

Budget Paper E

**REDUCING POVERTY AND
PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION**

Available in alternate
formats upon request.

Manitoba 

REDUCING POVERTY AND PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

CONTENTS

ALL ABOARD: MANITOBA'S POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY	1
MEASURING PROGRESS	1
PROVINCIAL INVESTMENTS: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL MANITOBANS	4
KEY ALL ABOARD INITIATIVES IN BUDGET 2014.....	6
MAKING PROGRESS ON EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE.....	8
INTRODUCING THE NEW MANITOBA RENT ASSIST PROGRAM	9
Appendix 1: MANITOBA'S INDICATORS OF POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION.....	11
Appendix 2: REPORTING ON COMMITMENTS.....	12

■ ALL ABOARD: MANITOBA'S POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

Manitoba's efforts to reduce poverty were formalized in 2009, with the launch of ALL Aboard, the Province's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy. Manitoba took a major step forward in 2011, when *The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* was passed, joining four other provinces which have also adopted poverty reduction legislation. Manitoba's legislation is unique among other Canadian jurisdictions because it links the Poverty Reduction Strategy to the provincial budget. It also establishes the ALL Aboard committee, which consists of cabinet ministers and community representatives. The committee advises government on the development and implementation of poverty reduction initiatives, monitors the implementation of the strategy and facilitates community involvement in this work.

The 2012 ALL Aboard Strategy established seven priority areas for action:

- Building blocks for employment
- Targeted supports for those most in need
- Food security
- Housing
- Closing the gap for Aboriginal Manitobans
- Creating opportunities for youth
- Early childhood development and parenting supports

In 2013, consultations with Manitobans provided valuable advice about these priorities, summarized in *What We Heard: Key Findings from the March 2013 ALL Aboard: Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy Consultations*, available at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/allaboard/pubs/what_we_heard.pdf. Action plans are being developed for each priority area, with three of the seven plans released to date and available at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/allaboard/>.

■ MEASURING PROGRESS

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act requires that the Manitoba government set indicators to measure progress in reducing poverty and increasing social inclusion. The twenty-one indicators, which were included in regulation in 2012, are listed in Appendix 1. They cover critical areas such as low income, employment, earnings, income inequality, education, housing, labour force participation, early childhood development, health and social engagement. The data collected provide an annual picture of progress and help identify trends over time.

The first ALL Aboard Annual Report was published in the fall of 2013. It shows improvements in most of these indicators. The Annual Report is available at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/allaboard/pubs/all_aboard_annual_report_2012_13.pdf.

Since 2002, Manitoba has consistently been below the Canadian average when looking at the percentage of the population falling below the poverty line. Manitoba is making progress in reducing poverty. Between 2002 and 2008, the percentage of Manitobans living in poverty decreased from 12.8% to 9.2%¹. Manitoba, like other provinces, was affected by the global economic downturn, partially undoing the progress made with respect to reducing low-income rates. The percentage of Manitobans living in poverty in 2011 (the most recent year for which data are available) was 11.5%. There are 5,000 fewer Manitobans living in poverty now than there were in 2002, including 3,000 fewer children. The Manitoba government acknowledges both this progress and the need to continue our efforts.

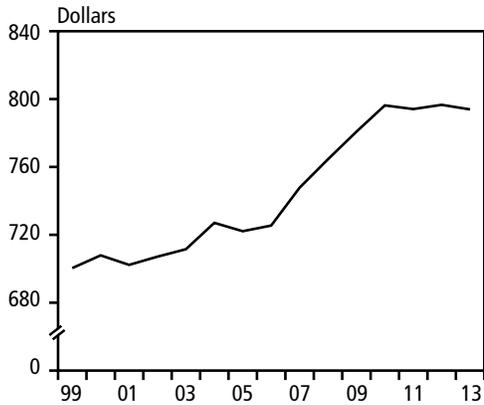
¹ In June 2013, Statistics Canada revised the way that the Market Basket Measure (MBM) is calculated. As a result, MBM thresholds were increased and Statistics Canada revised MBM rates back to 2002.

Low-Income Rates for Manitoba and Canada, 2002-2011



Note: Low-income rates using Market Basket Measure
 Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics

Average "Real" Weekly Earnings in 2013 Dollars, 1999-2013



Note: Earnings adjusted to account for inflation
 Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

This is the third annual Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Budget Paper. Budgets 2012 and 2013 included specific commitments to address these issues. A status report on the implementation of these commitments is presented in Appendix 2. In addition to the quantitative indicators noted above, this year's budget paper includes stories from beneficiaries of provincially-funded programs that are helping to reduce poverty.²

Percentage of Manitobans Living in Low Income 2002 to 2011

	Market Basket Measure (MBM)		
	Rate 2011	Manitoba Ranking 2011	Per Cent Change 2002-2011
	(Per Cent)		
Overall	11.5	4	10.2 ↓
Children	17.4	8	7.9 ↓
Persons in Single Parent Families	42.0	7	7.4 ↑
Youth-Led Families (aged 24 years or less)	31.9	4	27.5 ↓
Aboriginal Manitobans (off-reserve only)	16.0	2	32.5 ↓
Persons with Disabilities	13.0	3	1.5 ↓
Unattached Persons (aged 45 to 64)	28.0	3	19.3 ↓
Seniors	2.3	2	32.4 ↓

Notes: Ranking 1 is best; 10 is worst

Decreasing rate of low income is shown by ↓

Increasing rate of low income is shown by ↑

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics

² All names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

Manitoba's Strategy for Sustainable Employment and a Stronger Labour Market

In Spring 2013 the Strategy for Sustainable Employment and a Stronger Labour Market was launched, renewing the government's focus on helping people, particularly those at the margins of today's labour market, to gain the knowledge, skills, qualifications and supports that they need to succeed in the workforce. Actions to date include:

Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centre: The province has opened a one-stop centre for employers and job seekers, with Manitoba's apprenticeship, employment and workforce development services all located together in a single convenient location. Essential Skills Manitoba is also located onsite, to help participants gain the skills they need to advance through the right training to find good jobs.

New Apprenticeship Bursary: The choice between working and taking technical training at reduced or no wages can be difficult for some apprentices and in particular, single parents, remote and rural apprentices, and new Canadians. The new Final-Year Apprenticeship Bursary is designed to provide an additional incentive for apprentices who face these and other financial challenges to complete their technical training and challenge the certification exam for their trade.

Redesigning Employment and Income Assistance (EIA): The EIA system is being restructured and modernized. New tools are now in use to better assess EIA participants' strengths and assets, as well as potential barriers, to help them on the path to training or employment. Staff are being trained in motivational techniques to better engage with clients throughout the continuum of services and supports in a respectful and positive manner.

Targeted and Intensive Supports: The province is providing targeted new wrap-around supports for EIA participants who are transitioning to training and employment. This initiative started with parents of young children through a series of positive, informal and inspiring sessions focussed on motivating parents, demonstrating the benefits of working and hearing from parents who have moved from EIA to training and employment. In 2014 this approach will be expanded to include persons with disabilities and vulnerable youth, focusing on helping them to launch skilled careers.

Long-Term Support for Sustainable Employment: A dedicated team of workers is now in place to support EIA participants who encounter difficulties with their employment plan. Job Connections staff provide concrete support to individuals at any point along their pathway to employment, including after employment commences, to help address issues and remove barriers to training and employment.

Manitoba Works!: An innovative new approach to employment services to improve the labour market outcomes of individuals with complex needs that get in the way of employment. Delivered through community-based service providers, Manitoba Works! incorporates pre-employment, essential skills training, career exploration, and technical training options with supported cooperative work experience opportunities.

■ PROVINCIAL INVESTMENTS: CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL MANITOBANS

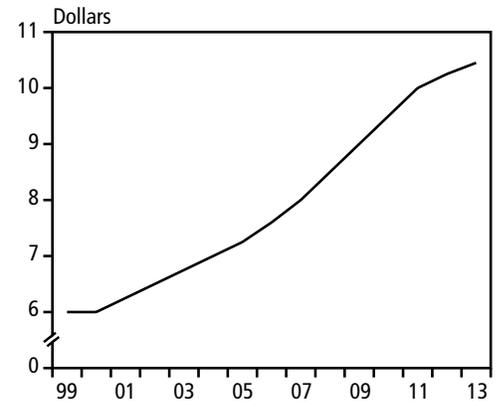
Despite prolonged uncertainty in the global economy, Manitoba's economy has kept growing. While some provinces have tackled uncertainty with cuts to services, Manitoba has protected jobs and the services that help connect families with opportunities.

The result has been steady economic growth and new opportunities for families. Today, investments in infrastructure are helping Manitoba businesses grow and are creating thousands of good job opportunities for Manitobans. New training and apprenticeship supports are helping Manitobans take advantage of this momentum.

The Manitoba government is taking steps to ensure that all Manitobans can benefit from the opportunities that are being created in our communities. This means whether it is a young person thinking about employment, someone who wants a better job, or an individual struggling to find an opening in the job market, there are resources in place to help Manitobans get the skills, qualifications and supports they need to succeed. New investments in programs and services specifically for Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) recipients, and other populations who historically have faced barriers to entering the labour market, will also help Manitoba's untapped pool of workers find and keep good jobs.

Budget 2014 also launches a bold new infrastructure plan that will see \$5.5 billion in new investments in core infrastructure over five years. This plan will proceed alongside a continuing commitment to protect front-line services and invest in community infrastructure including hospitals, schools and affordable housing construction. These investments will create significant training and job opportunities in the trades and professional occupations. Specific training programs with co-op job placements, delivered in partnership with community-based training providers, have been developed and will be launched over the coming months. These include new introductory trades training programs for youth and under-employed populations, partnerships with labour organizations to provide targeted new apprenticeship opportunities for Aboriginal persons and women in the skilled trades, and new trade initiatives specific to Aboriginal community economic development, which will serve as stepping stones towards certification in carpentry and plumbing.

Minimum Wage, Dollars Per Hour, 1999 to 2013



Source: Manitoba Labour and Immigration

Anna, a 30-year-old woman from Warren, Manitoba, is pursuing a career as an electrician with the help of Trade Up To Your Future, an Employment Manitoba program that helps women get into the non-traditional trades. The program provides classroom and hands-on training, employment skills upgrades, ongoing support, help finding work and financial assistance for those who qualify.

"I have always preferred active work" Anna says. "I don't like sitting behind a desk. I grew up on a farm and have worked at fishing lodges. I gained a lot of knowledge through Trade Up to Your Future."

Through the pre-employment program, Anna was able to accumulate 900 hours towards her Level One apprenticeship accreditation. The remaining 900 hours to meet the 1800 hour Level One baseline was accumulated through her work with a local electrical company. She says she is treated very well at work, and really appreciates having a union job with full benefits and a pension.

Increasing the Supply of Affordable and Social Housing

There is a strong consensus that safe, stable and affordable housing is a necessary prerequisite for individuals and families to escape poverty. Without such a foundation, individuals are unlikely to succeed in training and employment, to be able to have a healthy lifestyle or address other challenges they may face.

Increasing the supply of social and affordable housing is then key to meeting Manitoba's poverty reduction objectives. In recognition of this, in November 2009, the government of Manitoba made a five-year commitment to add 1,500 units of new affordable housing and to support 1,500 more social housing units. By the end of the fourth year, March 31, 2013, the Province had committed 1,224 units of new affordable housing and committed to support an additional 1,354 social housing units. The remaining units will be committed in the fifth and final year of this initiative.

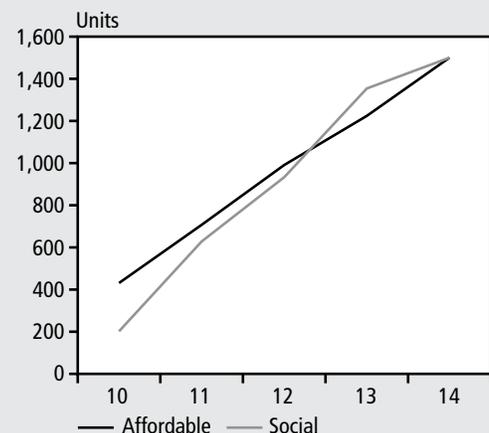
The Manitoba government remains committed to increasing the supply of affordable rental housing. In 2013, the government of Manitoba announced the Manitoba Housing – Three-Year Housing Plan (2013-2016). This plan includes providing Manitobans with access to more affordable housing by building 500 new social housing units and 500 new affordable housing units to be developed in partnership with the non-profit and private sectors. These units will provide new housing options for seniors, families and vulnerable Manitobans, including those who are not housed, inappropriately housed, or precariously housed and who may live with multiple health and social barriers.

The province also announced a new financial incentive, the Rental Housing Construction Tax Credit, to help address the persistent shortage of rental housing in Manitoba by providing a tax credit of up to 8% of capital construction costs if at least 10% of units constructed have affordable rents. The tax credit was a housing solution proposed by the 2011 Rental Housing Roundtable as a means to increase the supply of rental housing in Manitoba. The expertise and specialized knowledge provided by Roundtable members from the private and non-profit sectors have proven to be a key partnership in creating effective solutions for affordable housing. In 2014, the Rental Housing Roundtable will continue to meet as a collaborative and consultative group to focus on advancing solutions to providing quality affordable housing in Manitoba.

Through a strong commitment to increasing rental housing supply, paired with increasing shelter benefits for lower-income Manitobans, progress is being made in responding to housing needs in Manitoba.

The accompanying graph shows how the province implemented the commitment to support 1,500 new social housing units and create 1,500 affordable housing units between 2009 and 2014.

**New Social and Affordable Housing Units
Cumulative Total 2010 - 2014**



BUILD is a Winnipeg social enterprise non-profit contractor and a training program for people who face barriers to employment. BUILD trains people with limited experience in the formal labour market to retrofit housing stock in a fashion that reduces poverty and improves the environment. Social enterprises like BUILD are an important part of Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

"BUILD helped me realize my potential by building my skills and talents, which provided me confidence to learn new skills. BUILD also provided a safe work environment – no one has to worry about harassment on the job site." – Ava

"It takes courage for individuals when you come from another country and start a new life. People are scared. Working at BUILD gave me courage to learn new skills and go ahead to discover new opportunities. Yesterday I was a BUILD trainee; today I am a Bug and Scrub Technician. To be able to help people is amazing." – Haki

■ KEY ALL ABOARD INITIATIVES IN BUDGET 2014

The government of Manitoba conducted a series of consultations with community stakeholders in 2013 to identify priority areas for action on poverty reduction. Budget 2014 builds on the commitments made in Budget 2013 to implement key new initiatives that:

- continue to build and sustain the supply of social and affordable rental housing;
- provide targeted training and workforce development supports;
- improve income supports and income tax credits;
- expand access to childcare and supports for early childhood development; and
- enhance support for food security initiatives.

Housing

New Rental Benefit: Budget 2014 launches the new *Manitoba Rent Assist* program, a new portable financial benefit available to both social assistance recipients and other low-income private renters in Manitoba. Rent Assist will replace the current EIA shelter allowance and RentAid programs with an integrated benefit program available to all household categories, based on income and rent paid. EIA participants, who will automatically qualify for the maximum rate, will see increases between \$600 and \$840 in their annual shelter benefit amounts. Going forward, the Manitoba government will work with experts and community agencies on a multi-year plan to raise the maximum benefit levels to 75% of Median Market Rent, in a way that meets the needs of families and Manitoba's growing economy without creating a poverty trap.

Social and Affordable Housing: In the Spring of 2014 Manitoba Housing will complete the government's five-year commitment to develop 1,500 new affordable housing units and support 1,500 new social housing units. In 2014, work will begin on an additional commitment to build an incremental new 500 social and 500 affordable housing units over three years. Manitoba Housing will also invest \$100 million in 2014/15 in housing portfolio restoration and redevelopment, in addition to \$34 million in maintenance and repairs to the existing stock.

Targeted Training and Workforce Development Supports

Manitoba Works!: Budget 2014 launches Manitoba Works!, a new series of partnerships with community-based agencies to provide supportive training

and co-op work opportunities with employers with an investment of over \$3 million over three years. Programs will be targeted and designed for Manitobans with barriers to employment, with a focus on EIA participants.

Gateway to Apprenticeship: Budget 2014 dedicates funding for a new Gateway to Apprenticeship program that will include new pilot initiatives in partnership with industry and labour organizations. These projects include targeted programs to develop skills in the trades for youth and under-employed populations, create apprenticeship opportunities for Aboriginal persons and women, and launch new trade initiatives specific to Aboriginal and community economic development, which will serve as stepping stones towards certification in carpentry and plumbing.

Income Supports and Income Tax Credits

Seniors' Education Property Tax Credit: In 2014, the provincial government will start eliminating the education property tax paid by senior homeowners, with the tax fully eliminated by 2016. Later this year, all senior homeowners who still pay education property tax will be able to apply for a rebate of up to \$235, which will take another 7,200 seniors off the education property tax roll. The government is also exploring options on how to target the credit so that those who own very expensive homes, for example homes over \$1 million in value, are not fully exempt from paying school taxes.

Basic Income Tax Exemptions: Basic income tax exemptions will increase by \$250 in 2014, removing 5,500 low-income Manitobans from the income tax rolls. These exemptions have increased by \$1,000 since 2011, increasing the number of low-income Manitobans who pay no income tax by 22,000.

Early Childhood Development and Support for Parents

Early Childhood Development: Budget 2014 supports the Early Childhood Development Innovation Fund, seeded by a \$500,000 investment from the Manitoba government and a \$500,000 investment from the McConnell Foundation. The first initiative the Innovation Fund will support is the Winnipeg Boldness Project, which will focus on innovative early childhood development initiatives for low-income children and families in the Point Douglas community.

Child Care Spaces: Budget 2014 commits to a new multi-year child care plan that will build and open new centres over the next five years. Through this plan, the province will fund thousands of spaces over three years. Budget 2014 also supports the child care workforce with grant increases to support higher wages for early childhood educators.

Jake makes the best of unexpected situations.

The 60-year-old music teacher didn't expect he would need to move into social housing. However, after his aging mother was hospitalized in 2012, financial worries started piling up and the home that had been in their family for decades was put on the market. Jake said a move into a Manitoba Housing building gave him a stable place to live while he continued working.

"I feel very fortunate to be here" said Jake.

Jake now lives in a bachelor apartment funded by a social housing program geared to people who are aged 55 years and older. Jake pays rent-geared-to-income for his apartment. That means the amount he pays each month is a set ratio of the income he makes teaching music to students across the city. Moving into social housing has helped give Jake a safe home and a foundation to figure out how to proceed in his life.

"If you're realistic about it, it gives you a chance to move on and deal with any other issues that might come up" he said.

When Grace opens her pay stub, she does it with her children beside her. That's because the 40-year-old single mother credits her children and her neighbours in her social housing community for inspiring her to obtain a college diploma. Today, she is off social assistance and working. Having stable housing and a supportive community made a difference in her and her family's lives, she said.

"I had rent I could afford, which was a huge thing. I had a landlord that cared about their units" said Grace, 40. "I had never lived in a place for longer than two years, until now." Grace, who lives in Winnipeg, credits her kids with helping her finish high school and college programs by taking on housework and child care.

She also says she's met "some of the strongest, most inspiring" people who are her neighbours, and who have supported her as she's pursued her educational goals. Grace is proud of the progress she's made, and she's encouraging her children to pursue their own dreams.

"They open my pay stub with me" she said. "It's we, it's not me, because I couldn't do this myself."

Food Security

School Nutrition Programming: Budget 2014 includes a new \$450,000 allocation for child nutrition programming for students in low-income schools, identified as a priority by the Roundtable on Community Action Against Child Hunger. This will be delivered in partnership with school divisions.

Northern Food Prices: Building on the province's Northern Healthy Foods Initiative, Budget 2014 supports a new pilot project to help make healthy foods, including milk, more accessible to northern Manitobans. This will be accomplished by promoting and supporting activities and programs that reduce the cost of nutritious foods in northern and remote communities in Manitoba.

■ MAKING PROGRESS ON EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME ASSISTANCE

In Budget 2014, the Manitoba government is renewing its commitment to support low-income Manitobans in achieving their full potential. The Sustainable Employment Strategy, and other measures to tackle the root causes of poverty, will assist those who are ready to make the transition to training and employment, recognizing that others will continue to need the support of the EIA program.

Since 1999, the Manitoba government has taken steps to improve benefits for those receiving social assistance. The government has reversed regressive measures, such as the claw-back of the National Child Benefit, returning approximately \$48 million per year to low-income parents. The Manitoba government has also introduced and enhanced RentAid shelter benefits for low-income Manitobans.

Total Monthly Benefit Income (Federal and Provincial) for EIA Participants 1999 to 2014

	Income in 1999	Income in 2013	Income in 2014*	Increase
	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Dollars)	(Per Cent)
Single Parent with Two Children (ages 10 and 13)	1,253	1,687	1,743	39.1
Two Adults with Two Children (ages 4 and 6)	1,288	1,822	1,878	45.8
Single Adult - General Assistance	463	607	677	46.2
Single Person with a Disability	695	823	893	28.5

*As of July 2014, after implementation of new Manitoba Rent Assist benefit

■ INTRODUCING THE NEW MANITOBA RENT ASSIST PROGRAM

Stable housing is a foundational requirement for healthy families and for success in training and employment. Recognizing this, in addition to new commitments to build additional social and affordable housing and increase RentAid shelter benefits, Budget 2013 committed to the long-term objective of further improving and streamlining portable shelter benefits.

Budget 2014 launches a four-year initiative to meet this commitment through a new shelter benefit program that supports low-income Manitobans in private rental housing.

The Manitoba Rent Assist program is a new financial benefit available to both social assistance recipients and other low-income Manitobans, and will replace the current EIA shelter allowance and RentAid programs. Rent Assist is a rent- and income-tested, application-based program that will:

- support people to successfully transition from social assistance into training and jobs;
- provide all current recipients with a benefit increase upon introduction;
- reach more low-income Manitobans – all household types will be eligible;
- be simpler and portable; and
- increase over a four-year period, with the maximum rate target being 75% of Median Market Rent (MMR).

EIA participants with private rental expenses will automatically receive the maximum value of the new benefit with their monthly income assistance payment. The benefit will phase out as participants move into employment and increase their earnings. By integrating shelter benefits inside and outside of EIA, those moving from EIA into employment will be better served by automatic enrollment in the income- and rent-tested benefit stream that is open to all Manitoba private renters.

Since the mid-1990s, experts have advised that whenever possible and practical, income benefits should be portable and supports should be provided outside of the welfare system. This creates a more simplified, less intrusive benefit system, recognizes the challenges faced by low-income working Manitobans and their families, and encourages labour market attachment.

Elaine has made her home in Manitoba Housing's Gilbert Park area for two decades. For Elaine, having stable housing has given her and her children a sense of stability during periods where she wasn't working. Elaine has had health issues due to an autoimmune disease since her two children were young.

"There's no fear of losing that roof over your head" said Elaine, 50. "It is security with the kids that they'll have a place to live, and it's a decent place to live."

Elaine doesn't let her health issues stop her from being involved in the community. She's currently part of a sewing circle that involves a small group of Gilbert Park residents, and community gardens where new Canadians have shown others alternative ways of cultivating plots. Her children, now grown, are attending high school and working. She'd like to re-enter the workforce, as well.

Elaine said renovations to homes in Gilbert Park have been welcomed by residents. She said many residents have worked hard to make the area an appealing and attractive place to raise their families.

"It's a great place to live" she said.

Since 1999, Manitoba's investments in enhanced benefits for EIA participants and low-income working people have emphasized portability, lowering the welfare wall and removing obstacles on the path from welfare to work.

While the Manitoba government recognizes that raising shelter benefits for social assistance recipients to 75% of MMR is the right goal, there are challenges to meeting that goal. Some of those challenges involve overall costs, but designing a benefit itself that makes sure everyone is better off when moving into employment is a complicated task. It is important that benefits are not raised in a way that creates a poverty trap.

The province of Manitoba will be working with the Caledon Institute of Social Policy and consulting with local community agencies and experts to advise the government on the multi-year objective of raising rates to 75% of MMR in a way that meets the needs of families and Manitoba's growing economy.

Manitoba Rent Assist

Maximum benefit levels (Employment and Income Assistance Participants)

Sample Household Types	Current Monthly EIA Shelter Benefit Plus RentAid (Dollars)	New Monthly Shelter Benefit July 2014 (Dollars)	Increase 2013 to 2014 (Dollars)	Percentage Increase 2013 to 2014 (Per Cent)	75% of Current MMR (Winnipeg) (Dollars)
Single Parent With Two Children (ages 4 and 6)*	430	480	50	12	701-825
Two Adults With Two Children (ages 10 and 13)*	471	521	50	11	701-825
Single Adult - General Assistance**	365	435	70	19	420-563
Single Person With a Disability**	365	435	70	19	420-563

* The range in MMR for the two family examples represents 75% of the MMR for a two bedroom and three+ bedroom respectively. National Occupancy Standards require children of the opposite sex to have separate bedrooms; therefore depending on the sex of the children a two or three+ bedroom may be required.

** The range in MMR for one person households represents 75% of the MMR for a bachelor and one bedroom respectively.

■ Appendix 1: MANITOBA'S INDICATORS OF POVERTY REDUCTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

INDICATOR	SOURCE OF INFORMATION
High school graduation rate	Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning
Participation in adult learning programs	Manitoba Multiculturalism and Literacy
Average weekly earnings	Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Employment rate	Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey
Minimum wage rate	Manitoba Labour and Immigration
Low income rate	Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
Income inequality	Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics
Post-secondary education participation	Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Custom Tabulation)
Early development instrument scores	Manitoba Children and Youth Opportunities
Availability of child care	Manitoba Family Services
Number of children in care	Manitoba Family Services
Teen birth rate	Manitoba Health, Statistics Canada-Vital Statistics (Custom Tabulation)
Potential years of life lost by income quintile	Manitoba Health
Prevalence of chronic diseases by income quintile	Manitoba Health
Continuity of physician care	Manitoba Health
Average number of persons receiving co-ordinated home care services	Manitoba Health
Number of people using Access Centres	Manitoba Health, Manitoba Family Services
Total units of social and affordable housing supported by Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation	Manitoba Housing and Community Development
New households served through Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation programs and services	Manitoba Housing and Community Development
Households in core housing need	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Sense of community belonging	Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey

■ Appendix 2: REPORTING ON COMMITMENTS

Housing

2013	Increasing the number of social housing and affordable rental units across Manitoba.	✓ Manitoba is about to complete the unprecedented commitment to establish 1,500 new affordable housing units and support 1,500 new social housing units between 2009 and 2014, increasing housing options for low-income Manitobans, after which the province will embark on a new commitment to build 500 new social housing units and 500 new affordable housing units over three years.
2013	New social and affordable housing – a three-year commitment of \$114.3 million for 500 new social housing units, and \$25 million for 500 affordable housing units over three years, in addition to the previous commitment to establish 1,500 new affordable housing units and 1,500 social housing units between 2009 and 2014.	
2013	Restoring, repairing and redeveloping housing – a three-year commitment to invest \$100 million annually to restore and redevelop housing units, plus an additional \$34 million annually to repair existing stock and provide quality home environments for tenants.	✓ Manitoba Housing is on track to invest \$100 million in 2013/14 in housing portfolio restoration and redevelopment, in addition to \$34 million to repair existing stock.
2013	Support the Development of New Affordable Rental Housing - a new Residential Housing Construction Tax Credit to support the development of new rental and affordable rental units. This 8% tax credit will be available for construction of new rental units where at least 10% of the units have rents at, or below, affordable rental rates.	✓ Tax credit introduced in 2013.
2013	Change provincial rent regulation to ease large rent increases linked to renovations for tenants in units subject to rent regulation.	✓ Enabling legislation was passed in 2013, amending <i>The Residential Tenancies Act</i> . Consultations are ongoing with tenants, landlords and other stakeholders. Regulatory changes will be implemented in 2014.
2013	Green Energy Retro-fit – actions to help low-income Manitobans equip their homes with green, energy-efficient devices.	✓ Since Budget 2012, Manitoba Hydro's Affordable Energy Program (formerly the Lower Income Efficiency Program) completed 1,038 high-efficiency natural gas/boiler upgrades, 2,860 basic energy efficiency upgrades and 2,020 insulation retrofits.

<p>2013 Portable Shelter Benefits – \$6.3 million of increased investments in RentAid shelter benefits to assist low-income Manitobans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing and simplifying income and rent thresholds for RentAid, allowing more people to qualify. • Increasing RentAid benefits for all recipients by \$240 per year. • Introducing the RentAid Transition Bonus – \$110 per month for up to two years for EIA recipients in private rental situations transitioning into training or employment, who are otherwise ineligible for RentAid. <p>A long-term commitment to improve and streamline portable shelter benefits to better support transition to financial independence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The RentAid Regulation was amended, and more people are eligible for benefits. ✓ The maximum benefit was raised by \$240 per year. ✓ The RentAid Transition Bonus (\$110 per month for 24 months, including transitions to training) replaced the Rewarding Work Rental Allowance (\$50 per month for 12 months). ✓ Budget 2014 launches Manitoba Rent Assist, a new benefit program to support low-income Manitobans in private rental housing.
--	---

Building Blocks for Employment

<p>2013 Launch Manitoba’s Strategy for Sustainable Employment and Stronger Labour Market, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new, comprehensive approach to workforce development. • Restructuring and modernizing Manitoba’s EIA program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strategy launched in 2013/14. ✓ Opened the first Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centre, a one-stop centre for employers and job seekers. ✓ Launched findmyjob, the most comprehensive job search tool in Manitoba. ✓ Developed the Employment and Training Readiness Assessment, to help get EIA participants on the path to training or employment. ✓ Amended the EIA Regulation to work with single parents to make employment plans sooner and to allow payment to family members of EIA recipients who provide care to children when their parents are in work or training.
--	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing new wrap-around supports for EIA recipients who are transitioning to training and employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Job Connections workers support EIA recipients to resolve training or employment-related problems. ✓ Launched Manitoba Works!, an innovative new approach to help those with complex service needs with assessment, training and cooperative work experiences.
2012	Strengthening programs to help connect people with jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The EIA program is now part of Manitoba Jobs and the Economy, to more strongly link it with employment and training programs.
2012	Investing in quality, accessible post-secondary education:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting University tuition fee increases to the rate of inflation. • Capping fee increases at colleges at \$150. • Committing major multi-year funding to universities with 5.0% operating increases until 2013/14. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Passed <i>The Protecting Affordability for University Students Act</i>. ✓ Passed <i>The Protecting Affordability for University Students Act</i>. <p>In 2013/14, operating funding for universities was increased by 2.5%.</p>
2012	Expand access and options for apprenticeship training in local communities across the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In 2012/13, over 100 apprenticeship opportunities were provided through the Community-Delivered Apprentice Training Program.
2013	Increase support for apprentices in Manitoba.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launched a new bursary program for final-year apprentices, funding 50 bursaries of \$1,000 each, based on industry demand and individual need.
2012	Enhance the Co-op Education and Apprenticeship Tax Credit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Budget 2012 significantly increased the apprenticeship components of these credits and added a bonus for early-level apprenticeships outside of Winnipeg.

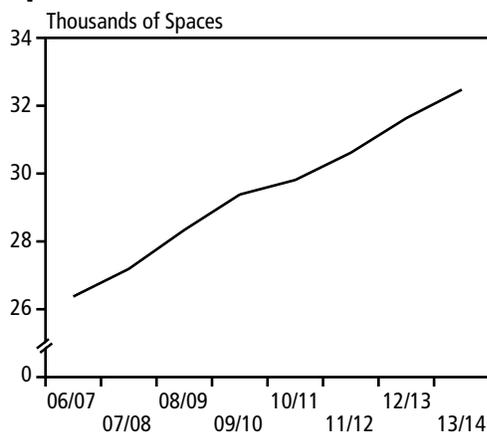
<p>2012 Continuing construction of an all-season road on the east side of Lake Winnipeg creating new jobs, skills training for community members and long-term economic benefits for all 13 east side communities.</p>	<p>✓ As of January, 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approximately 600 job opportunities have been created for local residents; • introductory construction, skilled labour and heavy equipment training provided to approximately 250 Manitobans; • community benefit agreements signed with each of the 13 Eastside First Nations; • approximately \$65 million invested in local communities under Community Benefit Agreements; • ten community-owned construction companies contracted to undertake work; and • requirements in place in construction tenders stipulating a minimum of 20% local hiring on bridge construction and 30% local hiring on road construction tenders, with local residents getting first priority for jobs
--	---

Early Childhood Development and Parenting Supports

<p>2013 Invest in new child-care spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 million to build new or to expand existing child-care facilities by 2015. • Additional funding for 2,000 child-care spaces by 2015, starting with 386 new spaces in 2013/14. • Open approximately 1,000 new child-care spaces in 2013/14. 	<p>✓ Budget 2014 continues this progress, with new funding of over \$5.5 million to build on the government's 2011 commitment to fund 2,000 additional child-care spaces.</p> <p>✓ Funding allocated for 386 new spaces in 2013/14.</p> <p>✓ 840 new spaces licensed thus far in 2013/14, on target for 1,000.</p>
<p>2012 Continue to strengthen accessible, early learning, child care, and early childhood development programming, and provide innovative programs and supports for parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding more child-care and nursery spaces. • Providing child-care subsidies to more Manitoba parents. 	<p>✓ Funded child-care and nursery spaces have increased by 1,258 since April 1, 2012.</p> <p>✓ Income eligibility levels were increased by 5.3% in July 2012, making more Manitoba parents eligible for child-care subsidies.</p>

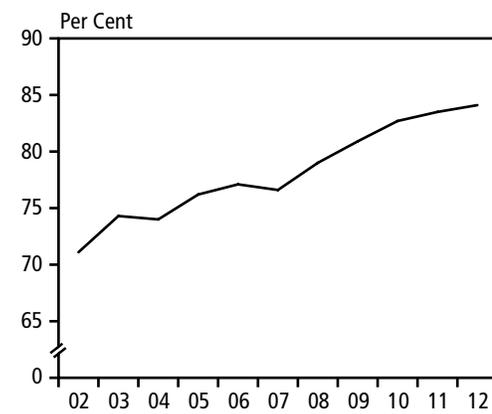
- Building new schools, gyms and child-care centres.
 - Parenting supports like Triple P Positive Parenting Program and hot line, and ManitobaParentZone.ca.
 - First-of-its-kind in Canada pilot of Pax Good Behaviour Game.
- ✓ 17 new child-care centres constructed in 2012/13 and 8 new child-care centres constructed thus far in 2013/14.
 - ✓ Launched the Triple P Phone Line and the ParentZone website and continue Triple P training.
 - ✓ Pilot Pax in over 100 classrooms in 2012/13 (reaching approximately 2,500 students).

Number of Regulated Child-Care Spaces, 2006/07-2013/14



Note: As at December 31, 2013
Source: Manitoba Family Services

High School Graduation Rates, 2001-2012



Source: Manitoba Education

Youth

- | | | |
|------|--|--|
| 2012 | Introduce a new crime prevention strategy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Launched a new strategy to keep kids out of crime. ✓ Launched “Block by Block” a crime reduction and community mobilization initiative in Winnipeg in 2013. |
| 2012 | Establish a new intensive after-school program modelled after the successful Chicago After School Matters program. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Began the After School Leaders Program in 2012/13. |
| 2012 | Investments in Bright Futures. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Since Budget 2012, over \$8 million has been invested in the Bright Futures Fund. |

Income Supports and Tax Credits

2013	Increase the Seniors' Education Property Tax Credit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maximum increased from \$1,025 to \$1,100 in 2013, benefitting approximately 31,000 seniors' households. ✓ Budget 2014 begins to eliminate the education property tax paid by seniors, with the tax fully eliminated by 2016. Later in 2014, all seniors who still pay education property tax will be able to apply for a rebate of up to \$235, which will take another 7,200 seniors off the education property tax roll.
2012	Increase Basic Personal Amount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased by \$250 in 2013, removing 5,500 low-income Manitobans from the income tax rolls.
2013	Increase Basic Personal Amount.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Budget 2014 provides another \$250 increase. As a result, 5,500 more Manitobans will pay no provincial income tax.

Food Security

2012	Working with partners to make milk more affordable in northern Manitoba.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Manitoba is encouraging the federal government to expand the Nutrition North Program for milk in remote fly-in communities. A Northern Milk Price Review is being conducted by the Rural Development Institute. ✓ Building on the province's Northern Healthy Foods Initiative, Budget 2014 supports a new pilot project to help make healthy foods, including milk, more accessible to northern Manitobans.
------	--	---

Maryanne, a 40-year-old single mother with a two-year-old child, left an abusive relationship and moved into a shelter with her son. She had worked providing child care in her home, but this was no longer possible because of her living situation, and she had to apply for EIA. Her Case Coordinator assisted her in obtaining child support and daycare for her son, and helped her prepare for a move into second-stage housing. Once Maryanne was settled in her new apartment, she was referred to Taking Charge!, a community based agency, and their Taking Charge of Opportunities Program, to help her explore her strengths and establish a daily routine.

With that completed, Maryanne met with an Employment Manitoba Career Development Consultant (CDC). The CDC worked with Maryanne to discuss her interests, history and skills, and encouraged her to apply for the Business Administrative Assistant course at Winnipeg Technical College. Maryanne transitioned from EIA to a living allowance from Employment Manitoba. Her health benefits continued while she attended her two-year program, and her CDC supported her throughout the duration of the course. In December 2013 Maryanne graduated, gained employment immediately after graduating, and now works as an administrative assistant at a local business.

Maryanne says that she is happy with her new job and feels proud to be independent. "It really works" she said. "The process really works and now I don't have to be on assistance anymore."