system is in further crisis. We need to stop constantly overhauling the system without clear direction. We need to place the needs of Manitobans first and invest in people to build up our public system.

Our goal is to grow Manitoba's public health care system and make it stable for future generations. Manitoba Liberals will reward people for staying in a robust public health care system and for coming back.

As we rebuild, we will prioritize the respect of frontline workers by investing in their dignity and re-earning their trust. The Manitoba Liberal Party knows that the system cannot function without a professional workforce who are committed to providing excellent care and compassionate service. We will honour them by treating them as partners in the system.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Offer bonuses of \$10,000 to nurses and health professionals in the public system and a \$5,000 bonus to Healthcare Workers and Team Members, including homecare workers. A separate \$10,000 bonus will be issued for nurses and health professionals who return to the public system. The bonuses will be pro-rated so that those who work casual or part-time are included.**



A LOCAL HEALTH CARE HOME & A FAMILY PHYSICIAN FOR EVERY MANITOBBAN

Successive PC and NDP governments ignored warnings that Manitoba wasn't training enough doctors to keep up with demand. As our population grew, the University of Manitoba's medical programs saw cuts which resulted in fewer doctors being trained at home, and put the accreditation of the U of M medical school at risk.

Manitoba has the lowest number of physicians per capita in Canada. According to Doctors Manitoba, our province needs 359 more physicians to reach the national average. This does not even include the estimated 348 physicians who are considering retirement, leaving the province, or reducing their clinical hours.

Despite decades of warnings, NDP and PC governments simply refused to increase the numbers of doctors and nurses being trained in Manitoba. As a result, Manitobans do not have access to the timely medical care they need.

That is why Manitoba Liberals will increase the number of family doctors by making it more attractive for people to enter family practice so that everyone has access to a family doctor.

Right now, doctors are paid "piecemeal", which assumes all patients are the same. Other jurisdictions, like Ontario, have payment arrangements in which physicians receive a fixed amount of money for the delivery of health care services.

Flexible pay allows doctors to provide the quality of care that is determined by the need of their patient; rather than rushing patients through the system. Patients like seniors, expectant mothers, or people with more complicated issues, need more time with their doctors and their doctor should be allowed to deliver it. This will help to reform family practice to make it more team-based and more attractive to recruit more doctors to set up family practices provincewide.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Work with Doctors Manitoba to change the fee-for-service model to a flex-pay model so family doctors can take the extra time they need with their patients;**
- » **Work with Doctors Manitoba to determine the number of medical residencies needed to expand the number of doctors practicing in Manitoba;**
- » **Establish a Doctor of Medicine (MD) Degree Program at the University of Brandon affiliated with the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine focused on training physicians for rural and northern communities;**
- » **Build a new lecture hall at the Health Sciences Centre to accommodate more students;**
- » **Train more Physician Assistants to expand services within the health care system.**



MAKING MENTAL HEALTH CARE-FREE UNDER MEDICARE: NEW STANDARDS AND RAPID-ACCESS ADDICTIONS CARE SERVICES

Chronic underfunding of community supports for mental health in Manitoba means many vulnerable people do not have proper access to the resources they need to better themselves. Manitobans struggling with addictions have faced inaccessible services, long wait times for access, and a general lack of information on available treatment options: as found in a recent 2023 Auditor General report on Addictions Treatment Services in Manitoba.

This same report found that Manitoba had over 400 substance-related fatalities and over 4,500 substance related in-patient admissions in 2022 alone.

Many Manitobans struggling with addictions are also some of the most at-risk members of our communities. The Winnipeg Street Census of 2022 found that there were 1,256 people experiencing homelessness, but it is widely believed that the actual number is much larger than this. Nearly 20% of those surveyed cited substance use issues being the primary cause of housing loss, and 52% of people surveyed were once in custody of Manitoba's Child and Family Services (CFS) system.

In addition, over 85% of people experiencing homeless and street-involved youth have high symptoms of mental health distress.

Accessible mental health care remains a significant issue, particularly for vulnerable Manitobans. Manitoba ranks last in Canada in providing psychologists per capita. According to the Manitoba Psychological Society, there is the potential to save between 20-30% of total healthcare costs by investing in psychological health care. Numerous studies have estimated \$2 of savings for every \$1 invested in expanding Medicare coverage for psychological services.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Cover the costs of regulated therapy under Medicare;**
- » **Fund a 24/7 referral line for addictions treatment;**
- » **Support organizations that run overdose prevention centres to ensure people with addictions can receive treatment, counselling and timely mental health services focusing on prevention, treatment and recovery;**
- » **Work with the University of Manitoba to create a new Doctor of Psychology (PsyD) program that will train psychologists more quickly to expand the number of psychotherapy practitioners in the province;**
- » **Making mental health care free under medicare by covering the costs of regulated psychotherapy, and expanding and adding mental health training to expand coverage;**
- » **Fund a 24/7 addictions referral line for addictions treatment so people seeking help can get immediate access to detox.**

PROTECT AND DEFEND SENIORS BY CREATING A MANITOBA SENIORS' ADVOCATE

According to the most recent census in 2021, roughly 229,000 seniors aged 65+ call Manitoba home.

Seniors in Manitoba face critical issues that have been left unaddressed. The global pandemic showed Manitobans how much our social safety net was neglected by both NDP and PC Governments. Every Manitoban was affected by COVID-19, but our most vulnerable community members, in particular seniors, bore the highest cost. We have a moral obligation to learn from this human tragedy and change how we care for seniors now and into the future.

It is going to take real political will to make real change for our seniors. Having an independent voice directing future governments on how to best administer programs and services for seniors is a must. That is why a **Manitoba Liberal government will enact legislation to implement an independent Seniors Advocate**

to investigate, advocate, and provide solutions for government on all issues that affect seniors.

British Columbia, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland all have Seniors Advocates, and we believe it is time Manitoba does too.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Improve staff ratios to 4.1 hours of direct care per resident per day to make sure seniors in Long Term Care Homes get the attention and care they deserve within two years;**
- » **Work with Regional Health Authorities to implement unannounced and independent inspections and visits of personal care homes and ensure all recommendations are carried through.**



SENIORS “SAFE AT HOME” PLAN

Manitoba Liberals strongly believe the province needs to better invest in prevention in order to avoid the health care crises we currently find ourselves in. If we invest in supporting individuals, we can reduce costs over the long-term by keeping people healthier and out of hospitals.

A Manitoba Liberal government will **support seniors living at home by creating the “Safe at Home” strategy which provides grants of up to \$15,000 for seniors to retrofit their homes and enhance accessibility.** This is to ensure seniors can continue to live independently to reduce admissions into long-term care facilities.

At the age of 70, every Manitoban will receive an assessment through the public health care system of what their long-term needs are to ensure standardized quality of care. The assessment would recommend programs and supports specific to the individual’s needs, with the mandate to ensure independence and dignity. These options would include long-term care facilities, 24/7 at-home support services, or part-time care. Seniors would have their living situation assessed and individuals would receive recommendations for changes they should make to maintain their independence.

In addition to a major expansion in homecare, a Manitoba Liberal government will also **expand the palliative care program to ensure Manitobans in their last year of life can live in dignity and, where possible,**

at home while maintaining cancer and other treatments to enhance the quality of their last days.

Manitoba Liberals will also restore the coverage of the cost of life-saving drugs - including diabetes drugs and devices for all Manitobans - pumps and CGMs, CPAP machines.

We will focus on reducing the number of new cases of diabetes and prevent secondary complications. This includes expanding the role of the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer to include the development and implementation of a provincewide plan to prevent diabetes. This will be done by working with First Nation and other communities to expand the NUKA model of care.

The NUKA model provides for a reduction in patient stress through a better integration of mental and physical health care and for improved integration of specialist care into primary care practice. The NUKA model has been shown, where implemented, to be highly effective in decreasing the need for emergency room visits by 40% and decreasing hospital admission by 36%. The most successful use of the NUKA model in Manitoba is utilized Opaskwayak Cree Nation who have found a reduction in the need to transfer patients to Winnipeg as a result of its implementation.

Finally, the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer will also be asked to develop and implement plans for reducing the effect of lead and radon on Manitobans’ health.

PROVIDING REAL CARE FOR CAREGIVERS

Professionals in the health care system have been working mandated overtime throughout the pandemic, including when there was no vaccine and our hospitals were completely full of COVID patients.


Working conditions remain at levels that are unsustainable. Often this means being required to work multiple 12 hour shifts to ensure our hospitals remain functioning.

As a result of the PC Government neglecting to invest in the care of our health care professionals, we risk further deterioration due to fatigue and general burnout. Until we can restore the physical and mental health of those in charge of providing the care for all of us, the system will never get better. Now is the right time to invest in

the care of our frontline workers so they can get back to doing what they do best - providing high quality professional care for all Manitobans.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Review the Workers Compensation Act to expand coverage for burnout benefits for all workers;**
- » **Establish a 20% tax credit for nurses and other health care workers for their shoes and gowns;**
- » **Ensure that child care centres are co-located to hospitals, clinics, and access centres;**
- » **Change the Workers Compensation Act to expand coverage for burnout benefits and mental injuries for all workers.**



Our plan will take bold action and provide targeted relief to help restore stability at a time when Manitobans need it most.



Saving you Money, Making you Money: The **Economy, Jobs & Cost of Living**

Manitobans are facing unprecedented increases in their cost of living. Many are struggling to make ends meet. Basic necessities like groceries and medication are growing increasingly expensive and Manitobans are feeling the pinch.

In a year when Manitoba received record increases in federal transfer dollars, the Stefanson PCs are diverting millions away from public services. They are spending on advertising campaigns and contributing to inflation by spending federal transfers on cheques to buy votes in an election year.

After nearly eight years of eroding our public health care system, underfunding our schools, and weakening our social programs, Manitobans won't be fooled by the PCs election-year ploy.

Manitoba Liberals will provide tax cuts to a majority of Manitobans, grow our local economy by supporting Manitoba businesses, and make strategic investments in community infrastructure. Our plan will take bold action and provide targeted relief to help restore stability at a time when Manitobans need it most.

PROGRESSIVE TAX REFORM: EVIDENCE-BASED INCOME TAX SAVINGS WITH RELIEF FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

Manitoba Liberals will make changes to the Basic Personal Exemption by offering income tax relief for low and middle-income earners. All Manitobans earning up to \$120,000 will be eligible for income tax relief on a sliding scale; which represents 96% of Manitobans. For the 0.1% making \$300,000 and up, the exemption would be zero.

This fair and progressive tax system will provide real relief while still being fiscally responsible, restoring stability to the province's finances so we can rebuild our public services.

It will ensure Manitobans get to keep more of their money so they can spend it where it's needed most - right back in our communities.

Our long-term goal is to bring income taxes down. In order to do so, we are asking the top 4% to pay a little more while we rebuild the essential public services we need to support communities and economic growth.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Reform the provincial income tax brackets to be based on the "80/20" rule to make them more fair, progressive, and accurately reflect modern distributions of income;**
- » **Make changes to the Basic Personal Exemption by offering income tax relief for Manitobans earning up to \$120,000.**

**NO MORE BORROWING FOR BILLIONAIRES:
MANITOBA LIBERALS WILL REPEAL 80% OF
PROPERTY TAX REBATE**

Heather Stefanson's PC government has tried to convince Manitobans they are fiscally responsible. However, to deliver an education tax rebate, the PCs have had to borrow over 500 million dollars this fiscal year just to fund essential services; while receiving record transfers from the federal government. Instead of prudently investing in services Manitobans rely on, the PCs are trying to buy Manitobans' with their own money while harming essential services.

Year over year, this is adding billions to Manitoba's debt for future generations to repay, while leaving our public services underfunded. Many cheques are being sent to commercial landholders and institutional investors outside of Manitoba.

After spending months railing against the changes, the NDP have committed to keeping them. The only change they have made is that instead of sending cheques by e-mail, they will be direct deposit. These measures prove that fiscal conservatism is not the same thing as being fiscally responsible.

Manitoba Liberals will reform the current property tax regime within the province and its patchwork of

rebates. We will modernize the system to ensure that it is progressive and does not benefit the wealthiest Manitobans.

We will preserve some rebates as an affordability measure for lower income Manitobans, small property owners, Manitobans with disabilities and seniors on fixed incomes. As with our income tax cuts, we will ensure that those who have smaller incomes will receive larger rebates. This will provide genuine tax relief to those who need it most while also staying fiscally responsible.

In order to ensure accountability and avoid tax fraud, we will require tax-paying corporations in Manitoba to declare their beneficial owners in a public searchable registry.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » Repeal 80% of the property tax rebate;
- » Ensure the remaining rebates are progressive and protect the vulnerable;
- » Require corporations to declare their beneficial owners in a publicly searchable registry.





HARNESSING THE POWER OF MADE-IN-MANITOBA ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH THE MANITOBA BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BANK

For too many entrepreneurs, innovators, and independent businesses, our province has been a desert for the capital investment needed to build and grow our economy. We want growth that is driven by Manitoba companies, with Manitoba jobs generating wealth right here in our province.

For Manitoba to grow and become self-reliant, we need Manitoba-owned and operated businesses to be strong and supported. This, in turn, will create good Manitoba jobs and sustain small businesses.

Manitoba Liberals commit to establish the Manitoba Business Development Bank with a mandate to provide equity capital and investments to Manitoba entrepreneurs, farmers and independent businesses, for start-up and scale-up of their operations. Our goal is to help Manitoba entrepreneurs, whatever their background, to grow and build wealth for themselves and the province. It will be available on First Nations and also help commercialize innovation and research at Post-secondary institutions.

NEW TOOLS FOR DEBT RELIEF FOR MANITOBANS, BUSINESSES AND FARMERS

One of the critical challenges facing Manitobans is excess debt – personal, business and farm. During the height of the pandemic, people and businesses took on enormous debt, which was enough to keep them going, but not keep growing. The fastest segment of people going into debt is seniors.

We believe that in order to stabilize our economy, and reduce volatility and risk, we must provide Manitobans with new tools to reduce their exposure to debt of all kinds.

Manitoba Liberals will provide \$2-million in annual funding to Credit Counselling Society, a charitable organization that helps people get their finances back on track at no cost. The funding will go to expanded services and education.

We will create a new “Debt Compromise Board” which will provide Manitoba businesses and farmers a forum where they can meet with their lender to find ways to restructure debts so we keep farmers on the farm and businesses up and running.



DIGNIFIED INCOME SUPPORTS FOR ALL MANITOBANS: ENDING PENALTIES FOR WORK

Manitoba’s Employment Income Assistance (EIA) system has barely changed in more than 35 years. Instead of being designed to lift people out of poverty and be more self-sufficient, Manitoba’s EIA program has been designed to punish people in poverty.

Manitoba’s EIA system is punitive to those who pursue school, work, or even for volunteering. In addition, people with disabilities are denied support if they are married. This creates a crushing burden for many families and is a tragic economic incentive against developing close personal relationships.

Many who receive EIA benefits and supports want to work. However, the more a person tries to work, the less benefits they end up receiving.

Manitoba Liberals will end penalties for work and ensure that people who want to work will be able to access the resources and supports they need through a properly funded jobs assistance program.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **The implementation of a provincial guaranteed dignified income (Mincome) for people with severe physical or mental disabilities, as well as people over 60. It will be top-up based on the previous year’s income;**
- » **Remove barriers to work and volunteer for people on EIA, including by increasing the amount a person can receive when volunteering from \$100 to \$500 a month;**
- » **Create the ‘Manitoba Works for Good’ voluntary jobs program which will provide wage and job subsidies for not-for-profit and other organizations to provide work for the public benefit and for community improvements projects.**

INVESTMENTS IN STRATEGIC COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Manitoba's municipalities need long-term funding to ensure predictable budgeting and planning for their own economic growth and development. Manitoba Liberals will work with all municipalities to ensure they have the resources they need to succeed.

We will also prioritize specific infrastructure projects ignored by PC and NDP Governments, focused first on:

- » Repairing highways, provincial roads, bridges and intersections that need immediate repair and upgrade as determined in consultation with Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), while enhancing the role of Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure in long-term strategic planning for the province;
- » Enhancing water services and wastewater treatment to support the growth of Centreport Canada as a key intermodal trade hub;
- » Working with communities, cellular providers and Manitoba Hydro Telecom to expand cellular service along transportation corridors while improving broadband internet to rural and northern Manitoba;
- » Providing ongoing capital and operational funding for the Keystone Centre to maintain its role as a driver of economic activity in Western Manitoba;
- » Funding the long-promised airport at Wasagamack First Nation to address systemic safety and transportation issues for northern residents;
- » Investing in local recreational and Friendship Centres throughout the province to modernize them and ensure they meet the needs of Manitoba's diverse communities;
- » Funding the long-awaited feasibility study for the replacement of the Arlington Bridge in the City of Winnipeg.
- » Funding a feasibility study for rail relocation in the City of Winnipeg.

ENDING WAITLISTS FOR EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

Due to years of mismanagement and lack of proper investments in publicly funded childcare, parents are unable to find affordable childcare spaces.

In addition, there is an estimated 1,000 fewer Early Childhood Educators (ECE) in Manitoba today than there were in 2018. ECEs are leaving the childcare sector for higher-paying employment while fewer are choosing to make ECE their first career option.

Many children are being placed on unmanaged and lengthy waitlists. This is creating immense stress on parents who are already in tight financial situations.

The Government of Canada partnered with Manitoba to create 23 000 affordable childcare spaces by 2025/26. Unfortunately, Heather Stefanson's PC Government has failed to provide the necessary capital and resources for our province to meet this goal.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Prioritize the necessary capital and resources to ensure the 23 000 affordable childcare spaces are delivered to hard-working Manitoba parents, while meeting the mandated \$10 dollar per day accessible fee;**
- » **Expand the \$10 dollar per day childcare benefit to school aged children;**
- » **Ensure the YMCA and other charitable providers of childcare are eligible for 100% of infrastructure costs;**
- » **Attract and retain educators in the system through increased wage and benefit supports;**
- » **Construct a public registry of available public buildings and land for future childcare space development;**
- » **Create a single online portal so families can register for childcare spaces within one accessible access point.**



Community Safety: **Standing with Victims** of Crime & **Ensuring Justice** is Done

More than ever, Manitobans are feeling less safe in their own communities. Violent and property crimes have been increasing year over year. Unfortunately, due to successive PC and NDP Governments not investing in the root causes of crime, Manitoba continues to rate as one of the least safe provinces to live in Canada.

Manitoba Liberals believe there needs to be a seamless support system to end the cycle of crime. Until we address the risk factors, including the reasons for homelessness, poverty, and lack of support for offenders transitioning out of the judicial system, we will not be able to make our streets safer.



SAFE SHELTER NOW: ENDING HOMELESSNESS WITH SAME-DAY HOUSING

For years, government policy has been actively hostile to people who are homeless. Both NDP and PC Governments were happy to only provide temporary solutions instead of providing permanent funding and stable programs to address our housing crisis. The NDP platform commitment is to take eight years based on the “Houston model” to address homelessness.

A Manitoba Liberal government will have a same-day housing strategy in place within two years of its mandate. The plan has four pillars to ensure no Manitobans fall through the cracks.

The plan consists of:

A

Same-Day Housing.

Currently, people in Manitoba who are homeless must be considered “chronically homeless” for six months before they can qualify for housing. This policy means that we will never end homelessness. Manitoba Liberals will adapt the progressive model where those who present themselves as unhoused will receive appropriate housing that same day. We will create a dashboard linked to supports to help people and organizations navigate to the help they need including accessing food, social services, shelter, and warming locations.

B

Ending Homelessness in Manitoba as an act of Reconciliation.

The 2022 Winnipeg Street Census showed that 68% of those who are experiencing homelessness are Indigenous while 89% of those sleeping outdoors were also Indigenous. The census also showed that **more than half of those experiencing homelessness were once wards of the provincial Child and Family Services System. As a province, we have caused harm to Indigenous peoples. To fully fulfill the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, ending homelessness must be a priority.**

C

A Path Towards Self-Reliance with Mental Health and Training Supports.

Manitoba Liberals will help people escape homelessness and poverty for good. The necessary supports need to be provided to assess and treat the reasons people are homeless including poverty, addictions, trauma from the Child and Family Services System; and learning disabilities.

D

Creation of Permanent Housing.

Manitoba Liberals will work with all levels of government, Manitoba Housing, private landlords, and organizations to create 10,000 new housing units in the next ten years. This will be accomplished by renovating existing units, purchasing or building new units for low-income housing, and incentivize the construction of new apartment blocks and multi-dwelling units which include a proportion of low-income housing.



PROTECTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES FLEEING VIOLENCE

Manitoba has one of the highest rates of violence against women in Canada; especially for Indigenous women and girls. Statistics show that Manitoba women face violence from their partners at a rate eight times higher than the national average, while Indigenous women are 3 times more likely to be murdered than non-Indigenous women.

Successive PC and NDP governments ignored the warning signs and did not adequately provide the necessary supports for centres assisting women fleeing domestic violence nor providing additional wraparound services.

For many years, there was no increase in supports for centres for women fleeing domestic violence.

Currently, there are only 10 women's shelters throughout Manitoba that provide emergency shelter and counselling for women and children who are the victims of gender-based domestic violence. In addition, there are only 9 resource centres for women that can provide group support and counselling. Worse yet, there are only 4 residential programs that can offer transitional housing for women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

Decades of PC and NDP governments have left women in Manitoba unprotected and with very few resources when they are at their most vulnerable.

Despite calls to women's crisis lines having grown by over 2,000 calls in the last three years, Heather Stefanson's Progressive Conservatives have not made protection and safety for women a top priority.

While the PC's have scrambled to cobble together a half-baked plan in an election year to fill this shortage, we know more is needed.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Expand existing shelter capacity and support services by 20% within the first term;**
- » **Create new emergency women's shelters with beds dedicated to women and children in Winnipeg, Brandon, and Thompson;**
- » **Fully implement the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Report recommendations;**
- » **Implement Indigenous-led advisory bodies within policing agencies to ensure gender-based violence is a priority.**

STANDING WITH ALL VICTIMS OF CRIME - SEARCHING THE PRAIRIE GREEN LANDFILL

As Manitobans, we should all be united in our shared grief with the families whose loved ones are still missing. For Manitoba Liberals, this is not a political issue: it is a moral principle. We need to stand with the victims of crime.

When we ask everyone to follow the law, we need to lead by example. All Manitobans need to know their government and the justice system is in place to serve everyone.

Manitoba Liberals commit to working with all levels of government to search the Prairie Green Landfill and commit to 50% of the cost.



SAFER STREETS: INVESTING IN SAFE PLACES & ANTI-GANG PREVENTION

Under the PC Government, more than half of Manitobans feel less safe than they did three years ago due to a sharp increase in violent and property crime across the province.

Statistics Canada has reported in 2023 that Northern Manitoba has one of the highest rural crime rates in all of Canada. Winnipeg continues to have one of the highest urban crime rates across the country. The total crime rate in Winnipeg has risen by more than 25%, while the violent crime rate has gone up nearly 20%. Furthermore, property crimes have increased to over 32% since 2021.

While Manitobans have seen crime rates rise across the province, both Brian Pallister's and Heather Stefanson's governments chose to reduce or eliminate all means to reduce the risk factors for crime: poverty, addictions, mental health, and lack of educational and training opportunities.

In addition, organizations who have been working tirelessly to curb crime across the province saw their budgets or supports from government slashed; such as the John Howard and Elizabeth Fry Societies.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Establish non-police mental health and addictions crisis teams to work in tandem with law enforcement agencies across the province, with a focus on de-escalation and treatment;**
- » **Fund culturally relevant anti-gang programs designed to divert people away from gangs towards a better path;**
- » **Fund safe spaces, recreation centres, and anti-gang intervention programs that have culturally appropriate supports;**
- » **Restore youth justice committees province-wide.**

POWERFUL NEW TOOLS FOR POLICE AND PROSECUTORS TO FIGHT ORGANIZED CRIME, MONEY LAUNDERING AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Law enforcement agencies in Manitoba need new tools to enable them to enforce our laws and ensure organized criminal activity does not flourish in our province. All provinces need to work together collectively to ensure that crime does not jump from one jurisdiction to another.

Currently Manitoba's oversight of corporate ownership is so weak that criminal organizations are able to register corporations and businesses with the government, engaging in human trafficking, money-laundering, tax evasion and tax avoidance.

The registry will require all businesses that operate within the province to disclose the full ownership of their businesses. This registry will be a tool used by law enforcement and other agencies to make sure that companies are not used for money laundering or other criminal activities.

CRACKING DOWN ON THE SALES OF ILLICIT DRUGS ONLINE

Manitoba Liberals will also crack down on black-market cannabis sales and the sale of illicit drugs online. Legal Manitoba-based cannabis stores have struggled to compete because there has been no enforcement against illicit sales, either online or with brick-and-mortar stores. While illicit tobacco sales are being investigated and prosecuted by the province, cannabis sales are not.

We will strengthen the legislative authority of the Liquor Gaming, and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba to ensure they are inspecting and prosecuting illicit sales of cannabis to protect the legal market.





Reconciliation: A **Path Forward** for All Manitobans

Reconciliation is about peace and healing from past harms imposed on Indigenous peoples – and we need legal changes to make it possible. Reconciliation is a civil rights movement that requires legislative changes to fulfill the rights that were promised in Treaties..

Collectively, we need to recognize the truths of the past, which can be hard to accept, but are immeasurably harder to have endured.

Manitoba needs a government that is committed to implementing the calls of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Report.



STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

Often, we talk about addressing the harms of the past. However, we also need to talk about the harms of the present – the urgent and pressing issue of so many Indigenous children in Child and Family Services (CFS).

From 2006 to 2019, the Manitoba Government illegally took federal benefits intended for Indigenous children who were in the care CFS. Childrens' Special Allowances were monthly payments intended to pay for the care of all Indigenous children.

When children were taken into the custody of CFS, the Manitoba Government clawed back, dollar for dollar, these necessary supports. This left lasting harm and has limited many childrens' full potential. In opposition, the Progressive Conservatives described this act as "Immoral and illegal" and the New Democratic Party (NDP) called it "theft". Despite criticizing each other, neither party has committed to returning the funds for its intended use.

Manitoba Liberals commit to return \$338-million stolen by the PCs and NDP to all Indigenous children who were in the custody of Child and Family Services.

We will also work to reform CFS to support families and keep them together while modernizing supports for foster families.



RETURNING BIRTH AND NEO-NATAL CARE TO NORTHERN MANITOBA

Northern and rural Manitoba have been losing birth and pre-natal care services, but within First Nations, there are communities where no one has given birth in their communities for generations.

Instead, many Indigenous mothers are flown to Winnipeg, where they live in hotels for weeks without community supports. This practice of isolating Indigenous mothers in Winnipeg is directly contributing to seizures of newborns. Although the practice of "birth alerts" was to end in 2020, Heather Stefanson's Conservative government continues to apprehend children at birth and separate them from their mothers.

Manitoba Liberals commit to work in partnership with the Federal Government to restore birth services and pre-natal care to First Nations communities so expectant mothers do not have to fly to Winnipeg for care.

In addition, Manitoba Liberals will establish a birth centre and dialysis unit in the community of Cross Lake. Instead of spending money on flights and hotels, we will invest in providing care and safe delivery.

Furthermore, we will deliver a program to train Indigenous midwives and doulas to ensure they have safe and supported births within the North.



LONG-TERM COMPENSATION FOR HYDRO-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Indigenous communities have often faced incredible destruction to their environment, communities and local economies due to the actions of previous provincial governments. The same hydro projects that power Manitoba's economy and generate billions in revenue are often built on Indigenous lands with few restrictions, permits, and little to no consultation with affected communities. Healthy fisheries were destroyed, undermining food, jobs, and community prosperity for areas like Cross Lake and South Indian Lake.

Manitoba Liberals commit to directing Hydro to work with First Nations communities to ensure that all outstanding compensation is addressed.

In addition, a long-term fund will be established to address the costs and damage created by Hydro projects, restore habitats, and repair environmental damage. Manitoba Liberals will commit a portion of the Manitoba Government's income stream from Manitoba Hydro to this fund each year.

PROVIDING MEANINGFUL SUPPORTS AND JUDICIAL REFORM

Manitoba has twice the rate of incarceration of Indigenous Peoples than the rest of Canada. Many are behind bars, having been arrested but not convicted, while they wait to move through the justice system.

Any prisoner leaving a provincial jail in Manitoba is at high risk to reoffend because Manitoba has no provincial half-way house system to assist them once they've been discharged from jail to provide inmates with the supports they need to integrate into society.

This means that people with no job, no wage, and no place to live are being discharged onto the streets or into homeless shelters where they can immediately find themselves in breach of their bail conditions - resulting in being arrested again.

Manitoba Liberals commit to strengthening the support network of the judicial system by expanding the resources for programs that divert people away from incarceration. We will fund Native Clan and Clan Mothers Healing Village to provide meaningful options to incarceration and safe placements after release, to provide shelter, supports to create a path to healing — including culturally appropriate provincial halfway houses.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP: CREATION OF A GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA INDIGENOUS SECRETARIAT

Indigenous peoples continue to face systemic discrimination when trying to access provincial services: health, education, justice, CFS, employment. At the same time, the Government of Manitoba routinely imposes on First Nations and Métis communities projects and laws without engaging proper consultations.

This must change. We need to work in full partnership with Indigenous leadership on an ongoing basis and have their continual input into any proposed changes that will affect their communities.

To achieve that goal, Manitoba Liberals commit to creating an Indigenous Secretariat that will have an independent voice directing government on how best to offer programs and services for Indigenous peoples.

That would include implementing the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensure that Jordan's Principle is enforced.



Environment: Making **Manitoba** a **Global Leader** in **Fighting Climate Change**

Manitoba is uniquely positioned to be a national leader in the fight against climate change. We have the capacity to become the first province in the country to reach net-zero in greenhouse gas emissions before 2034.

To make a difference in climate change, we need to make it easier for Manitobans to do the right thing. Manitoba Liberals are committed to protecting the environment, harnessing clean hydro energy while helping Manitobans reduce their energy costs.

\$300-MILLION GREEN FUND SO ALL MANITOBANS CAN FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

To grow a greener province, a Manitoba Liberal Government will create a \$300-million Green Fund that will support Manitobans in restoring the environment, offering energy-saving retrofits and ultimately fighting climate change.

Manitoba Liberals will renegotiate a deal with the Federal Government to redirect a portion of the revenue from the pollution pricing plan so that we can set our own conditions. In addition, we will establish new green building codes for both new builds and retrofits.

The Green Fund will be partially funded by Efficiency Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, and a redirected portion of the revenue from the pollution pricing plan.

Eligible projects under the Green Fund will include, but are not limited to:

- » Efficiency programs for producers to reduce the impact of agricultural greenhouse emissions, such as N₂;
- » Residential and commercial green retrofits to reduce home energy costs including to the removal of radon and replace lead water pipes;
- » Increasing wind and solar power generating stations across the province;
- » Increasing the number of EV charging stations.

Furthermore, Manitoba Liberal commit to:

- » Restore 50/50 transit funding for the City of Winnipeg and invest in transit expansion in other towns and cities.

REWILDING MANITOBA: RESTORING WILD SPACES AND WILDERNESS CORRIDORS

One of the most effective and least costly ways to fight climate change is through restoring Manitoba's wilderness through a process of rewilding.

Rewilding means restoring ecosystems to their original state, restoring natural forests, grasslands, lakes, rivers and wetlands, while linking them together in ecological corridors to encourage the wildlife to recover. A portion of the Green Fund will be dedicated to rewilding.

Under a Manitoba Liberal Government, areas prioritized for rewilding will include the Red River Valley, the Red River Floodway and extension, and the Little Saskatchewan River.

Manitoba Liberals have already introduced a bill in the Manitoba Legislature to recognize ecological corridors, which connect existing wild areas into larger territories for species to roam, breed, and grow.

We will work with farmers, Indigenous communities and municipalities to create wilderness corridors and

restore habitats such as forests, wetlands, grasslands. This will include significant efforts to remove and displace invasive species.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Double the number of protected areas in Manitoba by 2035;**
- » **Set up a carbon credit system that will enable payments for farmers for ecological services and sustainable land stewardship;**
- » **Restore the provincially-run tree nursery and seed bank.**

A Manitoba Liberal Government will also invest in the restoration and protection of freshwater fish species and habitats to ensure that fishers in Manitoba can continue to harvest fish sustainably while we protect our waterways from invasive species.

CLEANER WATERWAYS AND LAKES

For almost 20 years, Winnipeg's North End Water Pollution Control Centre (NEWPCC) has been the single largest source of phosphorus flowing into Lake Winnipeg. Although the province has set the phosphorus limit to 1.0 mg/L, the NEWPCC still remains non-compliant.



A Manitoba Liberal Government will prioritize the NEWPCC biosolids facility project as a critical facility upgrade. In addition, we will:

- » **Increase funding to the Water Services Board by \$20 million;**
- » **Commit to restoring Lake Winnipeg by 2033;**
- » **Create "Floating Wetlands" in Winnipeg's Rivers around each combined sewer outlet to immediately help capture the excess pollution and nutrients naturally and at low cost.**

Manitoba Liberals are very concerned about the potential adverse impacts of the proposed Sio Silica mine in south-eastern Manitoba. Major concerns have been elaborated in detail in the Clean Environment Commission Report. A Manitoba Liberal Government will protect the aquifers in south-eastern Manitoba.



CLEANUP OF TOXIC SITES

Manitoba has a terrible environmental record on cleaning up toxic sites in both the capital region and in communities across the province.

Lead continues to be a huge issue in Winnipeg neighbourhoods such as Point Douglas, Wolseley, and St. Boniface. For decades, provincial PC and NDP governments have ignored the issues.

We have known for many years that early exposure to heavy metals and lead can cause mental and learning disabilities in young children.

In Point Douglas, a neighbourhood that has the highest concentration of children in the city, where 45% of residents are considered low income, and nearly half are Métis or First Nation, lead exposure in Michaëlle Jean Park was more than five times higher than federal guidelines. Despite having this knowledge, successive governments have failed to act.

Testing for toxins in soil, air, and drinking water will help reduce health impacts to at-risk populations while improving environmental outcomes. The primary target will be areas and homes where children have been found to have high lead levels.

The remediation of contaminated sites by addressing soil, air and water quality will ensure all children across the province live in safe and healthy communities.

To accomplish this, a Manitoba Liberal Government will:

- » **Fund soil and water remediation projects;**
- » **Update provincial environment laws to better protect Manitobans from pollutants in their neighbourhoods and strengthen enforcement;**
- » **Update the province's data-collection to better inform residents of harmful chemicals that may be present in their communities.**

HARNESSING MANITOBA'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Northern Manitoba is home to a wealth of natural resources and numerous mineral deposits with vast regions that are unexplored. Minerals development and continued exploration pose huge upside to contribute to our province's economic prosperity.

In partnership with Indigenous communities and municipalities, we will work to rebuild Manitoba's mining sector to ensure it is environmentally sustainable by creating a pathway for mining operations to proceed and create the kind of environment that will lead to a substantial increase in mining investment in Manitoba.





Education, Culture and Creativity: Reinvesting in **Manitoba's Future** and **Identity**

"If you want a guaranteed return on investment, put it into education".

It's important to recognize that 80% of Manitoba's public school students are at or above national benchmarks. However, 20% of our province's children struggle on a daily basis as many do not have the full supports they need. Some children and their families living in poverty face language and literacy barriers, or have learning and physical disabilities.

UNIVERSAL K-12 IN-SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM

Education is the best way to break the cycle of poverty. But not all children have the same access to the resources they need to be provided the opportunity to be successful in school. This includes access to healthy meals and snacks - the basic necessities for kids to learn and grow.

That is why Manitoba Liberals believe in the importance of equitable investments in universal nutrition programs so that kids can focus on learning and not be distracted because they're hungry.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Working with Manitoba's Child Nutrition Council to establish a Universal Nutrition Program, which will be available to all K-12 schools throughout the provincewide.**



UNIVERSAL SCREENING FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

Manitoba NDP and PCs Governments have neglected children with learning disabilities; leaving them and their families to struggle alone. Early detection and early intervention will make a significant difference in improving the lives and development of children and families alike.

Manitoba Liberals recognize that undetected and untreated learning disabilities can be a significant factor in anti-social behaviour. Children with undetected and untreated disabilities can end up in jail, on the streets, or develop substance abuses. Many of these outcomes can be avoided with early detection and treatment.

Mandatory screening of all learning disabilities will help identify students who require special services earlier in their schooling to ensure that our public schools work for all Manitoba students.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Provide universal coverage for all cognitive and learning challenges so that immediately upon entering the school system students can receive proper support.**

NEW MODELS OF EDUCATION TO ENGAGE EVERY LEARNER

Manitoba Liberals recognize that a successful public education system means ensuring the right models of education are available and accessible to students who feel that traditional learning models may not fully resonate with them.

The Seven Oaks School Division's MET school was the first of its kind in Canada when it opened in 2012. The school's education model provides more time for students outside of a school building and more learning from experts in the community; leading to a more enriching school experience for its students.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Work with school divisions to identify and implement more successful alternative learning models such as the MET School program.**



INVESTING IN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Our post-secondary institutions are engines of the economy - driving research and innovation while providing solutions to challenges from engineering to health to climate change.

High tuition fees and the worry of taking on unmanageable debt are major barriers to why many young people choose not to pursue higher education. For international students, inadequate health care coverage can lead to out-of-pocket spending on major medical bills. Manitoba Liberals believe all young people should have the chance to succeed and cost should never be a barrier.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Reinstate the tuition rebate program, providing a rebate of up to 60% on all eligible tuition fees when students begin working to encourage graduates to stay in Manitoba;**
- » **Reinstate health coverage for international students;**
- » **Ensure stable, multi-year funding for all post-secondary institutions;**
- » **Respect the autonomy of public post-secondary institutions so they can fulfill their mandates free from political interference.**

RESTORING AND INVESTING IN FRENCH LANGUAGE EDUCATION & CULTURE

Various funding streams for French services in Manitoba have been cut under the PCs despite more than 50% of students being enrolled in French or French-Immersion programs in Manitoba.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Strengthen and restoring the Bureau D'éducation Française and Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities with stable long-term funding;**
- » **Support the Université de Saint-Boniface's development plan to offset shortages in the French education sector;**
- » **Increase funding to CCFM to \$900,000 per year;**
- » **Ensure the Department of Education and Early Childhood Learning adequately encompasses all French-language education services from early childhood to post-secondary education;**
- » **Adequately fund French-language education to ensure parents can send their children to French-language or immersion schools;**
- » **Increase funding to schools divisions with dedicated funds for improving classroom ventilation and creating a plan to install air conditioning across schools in Manitoba.**

MODERNIZED FUNDING FOR MANITOBA'S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AND SPORTS

Manitoba's creative industries and sports organizations provide important jobs and are major tourism draws. However, many organizations have not received an increase in operating funding that have kept pace with the rise in inflation.

As we emerge from the pandemic, we have an opportunity to renew infrastructure and ensure that the unique voices and talents of Manitoba artists and athletes are better heard and celebrated.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Renew and modernize operational funding for Manitoba's cultural institutions, to make up for pandemic losses and invest in new growth;**
- » **Invest in ongoing programming support for the arts and cultural sector by increasing funding to the Manitoba Arts Council by \$20-million;**
- » **Increase supports for elite amateur athletes to match other provinces;**
- » **Increase supports to Sport Manitoba to improve funding for coaches, trainers, and athletes.**

IMPROVED SERVICES FOR NEW CANADIANS

In 2022, Manitoba's population grew by 40 593 by welcoming new Canadians and international students. New Canadians enrich our communities and are vital economic contributor for the overall growth of our province. We cannot succeed nationally or internationally without, in part, attracting the best and brightest from around the world.

Manitoba has to do a better job of not only encouraging new Canadians to choose Manitoba, but to stay once they've arrived.

To facilitate the attraction and retention of permanent residents and international students, Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Negotiate with the Federal Government for a larger percentage of new Canadians immigrating to Manitoba through the provincial nominee program;**
- » **Negotiate an enhanced family-reunification stream for the Provincial Nominee Program and reduce the application fee from \$500 to \$50;**
- » **Increase francophone immigration targets to further strengthen Manitoba as home of the largest French speaking community in Western Canada;**
- » **Expand financial supports and skills upgrading for internationally educated Canadians to meet credential and regulatory standards.**





Accountability: **Rebuilding Responsible Government**

A REAL CHOICE FOR REAL CHANGE: RENEWING DEMOCRACY IN MANITOBA WITH A RANKED BALLOT

Manitoba Liberals will renew democracy and end strategic voting within the province by moving to a system of ranked ballots for provincial elections.

Our current electoral system of first-past-the post distorts the support of political parties, while it rewards division and hyper-partisanship. It discourages moderation in campaigning and in messaging while rewarding polarization.

In the 2019 election, the Manitoba Liberal Party had one-half the popular vote of the NDP and one-third the popular vote of the PCs, yet the seat distribution was highly distorted and turnout was low. More eligible voters in Manitoba stayed home and did not vote at all than all the votes for the PCs and NDP combined.

While proportional representation is often recommended, Manitoba Liberals support a ranked ballot model as it places individual rights over collective rights; including those of a political party.

Ranked ballots have been used in Manitoba before and they are used by political parties today to choose their leaders. In the end, the ranked ballot model requires a great degree of consensus because every MLA who is elected will have received the support of at least 50% + 1 of their voters. Voters have the opportunity to vote for who they really want without excluding candidates who are a strong second choice.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » **Implement legislation to introduce a ranked ballot model to elect future provincial governments;**
- » **Negotiate with municipalities to amend their legislation for those who would like to adopt the ranked ballot as well.**

RESTORING THE PUBLIC'S TRUST IN GOVERNMENT WITH REAL ACCOUNTABILITY

One of the biggest challenges facing governments everywhere has been a loss of trust. In a polarized and divided political landscape, where the extremes are trying to seize the centre, our first obligation must be to renew the trust between citizens and the representatives who aspire to lead them.

It requires real action with real accountability. As politicians, we have to be more fair, more responsive, and we must focus on the needs of the people and our province, not on partisanship.

Our \$7.6-billion health care system is broken because it is not clear who is in charge, why or how decisions get made.

In the last 35 years, the PCs introduced two entire new levels of bureaucracy, Shared Health and the Regional Health Authorities (RHAs); who have never had any obligation to explain their decisions to the public they

serve. For that reason alone, Manitoba has a health system without any accountability.

A Manitoba Liberal Government will require RHAs, Shared Health and Public Health to report annually to a public committee of the legislature, at which CEOs and Board Chairs will have to face questions and provide answers to MLAs. Manitoba Liberals have already introduced legislation twice on this matter with no support from either the PCs or the NDP.

In addition, we will restore the decision-making power back to the local community level, away from Shared Health and RHAs. This will make our health system more responsive to the needs of the community.

A Manitoba Liberal Government will work with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and citizens to repeal Bill 37, which provided for the Municipal Board to override local municipal decision-making. We will reform the municipal board to make it politically independent and accountable.

RESTORING THE PUBLIC'S TRUST IN GOVERNMENT WITH REAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Both the NDP and PCs have been negligent in addressing serious gaps in whistleblower protection and reforming the abuse of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs).

Manitoba Liberals will provide enhanced safeguards to protect freedom of speech in the province by enacting Anti-SLAPP legislation. The legislation will ensure that legitimate public debate can continue in the province and not be corrupted by large corporations who are more concerned with protecting their reputation, than striking a balance in the protection of public interests.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » Enact legislation to limit the use of non-disclosure agreement for the purpose of protecting intellectual property only;
- » Pass anti-SLAPP legislation to protect freedom of speech by Manitobans and media outlets by shielding them from lawsuits designed to intimidate or silence legitimate public debate;
- » Introduce enhanced whistleblower protection, requiring whistleblowers who faced retaliation and losses due to their disclosures;
- » Strike an expert commission to make recommendations to the government to regulate the misuse and abuse of artificial intelligence.

KEEPING CROWN CORPORATIONS PUBLIC

Manitoba's Crown Corporations must remain public. As monopolies, they need to be independently regulated and kept free from behind-the-scenes political meddling that has historically undermined the finances and performances of these important institutions.

Manitoba Liberals commit to:

- » Restore an independent civilian body to act as go-between Government and the Crown Corporations;
- » Strengthen the role of the PUB and ensure that all directives to Crown Corporations are clear and transparent;
- » Require that Crown Corporations include stakeholders and communities in their decision-making.

Manitoba Liberal Platform Costs Outlined

1. From Crisis to Care: Rebuilding our Public System

Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals: Retention bonuses would cost the system approximately \$185 million.

A Family Doctor for Everyone: reforming the fee for service structure would cost the system approximately \$125-\$175 million (as announced).

Meaningful Mental Health and Addictions Care: Regulating psychotherapy under Medicare under a Manitoba-in-Manitoba IAPT model: approx. \$51 million.

Creation of a Manitoba Seniors' Advocate: Cost for implementation approximately \$2.6 million.

Seniors' "Safe at Home Plan": \$30 million in funding for the "Invest at Home" strategy. Restoration of the Life-Saving Drugs program approx. \$15 million.

Providing Real Care for Caregivers: Co-located childcare centres: \$5 million.

2. Economy, Jobs & Cost of Living: A Balanced Plan to Growing Manitoba

Progressive Tax Reform:

A Renewed Education Tax Rebate: Creation of searchable business registry can be done within operating funding.

Creation of the Manitoba Business Development Bank: First year funding of \$100 million (\$10 million capital costs, \$90 million in operating).

Reimagined Basic Income Supports for all Manitobans: Some of the \$654.4 million of existing EIA funding will be redirected or repurposed. \$150 million in new funding for the Manitoba Works for Good jobs Program.

Investments in Strategic Community Infrastructure: We will work with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association to determine shovel-worthy projects.

Childcare Spaces: Increased wage and benefit supports to ECE's: \$5 million. Revamped online childcare registry can be done within current operating budget. Expansion of \$10/day childcare to school aged children: \$10 million. We will work with the Manitoba Childcare Association to identify charitable non-profits to boost infrastructure funding.

3. Community Safety: Protecting Manitobans and Standing with Victims of Crime

Reducing Violence Against Women: \$5 million to expand and boost capacity for women's shelters.

Searching for Evidence of human remains in multiple murders at the Prairie Green Landfill: \$42 million in split costs to search for evidence of human remains at the Prairie Green landfill.

New Tools for Police and Prosecutors to Fight Human Trafficking and the Black Market: Implementation of searchable business registry will be done within departmental operating budget.

Safe Streets & Community Supports: \$1.5 million in new funding to support anti-gang and crime prevention programs.

Safe Shelter Now: Ending Homelessness: \$40 million in year one to identify, develop new, and repurpose currently vacant spaces and buildings. \$2.3 million will be additionally spent for mental health and social supports.



4. Reconciliation: A Path Forward for all Manitobans

Strengthening Support for Children in Care: \$338 million to be returned to all Indigenous children who were in the care of CFS.

Improving Local Health Services Creation of birth centre: approx. \$3 million / Establishment of dialysis unit: approximately \$2 million.

Restoring the Environment: Working group to be set up between MB Hydro and First Nations

Meaningful Supports and Judicial Reform: \$7.5 million (\$5.5 million capital, \$2 million operating) to Native Clan Organization to establish a provincial halfway house. \$5 million to Clan Mothers to complete construction on a dedicated women's healing village.

Creation of an Indigenous Secretariat: Cost for implementation approximately \$5 million.

5. Environment: A Commitment to Renewal and Green Growth

Energy Efficiency Programs: \$300 million green fund to be created.

Rewilding Manitoba: \$2 million in year 1. Further grants of \$50,000-\$100,000 to groups to take further initiatives on ecological corridors.

Clean Waterways and Lakes: Implementation of floating wetlands in key waterways: \$2 million.

Cleanup of Toxic Sites: remediation and data collection programs: \$15 million.

Harnessing Manitoba's Natural Resources: We will work with industry stakeholders and First Nations to rebuild Manitoba's mining sector.

6. Education, Culture and Creativity: Reinvesting in Manitoba's Future and Identity

Universal School Nutrition Program: \$6 million.

Investing in Post-Secondary Education: Re-establishing the tuition rebate program: approx. \$55 million / Reinstating health coverage for international students: \$5 million.

Modernized Funding for Manitoba's Creative Industries and Sports: Increased funding to the Manitoba Arts Council: \$20 million.

New Models of Education to Engage Every Learner: We will work with school divisions to deliver on this promise and prioritize based on need.

Restoring and Investing in French Language Education & Culture: Increased funding to CCFM: \$900,000.

Improved Services for New Canadians: \$4 million to restore healthcare to international students. Additional \$3.5 million to strengthen the MPNP program to deliver on enhanced immigration targets and departmental supports to reduce application fee from \$500 to \$50.

7. Accountability: Rebuilding Responsible Government

Restoring the Public's Trust in Government: legislative commitment.

Renewing Democracy with a Ranked Ballot: legislative commitment, cost to implement approximately \$900,000.

Ending the Culture of Cover Ups: legislative commitment.

Commitment to Keeping Crown Corporations Public: legislative commitment.

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