

YOUR PROVINCE YOUR PLAN – BUDGET 2017

Since October 2016, Manitobans from across the province have provided extensive and important feedback and input on priorities for Budget 2017.

There were over 18,000 interactions with Manitobans through five community meetings, written submissions to the Minister of Finance, and an online interactive and innovative budget website.

The ideas brought forward are valuable, important, and much appreciated as the government works towards fixing provincial finances and rebuilding the economy.

Community Meetings with the Minister of Finance

Approximately 340 individuals and almost 50 stakeholders participated in community meetings across the province: in Winnipeg, Brandon, Swan River, and Thompson.

Citizen Budget Tool

Manitoba was the first province to feature an interactive online tool that allowed Manitobans to build their own provincial budget based on their priorities.

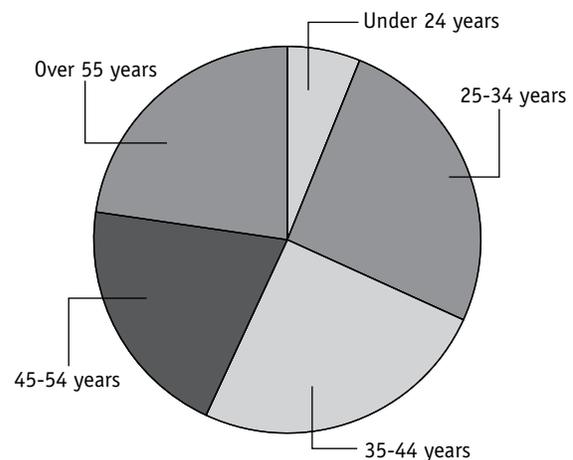
At the same time, they were able to see how those decisions impact Manitoba's 2016/17 budgeted core

deficit of \$890 million. This tool allowed Manitobans to experience firsthand the development of the provincial budget and understand the challenges as the government strives to fix its finances.

Almost 1,000 Manitobans built their own provincial budget. The input came from a broad spectrum of Manitobans:

- 60% were male respondents and 40% were female.
- 90% were long-term residents and have resided in Manitoba for ten years or more.
- 66% were from urban communities, 30% were rural Manitobans, and 4% were from northern communities.
- 76% were homeowners.
- There were also respondents from a range of age cohorts.

Manitoba's Citizen Budget Participants



Source: Manitoba Finance



Written Submissions

Over 220 citizens provided advice and ideas online in the areas of efficiency, regulatory reform, managing the province's expenditure growth, supporting economic growth and, specifically, private sector growth in Manitoba's North. Over 100 Manitobans chose to write or e-mail the Minister of Finance directly with their

priorities. Over 300 civil servants from across Manitoba provided advice through an internal website.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR THEMES

The following themes emerged from these extensive consultations with Manitobans:

- fix our finances and reduce the deficit;
- grow the economy especially the north;
- ensure taxes are competitive and affordable;
- streamline administration and governance;
- deliver goods and services efficiently and follow best-practices – provide value for money;
- eliminate duplication and waste; innovate;
- support for red tape reduction;
- make strategic and sustainable capital investments;
- promote trade globally and interprovincially; remove trade barriers;
- support small businesses, entrepreneurship and innovation; and
- favour a made-in-Manitoba approach to carbon pricing.

WHAT MANITOBANS SAID

“Reducing reporting would save time, allowing them to do the important work of assisting residents”

“Why not ask those on the front-lines for ways to cut costs and make it more efficient”

“Help eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy by limiting the assistants to the assistant”

“Fee for service could help open up for those in need if those that could afford would be willing to pay”

“Entire region under one umbrella for pay structure”

“We pull nurses into admin and go without the nurses we need”

“These (RHA’s) have become very top heavy, very bureaucratic organizations that often duplicate and triplicate paperwork, workloads, and bog down the entire health care system”

“Should consider some private health care options. Our system is simply not sustainable and some people want the option to pay”

“We need a bigger collective bang for our dollar”

“Firstly, we must recognize our province has a spending problem, not an income problem. It is time to get back to living within our means”

“Let’s start with both a hiring and wage and benefit freeze ... as a matter of fact, if you want to show true leadership, all PC MLA’s should take a pay cut”

“For all departments reduce administration. Each department head needs to take a good hard look at their area and make some reductions”

“Ask yourself, does it make a difference? Does it matter? Is it relevant or is it obsolete? If this job is not filled/done, will it make any difference to the outcome of lives in Manitoba?”

“Develop and then maintain a long-term plan for the province”

“Insert the voice of the customer (e.g. taxpayer)”

“Insert the voice of government staff”

“Budgets should always be viewed through the lens of making Manitoba more competitive”

“We currently have no mechanism to measure the quality of supports people receive and how content people are with the services they receive”

“Expenditures should target programs that have a definable return on investment”

“Combine the Emergency Measures Organization and the Office of Disaster Management as they overlap in so many ways and it fragments response capabilities”

and chains of command as well as duplicates administrative burdens"

"Re-assign certain workers in management ... and eliminate Supervisory positions for those who no longer do scheduling assignment duties for their subordinates"

"All departments are trying to justify their jobs and they are spending more time doing that rather than the job"

"And what's up with over expenditures, doesn't anyone in government know how to get a good quote and do a good contract and keep the assigned service

company to their duties and not make millions of overruns? That needs to be fixed dramatically"

"Standardize on one payroll system across all regions; Standardize on common clinical systems across all regions; Consolidate all regional server infrastructures to one central data centre location"