

Budget Paper F

**REDUCING POVERTY AND PROMOTING  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

# REDUCING POVERTY AND PROMOTING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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## INTRODUCTION

Budget 2018 illustrates the Government of Manitoba's continued commitment to work in partnership with families and communities to repair the services on which they rely. Building on the insights and diverse views of Manitobans heard through consultation, the Government of Manitoba commits to release a new poverty reduction strategy that is innovative, inclusive and people-focused to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Reforms are underway to deliver better outcomes in the areas of child welfare, justice and family law, domestic violence, child care, education, employment training and job creation. Our Government is partnering with community organizations to provide a broad range of supports and services to meet the unique needs of Manitobans, and develop pathways out of poverty.

Our Government remains committed to making Manitoba the most improved province in Canada. There are encouraging signs of progress:

- Statistics Canada reported in 2017 there were 10,500 more employed Manitobans than the previous year. This is the highest annual increase since 2002. The year 2017 also saw the reversal of an increasing trend in the unemployment rate since 2012. Unemployment in 2017 decreased by 4,500 from 2016, the biggest annual decline reported in years.
- The rate of caseload growth within the general assistance category (non-disabled adults without children) of Manitoba's Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program has decreased in the last year, marking a significant reversal in large growth trends over the last several years. In part, this can be attributed to the many supports in place to help people obtain work, and represents a positive trend in reducing dependency on EIA and reduced poverty.

While Canada has no official measure of poverty, low-income thresholds are often used to measure poverty and social inclusion. Statistics Canada uses various methods to set low-income thresholds, with the most common being the Market Basket Measure (MBM), After-Tax Low Income Cut-Offs (After-Tax LICO), and the After-Tax Low Income Measure (After-Tax LIM). In 2015, (the most recent available data), Statistics Canada reported that 12.0% of Manitobans lived below the MBM low-income threshold, 10.0% of Manitobans lived below the After-Tax LICO threshold and 15.6% of Manitobans lived below the After-Tax LIM threshold. From 2008 to 2015, the overall percentage of Manitobans living in poverty increased by 21%, compared to an increase of 8% for Canada as a whole based on the MBM. The tables on pages 2 and 3 offer more information on low-income rates, and demonstrate that some populations are disproportionately affected by poverty.

The Government of Manitoba is committed to making continued progress on several fronts. However, there is still much work to do. Poverty is prevalent, complex and multi-faceted. The Manitoba Government is committing to targets and a renewed set of indicators to support a new poverty reduction strategy, and promote accountability and transparency in its efforts to reduce and prevent poverty in Manitoba.

**Low-Income in Manitoba 2008 to 2015 (Statistics Canada Market Basket Measure<sup>1</sup>)**

|  |                   | <u>2008</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2008-2015</u><br>(Per Cent Change) |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>All Manitobans</b>                        | Rate(%)           | 9.9         | 12          | 21.2%                                 |
|  | Rank <sup>2</sup> | 3           | 4           |                                       |
|  | Number (000)      | 111         | 146         |                                       |
| <b>Children</b>                              | Rate(%)           | 12.5        | 16.4        | 31.2%                                 |
|  | Rank              | 3           | 10          |                                       |
|  | Number (000)      | 32          | 43          |                                       |
| <b>Lone-Parent Families</b>                  | Rate(%)           | 24.2        | 41.3        | 70.7%                                 |
|  | Rank              | 2           | 7           |                                       |
|  | Number (000)      | F           | 22          |                                       |
| <b>Persons with a Disability<sup>3</sup></b> | Rate(%)           | 10          | 16.7        | 67.0%                                 |
|  | Rank              | 2           | 3           |                                       |
|  | Number (000)      | 27          | 42          |                                       |
| <b>Indigenous Persons (Off-Reserve)</b>      | Rate(%)           | 14          | 21.6        | 54.3%                                 |
|  | Rank              | 3           | 4           |                                       |
|  | Number (000)      | 13          | 24          |                                       |

F – Indicates that the data are too unreliable to be published.

<sup>1</sup> All data are from Statistics Canada, Market Basket Measure of Low Income.

<sup>2</sup> Rank: 1 is best; 10 is worst.

<sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada has changed how it defines persons with disabilities. In 2008, data were based on persons with activity limitation; 2015 data were based on persons with disabilities. Therefore, the 2008 and 2015 data should not be directly compared.

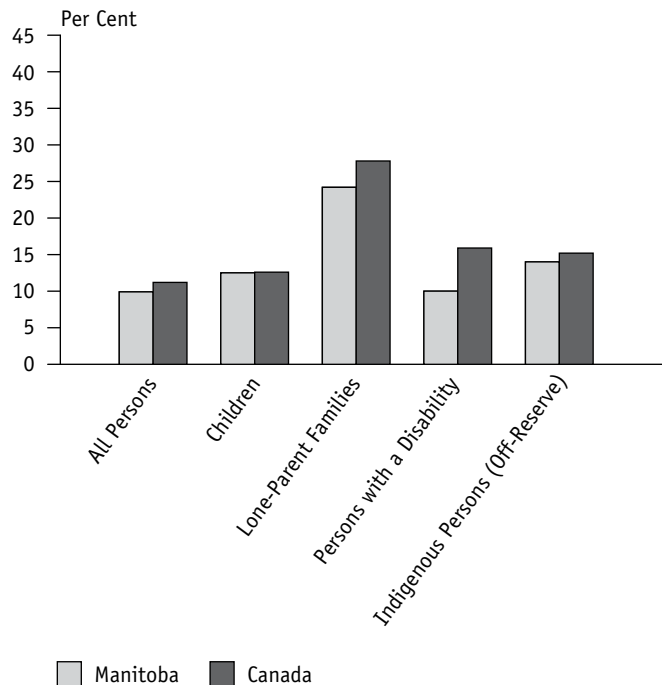
**Low-Income in Canada 2008 to 2015 (Statistics Canada Market Basket Measure<sup>1</sup>)**

|  |         | <u>2008</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>2008-2015</u><br>(Per Cent Change) |
|--|---------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>All Persons</b>                           | Rate(%) | 11.2        | 12.1        | 8.0%                                  |
| <b>Children</b>                              | Rate(%) | 12.6        | 13.3        | 5.6%                                  |
| <b>Lone-Parent Families</b>                  | Rate(%) | 27.8        | 29.8        | 7.2%                                  |
| <b>Persons with a Disability<sup>2</sup></b> | Rate(%) | 15.9        | 18.3        | 15.1%                                 |
| <b>Indigenous Persons (Off-Reserve)</b>      | Rate(%) | 15.2        | 24.3        | 59.9%                                 |

<sup>1</sup> All data are from Statistics Canada, Market Basket Measure of Low Income.

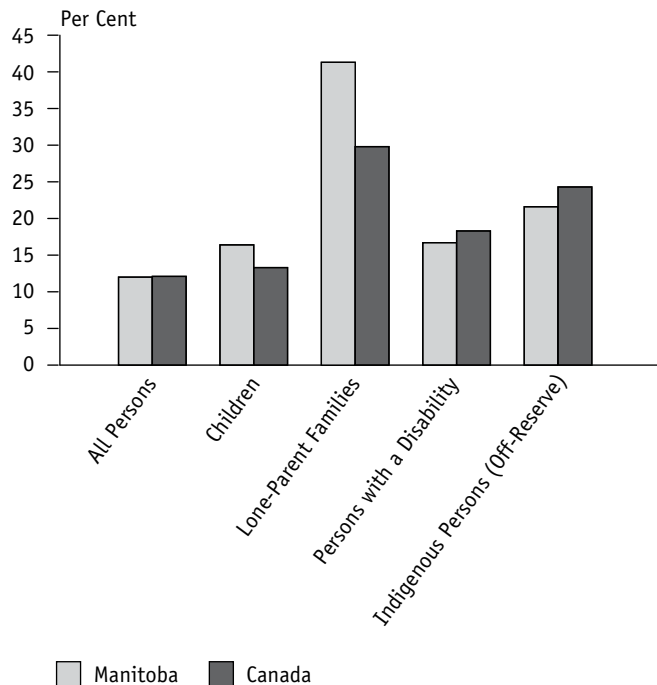
<sup>2</sup> Statistics Canada has changed how it defines persons with disabilities. In 2008, data were based on persons with activity limitation; 2015 data were based on persons with disabilities. Therefore, the 2008 and 2015 data should not be directly compared.

### Low-Income Rates for Manitoba and Canada, 2008



Note: Low-income rates using Market Basket Measure  
Source: Statistics Canada

### Low-Income Rates for Manitoba and Canada, 2015



Note: Low-income rates using Market Basket Measure  
Source: Statistics Canada

## BUDGET 2018: IMPROVING SERVICE, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Moving the needle on poverty in Manitoba requires strong partnerships, innovative solutions, and a focus on leveraging opportunities to align work and investments. The following highlights represent the Manitoba Government’s continued movement toward reconciliation, social and economic innovation, improved service delivery, and strengthening communities. They are important pieces in the shared responsibility of addressing poverty and fostering positive pathways forward.

### Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Implementation of Calls to Action

The Manitoba Government, lead by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations is addressing the calls to action that support Indigenous rights and participation in decision making that relate to Aboriginal and treaty rights and other land based initiatives.

Indigenous and Northern Relations continues to work with Indigenous communities and organizations on a Duty to Consult Framework for respectful and productive consultations and works jointly and cooperatively with First Nations, Canada and the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee to transfer provincial Crown land to Reserve land.

Manitoba recognizes the importance of Indigenous peoples' relationships to land and provides support for co-operative natural resources management. Efforts to respect and support Indigenous nations and peoples' land interests include the co-management of land and natural resources through resource management boards, as well as the development of a new provincial mineral development protocol with First Nation communities.

### **Path to Reconciliation (Manitoba)**

The Manitoba Government is committed to advancing reconciliation by fostering mutually respectful relationships between the Crown and Indigenous peoples. The Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations will lead government's participation in the development of a Reconciliation Strategy.

The Strategy will build upon meaningful engagement with Indigenous nations and peoples. Over the next year, Manitoba will begin a public engagement process in collaboration with Indigenous communities and all Manitobans, to develop a comprehensive Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan for advancing Indigenous priorities.

### **Social Innovation**

In 2018/19, the Manitoba Government will continue to work with communities, experts and service providers through a variety of approaches that place innovation at the centre of program delivery in order to improve the lives of Manitobans. Government is aligning existing services to base program funding on outcomes to create a collective impact on public sector expenditures by focusing on social impact procurement, social enterprise, and pay-for-performance models such as social impact bonds. Partnering with community organizations, businesses and social entrepreneurs, we are empowering those committed to addressing complex social and economic issues to create an innovative, community-driven approach.

### **Look North Strategy**

Look North is a movement by northerners, for northerners to create job and economic opportunities in northern Manitoba. The Look North Report and Action Plan was released in October 2017. A Steering Committee will lead the next phase of engagement and implementation. Six joint action groups have been formed to develop strategies under each of the Look North priority areas—strategic infrastructure investment; housing challenges and opportunities; enterprise eco-system of support; Indigenous engagement and partnerships; mining and other resource development; and education, training, and workforce development. Strategies for immediate action in 2018/19, and for the medium to long-term, will be developed. These activities underscore the collaborative development of a long-term vision to capture the economic potential of northern Manitoba for generations to come.

### **Community Mobilization Models**

Manitoba is home to several community mobilization models addressing community safety and well being. Government is committed to multi-sector collaborative approaches that include community organizations, law enforcement, schools and government services. Through a community mobilization approach family crisis is prevented, young people are diverted away from the justice system and resources are used most efficiently. This innovative approach includes the development of the Manitoba Community Mobilization and Safety Initiatives (MCMSI) Network. The purpose of the network is to provide a collaborative provincial platform for the promotion and strategic alignment of Manitoba multi-agency community safety projects.

## TOWARD A NEW POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY

### Consulting with Manitobans

Addressing poverty is a shared responsibility among governments, community organizations, the business sector, and all Manitobans. The greatest impact in reducing and preventing poverty will be seen through working collectively toward improved outcomes. The Manitoba Government plays an important role in this work, and is developing a multi-year poverty reduction strategy to be released in 2018.

Meaningful consultation is essential to producing an effective strategy that captures the diverse experiences and needs of Manitobans. At the cornerstone of consultation are discussions with Manitobans with lived experience of poverty. It is important to hear and learn from those uniquely positioned to help us understand their challenges, and ideas for solutions.

Consultations on poverty reduction included community-level conversations in Northern, urban and rural areas of the province. Facilitated by local organizations, these consultations reached over 130 participants with lived experience of poverty.

To obtain a broad geographical and systems perspective, consulting with those providing services and supports to vulnerable Manitobans is important. Government held targeted sessions with key stakeholders to draw upon their knowledge of the promising practices that could contribute to a renewed strategy. Over 120 representatives of service providers and other organizations participated in these community workshops.

Consultation focused on the demographic profile of those at highest risk of poverty, such as persons with disabilities, Indigenous people, ethno-cultural communities, and vulnerable youth. A variety of experiences relating to poverty reduction and prevention within regional or local settings were brought forward at in-person sessions in Winnipeg, Selkirk, Brandon, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas and Dauphin.

An online survey, and the opportunity to contribute a written submission, will ensure that all Manitobans have the opportunity to share their perspectives on preventing and reducing poverty.

### A Framework For Consultation

- Everyday living—the basics to support a modest standard of living
- Employment—work that provides an income
- Education and training—the skills and knowledge needed for personal and professional advancement
- Health and well-being—personal health and a sense of well-being
- Sense of belonging—a sense of being part of the community

### Poverty Reduction Committee Members

- Hon. Scott Fielding, Families (co-chair);
- Hon. Ian Wishart, Education and Training (co-chair);
- Hon. Eileen Clarke, Indigenous and Northern Relations;
- Hon. Blaine Pedersen, Growth, Enterprise and Trade;
- Hon. Rochelle Squires, Sustainable Development (Francophone Affairs / Manitoba Status of Women);
- Rev. Dr. Stanley McKay;
- Ms. Zully Trujillo;
- Dr. Jennie Wastesicoot.

A Poverty Reduction Committee, comprised of Ministers and community members<sup>1</sup>, is mandated by the Poverty Reduction Strategy Act to oversee the strategy. A multi-department and community Subcommittee, and the Department of Families' Poverty Strategy Reduction Team, supports consultation and strategy development.

### Federal Poverty Reduction Strategy

Broader efforts and momentum to address poverty are occurring across Canada. The Government of Canada has been engaging communities in the development of a federal poverty reduction strategy since October 2016, with the aim of improving the delivery of federal resources and services for people who live in poverty, and will set targets to reduce poverty, measure and publicly report on progress. Manitoba welcomes this commitment and is anticipating the federal poverty reduction strategy to be released in the spring of 2018.

The Manitoba Government is an active participant in the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Poverty Advisory Committee, a forum for discussion and information exchange, sharing best practices and lessons learned.

## EVERYDAY LIVING

### \$2,020 by 2020

Budget 2018 announces a two-step increase to the Basic Personal Amount, a tax credit available to all Manitobans annually, by \$1,010 in each of the taxation years 2019 and 2020. The \$2,020 by 2020 initiative significantly exceeds the Basic Personal Amount forecasted increases that would have been achieved through indexing alone. By adding \$2,020 to the tax credit, over 31,000 Manitobans are removed from the tax rolls, assisting those who earn low-moderate incomes, and \$156 million remains in Manitobans' pockets through the tax system.

### Employment and Income Assistance Reform

Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) provides financial help to Manitobans who have no other way to support themselves or their families. This includes benefits from Rent Assist that help with housing costs. For people who are able to work, EIA will help them go back to work by providing supports to employment.

In 2018/19, efforts will continue to enhance supports to help EIA participants get back to work or increase their readiness to work. This will be achieved through rapid assessments and referrals to programs and services designed to help address barriers to working, and prepare people for successful employment outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> There is one vacant community member position.



Continuing to implement Motivational Interviewing when engaging program participants is key to improved outcomes. An evidence-based communication style, Motivational Interviewing provides EIA caseworkers the skills to empower participants to make positive changes. Motivational Interviewing also provides EIA caseworkers with the tools to recognize readiness to change among their clients, and support them through conversations about change. This includes collaboratively planning to meet goals. The importance of each participant's own solutions are emphasized, increasing their confidence in taking steps to independence.

### **Reducing Red Tape in Employment and Income Assistance**

The Manitoba Government is committed to reducing red tape. As part of efforts to achieve more rapid assessment and referral for EIA applicants and participants, the EIA Program will be modernizing its application process in 2018/19. This will reduce the amount of information applicants are required to provide for their initial application, while ensuring legislative requirements are met to accurately determine eligibility for benefits. Changes include a streamlined application form and online application options to allow potential applicants an alternative and accessible opportunity to obtain information and apply. Streamlining the application process is intended to allow program staff to focus on assessment and planning with participants, to assist with moving toward financial independence.

### **Promoting Affordable Housing**

Programs and services to meet the housing needs of Manitobans are a component of poverty reduction. Manitoba Housing, in partnership with private, non-profit and cooperative housing organizations, supports construction of affordable rental housing supply. There are 149 rental units under construction in Brandon, Thompson, Winnipeg and other locations, representing over \$25 million in capital funding.

For 2018/19, Manitoba Housing is maintaining existing capital spending on maintenance and improvement of its social and affordable housing stock, and new construction. Manitoba Housing is continuing to support innovative initiatives such as a two-year demonstration project in Brandon, exploring community based delivery of rent subsidies to vulnerable Manitobans, including those accessing Housing First supports, through the Manitoba Metis Federation Southwest Region. The Manitoba Government is encouraged by the federal government's ongoing engagement in housing and its plans for new initiatives, commencing in 2018/19.

#### **Accessing Benefits**

Ensuring low-income people have access to all the benefits and services they may be eligible for is an important tool to reduce poverty. Building on many inter-sectoral efforts in this area, in 2018/19 EIA will establish a Supports for Independence Team that will focus on supporting EIA participants to apply for other federal and provincial benefits they may be eligible for.

#### **Provincial Housing Strategy**

Province-wide consultations to inform the development of a new Provincial Housing Strategy were conducted in 2016/17. Over 1,500 Manitobans responded; a "What We Heard" report was released in February, 2018 and a "Made in Manitoba" Provincial Housing Strategy is underway.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Refugee Employment Development Initiative

Launched in March 2017, this collaboration between the Manitoba Government, community service providers and employers, the Refugee Employment Development Initiative (REDI) integrates refugee job seekers with multiple barriers into Manitoba workplaces. In a safe, supportive learning environment, occupation-specific essential skills development, technical, and English language training takes place. Retention and advancement supports assist with fostering success, and sustained employment.

The second phase of REDI commences in April 2018. A centralized service continuum targeting clients with low language benchmarks aims to improve work placement suitability, and increase labour market participation. French-speaking refugees will be included in the second phase.

### Labour Market Transfer Agreements

Over 700 stakeholders from across Canada, including 160 from Manitoba, were consulted in 2016 on the next generation of Labour Market Transfer Agreements. Under the new agreements, Manitoba is provided increased flexibility in program and client eligibility, allowing the Manitoba Government to support those furthest from the labour market with training and work experience. There will be new opportunities strengthened investments and alignment to labour market needs, improving the effectiveness of employment and skills training programs.

#### Social Enterprise Spotlight– New Directions' Café 6

The New Directions Café 6 is a social enterprise that works with youth to improve their employability and reduce recidivism for those who recently exited the justice system. Clients have the opportunity to enter a work placement that suits their individual interests. New Directions' Café 6 provides opportunities for formal job training for youth who are facing barriers to employment. As its reputation and success continues to grow, Café 6 anticipates continued expansion and increased return on initial investment.

### Jobs on Market

Jobs on Market in Winnipeg is an employment centre dedicated to serving non-disabled adults without children, applying for or receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), assessed as closest to the labour market. Staffed by EIA, and located adjacent to an EIA office, participants are quickly engaged and assessed. Staff identify service needs, make referrals, and monitor participant progress. The focus is on early interventions which have the greatest potential to reduce the length of time and the likelihood of repeated re-enrollments onto social assistance. Services provided on site include job leads and resume development.

Jobs on Market has served 2,000 people since opening in February 2017. Over 550 no longer receive social assistance due to employment or other reasons. Plans are underway to expand the Jobs on Market model pilot in other Manitoba communities.

## **Social Enterprise**

The Manitoba Government continues to engage the community to support the social enterprise sector through social impact procurement, which uses government procurement activities toward social policy objectives. Manitoba will invest in partnerships with social enterprises that create value for their employees in order to gain skills, earn an income, and in some cases, develop a durable path out of poverty for low income households. For instance, Manitoba Housing pays a premium to social enterprises that provide training and employment opportunities to those facing multiple barriers with entering or staying in the labour market.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

### **Early Learning and Child Care**

Manitoba families recognize the importance of having licensed early learning and child care available to allow them to go to work or improve their education while ensuring that their children have a real chance to succeed in life. Following the signing of a Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework in June, 2017, the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced that they are investing nearly \$47 million over three years to create up to 1,400 new and newly-funded early learning and child care spaces in Manitoba. This investment will improve licensed services in underserved communities and for vulnerable populations using innovative approaches, targeting families and children most in need of child care services.

Manitoba's agreement focuses on increased quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility and inclusivity in early learning and child care, in order to foster children's social, cognitive and emotional development. These initiatives will compliment and reinforce Manitoba's new, long-term Early Learning and Child Care strategy to be released this year.

### **Literacy and Numeracy Strategy**

The role of education in reducing poverty is clear. However, the literacy and numeracy skills required to succeed in the knowledge economy are complex and evolving. There is a need for overall improvement in literacy and numeracy levels in Manitoba. The Manitoba Government and stakeholder partners are co-creating a long-term provincial literacy and numeracy strategy called Learning for Life: Charting the Future through Literacy and Numeracy.

This process began with a January 2017 Literacy and Numeracy Summit, an open invitation to stakeholders interested in improving learning from "cradle to careers". Participants included organizations and individuals representing early childhood learning, K-12 education, adult education, community organizations, post-secondary education, government, business, community, and parents, caregivers and families. Their perspectives and ideas form the basis of a comprehensive and sustainable strategy being developed to improve achievement across age levels, population groups and regions.

### **Manitoba Student Aid Reform**

The Manitoba Student Aid Program continues to ensure accessible and sustainable post-secondary education for low-income students through enhanced support for students in need, including obtaining financial aid more quickly.

### **School Nourishment Programs**

The Manitoba Government supports the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, a charitable organization dedicated to helping school age children learn, grow, and succeed by providing high-needs schools with grant funding for school-based breakfast, snack, and lunch programs. Program support and training on such topics as menu planning, budgeting and healthy options is also provided.

Students are benefitting from a number of changes to the Manitoba Bursary and the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative; assistance to students that are low-income and demonstrate financial need is a priority. Government is also reducing red tape, streamlining the application process, and exploring self-service applications to improve access to student financial assistance and decrease administrative requirements.

## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

### **Mental Health and Addictions Strategy**

Manitoba is undertaking the development of a focused provincial Mental Health and Addictions Strategy to

look at ways to improve access and coordination of mental health and addictions services. VIRGO Planning and Evaluation Consultants Inc., led by Dr. Brian Rush, has been contracted to support the development of a strategic plan. Dr. Rush and his team will build on the various reports, analysis and other documents previously conducted within the province. The first phase of strategy development, completed at the end of 2017, included broad consultation with health providers, agencies, persons with lived experience and the public across all health regions in Manitoba. The final report with recommendations will be presented to the Minister of Health in the spring of 2018.

### **Addictions Treatment Pilot**

The Manitoba Government provides support to the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, which continues to experience demand for residential addiction treatment services. A pilot project with Tamarack Recovery Centre to fund three treatment beds at its facility, specifically for women who have addictions, has been initiated. The potential for future opportunities to help the addictions system work in a more responsive and integrated fashion will be explored through the pilot. Tamarack Recovery Centre is a 12-bed, accredited addictions treatment facility located in Winnipeg, with longer-term treatment options for both men and women.

### **My Health Teams**

My Health Teams (also known as Primary Care Networks) are virtual networks of providers that collaborate to deliver comprehensive primary care service to patients based on community needs. Examples of services include chronic disease management, mental health, health education and rehab support. These teams are connected through innovative partnerships between regional health authorities, fee-for-service clinics and community organizations.

A total of 15 My Health Teams are being set up across Manitoba; 11 are operational and providing services to patients. While the make-up of each is different, to reflect community needs, all are built on common principles of access, comprehensive patient-centered care, community engagement, inter-professional care, population needs, coordinated care, information technology and quality measurement.

## Single Window Access for Grant Funding

The Department of Municipal Relations has piloted, and continues to develop, a Single Window Access approach to grant funding. In September 2017 a single portal was created for intake, assessment and awarding support. Applications to Community Places, Community Planning Assistance, Hometown Manitoba, Neighbourhoods Alive! (Community Initiatives and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund) and Partner 4 Growth are facilitated through this approach. Priority was given to new applications focused on strategic areas such as accessibility and reducing barriers for Manitobans of all ages, gender, cultural background, sexual identity, physical or mental ability or income; green space and active transportation; and newcomer support, either through building on or encouraging involvement in the community.

## Supporting Community Foundations

Manitoba's vibrant network of community foundations are uniquely positioned to support causes and service providers within their regions and help our local communities flourish. With 54 community foundations, our province is home to approximately one quarter of all such organizations in the country.

The Manitoba Government is partnering with The Winnipeg Foundation to enhance the ability of community foundations across Manitoba in attracting public and private support for local projects. The province's pilot participation in the 2017 Endow Manitoba 24-hour Giving Challenge resulted in a 46% increase in the number of private gifts received, and a 67% increase in value. In addition to continued participation in "stretching" donations received through the 24 Hour Giving Challenge, the Manitoba Government is further supporting community foundations by providing matching funds in support of a new Manitoba Heritage Trust Incentive Program.

### Promoting Affordable and Healthy Foods

Affordable Food in Remote Manitoba (AFFIRM) is a retail subsidy which reduces the price of milk, infant formula, fresh vegetables and fresh fruits in remote Northern communities (rail or fly-in access only) that do not receive the federal Nutrition North Canada (NNC) subsidy. Participating stores are required to pass on the full subsidy to the customer.

## SENSE OF BELONGING

### Transforming Child Welfare

The Manitoba government is working in partnership with Manitobans to fundamentally reform our child and family services (CFS) system to deliver better outcomes for children and youth. Proposed reforms are focused on four pillars: community based prevention; lifelong connections through reunification and permanence; funding for results; and legislative reform. Manitoba is implementing evidence-based permanency initiatives such as Customary Care and Family Group Conferencing. Providing block funding to child and family services agencies creates flexibility for enhanced prevention, and transitions to funding for results and outcomes. Legislative changes will be introduced in 2018/19 to ensure that the law supports and enables the system changes necessary to achieve better child and youth outcomes. In developing these reforms, the Manitoba government continues working collaboratively with communities, neighborhoods, organizations, families, and Indigenous leaders who know best about the care, health and safety of their children and youth.

## Social Impact Bonds

The Manitoba Government is implementing a made-in-Manitoba Social Impact Bond (SIB) strategy. As part of this strategy, in 2018/19 the province is delivering its first landmark Social Impact Bond (SIB), an innovative social finance tool that encourages partners in the private and non-for-profit sectors to work collaboratively

with government to deliver community-driven, evidence-based prevention programming, where government provides a financial return based on improved outcomes.

### Child Protection Centre Pilot

As part of Manitoba's child and family services transformation, Government is supporting an interdisciplinary service pilot with the Child Protection Centre at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg. This innovative approach ensures children and youth in care receive appropriate, timely resources to support their development and progress in care. The interdisciplinary service model provides more timely and relevant medical, psychological and parental capacity assessments and case consultations with child and family services agencies. Enhancing the Child Protection Centre's assessment capacity allows child and family services agencies to make evidence-based case management plans that will enhance children's safety and their quality of care, as well as support the reunification of parents and children.

Manitoba's first landmark SIB will be in the area of child welfare with the aim of improving outcomes for at-risk children and families and preventing them from coming into contact with the child welfare system. Government has engaged community stakeholders in diverse dialogue around SIBs and members of the public will continue to have an opportunity to submit ideas and concepts around the types of SIBs that should be considered, following the initial model. The province will continue to collaborate with its consultants at the MaRS Centre for Impact Investing, as well as with the community more broadly, to move forward in partnership to improve the outcomes of vulnerable Manitobans.

### Broadband in the North

Manitoba is partnering with Clear Sky Connections, a Manitoba First Nations owned and operated Internet service provider, and the Government of Canada,

to support a \$63 million project to bring high-speed internet to rural and remote communities. This service is key to unlocking the economic potential of the North, providing Manitoba communities the tools to maximize opportunities and generate economic growth.

Manitoba's contribution, up to \$20 million, includes Manitoba Hydro's in-kind support. Manitoba Hydro will allow Clear Sky Connections to use existing fibre-optic cable network and related assets. Once completed, the broadband project will include 10-gigabit ethernet fibre connections that will provide 72 communities and 88 institutions with access to high-speed Internet services on par with southern urban areas. 37 of these communities are First Nations; 18 are located in remote regions of northern Manitoba.

## INDICATORS

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act requires that the Government of Manitoba set indicators to measure progress in reducing poverty and increasing social inclusion. These 21 indicators, in place since 2012 and identified in regulation 33/2012, are listed below. Manitoba's forthcoming poverty reduction strategy will feature a renewed set of indicators.

- 1 Total units of social and affordable housing supported by Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation
- 2 New households served through Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation programs and services (excluding those entering social housing)
- 3 Households in core housing need
- 4 Sense of community belonging
- 5 High school graduation rates
- 6 Participation in adult learning programs
- 7 Employment rate
- 8 Average weekly earnings
- 9 Minimum wage rate
- 10 Low-income rate
- 11 Income inequality
- 12 Post-secondary education participation
- 13 Early Development Instrument scores
- 14 Availability of child care
- 15 Number of children in care
- 16 Teen birth rates
- 17 Potential Years of life lost by income quintile
- 18 Prevalence of chronic diseases by income quintile
- 19 Average monthly number of persons receiving coordinated home care services
- 20 Continuity of physician care
- 21 Number of people using ACCESS Centres

