

2024



ONE FUTURE. ONE PEOPLE.
ONE MANITOBA.

SPEECH

2024 Budget Speech

Honourable Adrien Sala
Minister of Finance
April 2, 2024

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that Manitoba is on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Anishinewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk peoples.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

This document is available on the Internet at: **[Manitoba.ca/Budget2024](https://www.manitoba.ca/Budget2024)**

Information available at this site includes:

- Manitoba Budget 2024 Speech
- Budget 2024
- Estimates of Expenditure for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2025
- Budget in Brief

Available in alternate formats upon request.

Le présent document se trouve sur Internet à l'adresse suivante : **[Manitoba.ca/Budget2024/index.fr.html](https://www.manitoba.ca/Budget2024/index.fr.html)**

Vous trouverez sur ce site les renseignements suivants:

- Discours du Budget 2024 du Manitoba
- Budget 2024 (en anglais seulement)
- Budget des dépenses pour l'exercice se terminant le 31 mars 2025
- Budget en bref

Disponible en d'autres formats, sur demande.

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Introduction

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

Thank you to everyone who has joined us for our government's first budget.

C'est avec beaucoup d'humilité que nous vous accueillons à l'Assemblée législative et que nous nous engageons sur une voie positive pour le Manitoba, ensemble. On behalf of the Manitoba government, we honour the sacredness and importance of this land, and of the ancestors that once walked where we are standing today.

The Anishinewak, the Cree, the Dene, the Dakota, the Métis, the Inuit and the Anishinaabe nations who paved the way to what is now known as Manitoba – home to all treaty people.

We share this with you as a reminder of our treaty and shared histories and the original homelands of these nations which have become home to all of us here today.

Honourable Speaker, six months ago, Manitobans put their trust in our government to deliver on better health care and lower costs.

And with this budget, we're doing just that.

It's a budget that will get Manitobans and their families off the waiting list and into the doctor's office.

It's a budget that lowers costs for families, so parents can stop worrying and start saying yes.

It's a budget that will make it easier for more Manitobans to join the middle class – and stay there.

Our budget will deliver help for you... and help for those who need it most.

Rebuilding Health Care

Manitobans put their trust in our government to stop the cuts and fix health care.

For years, we've heard about the frustrations and the burn out from patients and from health care workers.

The previous government took advantage of this hopelessness. They wanted Manitobans to think that the best they could do is the best we could do.

We're proving them wrong.

As my colleague the Minister of Health will tell you, there are people with solutions. There are lessons we can learn. There is a path forward. And it will get better.

This year, we are hiring one thousand health care workers.

100 doctors,

210 nurses,

90 paramedics and

600 health care aides

Some of them will be young Manitobans, who see there is a bright future working in Manitoba health care.

Some will be those who left health care under the previous government, now returning to the front lines.

Many came to Manitoba as newcomers. They want to use their skills to care for Manitoba families – and we're going to make that possible.

They're going to work in personal care homes, including the new Personal Care Home in Lac Du Bonnet.

They're going to work in your community, in new doctors' clinics across Manitoba.

They're going to work in home care for our seniors and elders.

And they're going to work in new ERs like the new Victoria ER and the new Eriksdale ER.

Honourable Speaker, this is great news.

We're adding more ICU beds to our hospitals, including pediatric ICU beds. We're hiring more allied health professionals and midwives. We're

restoring the rural doctor recruitment fund. And we're bringing MRI services to the north.

We're creating an independent seniors' advocate, to protect seniors and Elders in our province from harm.

We're rebuilding emergency care and coming through on the commitments we made to Manitobans. Because no family should have to drive past a closed hospital in an emergency.

And for families in rural and northern Manitoba, who have watched, over the last seven years, as their health care services have become fewer and farther away – we're working for you, too.

No more waiting for the ambulance to finally arrive.

No more medical mystery tour, wondering which hospital has a doctor and when you'll finally get the care you need.

This budget will train more advanced care paramedics to serve people in rural and northern communities. And put more ambulances on the road so help comes faster when you need it most.

Everyone in Manitoba loves someone who has been diagnosed with cancer. We need to do more. So we're expanding CancerCare to include new and emerging technologies, world-class research, more treatment options and a new CancerCare headquarters to provide comfort and dignity to patients on their journey to recovery.

Manitobans will remember: the new CancerCare headquarters was one of the first things the previous government cut. And now it's one of the first things our government is building.

Our government is inspired by the hope and optimism of health care workers. After everything they've been through, they still believe that caring for people is a noble profession. And we do too.

Together with front line workers, we're rebuilding health care, so it's there for you when you need it.

Lowering Costs

Honourable Speaker, when Manitobans chose our team, we got to work right away to lower costs for you and your family.

In our first 100 days, we delivered real relief to Manitobans who felt squeezed by prices at the pump.

With our cut to the gas tax, we're saving Manitobans 14 cents per litre every time they fill up their tank.

For us it was an easy decision. And it made a real impact.

It drove down inflation in Manitoba. It lowered inflation for Canadians across the country. It helped working people.

And that's why we are extending the gas tax holiday.

We are going to keep delivering on lower costs for all Manitobans.

So the people who spend hours commuting every day, can put food on the table.

So more families can afford to get their kids to that hockey game.

So everyone can keep just a little bit more in their pocket.

And this is just the first step.

This budget gives Manitobans 21 new ways to save:

A broad middle class tax cut.

A \$1,500 tax credit for homeowners.

And NO school taxes for families that need the most help.

A tax credit for renters.

A tax credit for seniors.

And \$10/day child care every day of the year.

Honourable Speaker, I'm not done yet.

We're lowering rents on agricultural crown lands.

We're doubling the fertility tax credit.

We're making prescription birth control free.

We're giving rebates for home and business security.

Rebates for EVs.

And! Honourable. Speaker, we are raising the minimum wage.

Drivers get lower insurance.

Students get more financial aid.

And the families who need the most help, get the most support.

But that's not all, Honourable Speaker.

We are delivering bigger pay cheques. Bigger pensions. And more benefits. Because that's what you get when you join a union!

Healthy Families and Safer Communities

In my neighbourhood of sunny St. James, there are good people.

People like Stacy who volunteer, who give back, who want to make a difference.

And what Stacy has in common with all Manitobans is this: we all want our province to be better...

We know we have to do something.

We have to do something about homelessness.

We have to do something to help people with addictions.

And when our kids don't feel safe in their neighbourhood, we have to do something.

So, here's what we're going to do.

We are taking action right now to end chronic homelessness in two terms.

This budget invests \$116 million to build and maintain social and affordable housing for the families that need it. In total we are investing nearly 30 per cent more than the previous government budgeted for housing last year.

We're building more housing than the previous government created over an entire term.

And we're keeping rents low with stronger rent control.

We will care for Manitobans struggling with addiction. We will open a supervised consumption site to connect Manitobans with the services and supports they need. And we will expand treatment options and detox beds.

Because we believe if you take the first step, government should be there for you.

We'll make our streets safer for everyone. By being tough on crime. And tough on the causes of crime.

We will crack down on organized crime and drug traffickers.

We are going to hire new mental health workers to work with law enforcement to be there for Manitobans when they are in crisis.

And we're helping more young people find a better path.

With food in every school for every kid who needs it.

With more opportunities to play sports, to learn new skills, and to get support with math and reading in local community centres.

And we're making it easier for government to protect lakes and rivers for Manitobans to enjoy for generations to come, by strengthening enforcement tools under the Environment Act.

Now I want to talk about something difficult.

There are three murdered Indigenous women in a Manitoba landfill. They are loved. Their lives were sacred. They deserve respect. No matter what the billboards say.

And their families deserve closure.

This is about who we are. One people with one future. Manitobans don't leave anyone behind.

Honourable Speaker, this budget has the funds to search the landfill.

Manitoba has one of the highest rates of child poverty, and child mortality in the country.

We're going to do something about that too.

This budget doubles the prenatal benefit, making it the highest in Canada. Because we know when you invest in mothers, they spend it on food for their kids and opportunities for their families. They build up their communities. That is worth investing in.

And for kids, adults and families living with a disability, we're creating more opportunities and providing more programs, more services, for you.

We're strengthening Manitoba communities.

Lifting the municipal funding freeze. The seven-year funding freeze.

We're building schools in Sage Creek and West Kildonan.

We're building highways and roads like the Mollard road to the Sikh Society Gurudwara.

We're building pools, rinks and rec centres – in Thompson, in Brandon, in South Winnipeg. And we're building a new airport in Wasagamack for Northern families.

Growing Our Economy

This is how we build up our economy. With people. With jobs.

The previous government stifled growth.

They froze projects. They sent jobs out of province.

They let workers go without work.

We're different. We're putting people to work. We're building up Manitoba.

We're putting people to work with good jobs that pay the bills. We'll make it easier for more Manitobans to join the workforce, join a union and join the middle class.

With stronger protections for workers to exercise their rights.

We're banning replacement workers, because no one should be able to take your job when you're fighting for better pay and more respect. And we will provide more supports to the Labour Board to get it done. Plus, we'll ensure there are essential service agreements in place across Manitoba.

Manitoba has always been a place where young people could get their first house and families could afford to build a good life. But in the last few years, that's getting harder.

So we're getting ahead of the problem. We're taking the PST off new builds to jumpstart housing development in our province. And, we're expanding housing stock in downtown Winnipeg.

We are building on our stable, diversified economy by investing in our producers that feed Manitoba and feed the world.

We are living up to our potential as a maritime province by investing in the port of Churchill.

We are leaning into our strength as a central trade corridor by investing in CenterPort.

The untapped potential of Manitoba's critical minerals gives us an advantage. We're not going to let that opportunity pass us by.

We are engaging in real nation-to-nation consultation with First Nations and Métis governments.

Together, we can spur economic growth for everyone.

We are promoting made-in-Manitoba success stories like New Flyer Industries by partnering with them to create an All Canadian Build Centre and 400 new jobs.

And we're going to create more Manitoba success stories, by giving young people the skills and education they need to find a good job, start their first business and launch the next clean-energy innovation.

We're tapping into Manitoba talent by increasing funding to our public universities and colleges by nearly 6 per cent.

And instead of selling Manitoba Hydro, we will keep it public and keep it affordable by strengthening the Public Utilities Board.

Because 50 years ago, Manitobans invested in hydro.

And it's time to cash in.

And we know, the best investment in our economy starts with you, the people of Manitoba.

Budget 2024 doesn't just invest in roads and buildings. It invests in people.

Conclusion

Before I wrap up, Honourable Speaker, I need to talk about the elephant in the room.

We've inherited a historic deficit from the previous government.

We're starting with a health care system that's been broken by 7 years of cuts and chaos. We're coming out of years of rising costs, and people are struggling.

There are those who will say, this budget is too ambitious – but it's for those reasons it needs to be ambitious.

We can fix health care and make life more affordable. And we can do it while charting a path back to balance in four years.

And if anyone tries to tell you it can't be done – we're going to prove them wrong.

Just watch us.

Honourable Speaker, as Finance Minister it is my job to present this budget. But in many ways, this is not my budget.

And even though he's inspired us with this vision, and brought Manitobans on this path, I think if you asked the Premier, he'd say it isn't his budget either. It's yours. It's ours.

We have one future. We are one people. We are one Manitoba.

