

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF FINANCE



On April 10, the Manitoba government presented Budget 2001, our financial plan for the year ahead.

This budget defines how government dollars are working today – and keeping our province strong and healthy tomorrow.

At this time of economic uncertainty, we face difficult decisions. Budget 2001 makes the choices the vast majority of Manitobans would make:

- more investment in vital public services;
- strong debt reduction measures; and
- tax cuts we can afford.

It's a budget that is balanced in every sense of the word.

You have a stake in Budget 2001. I invite you to learn more about our plan and what it means to you by reading this brochure or visiting our Web site at: www.budget2001.mb.ca.

Greg Selinger
Minister of Finance

Manitobans' disposable income growth is the strongest in 10 years.

Our unemployment rate is the lowest in Manitoba since 1976.

Public confidence in our economy remains strong.

INSIDE: WHAT MANITOBA'S BUDGET 2001 MEANS TO YOU



**WORKING HARD TODAY.
PREPARING FOR TOMORROW.**

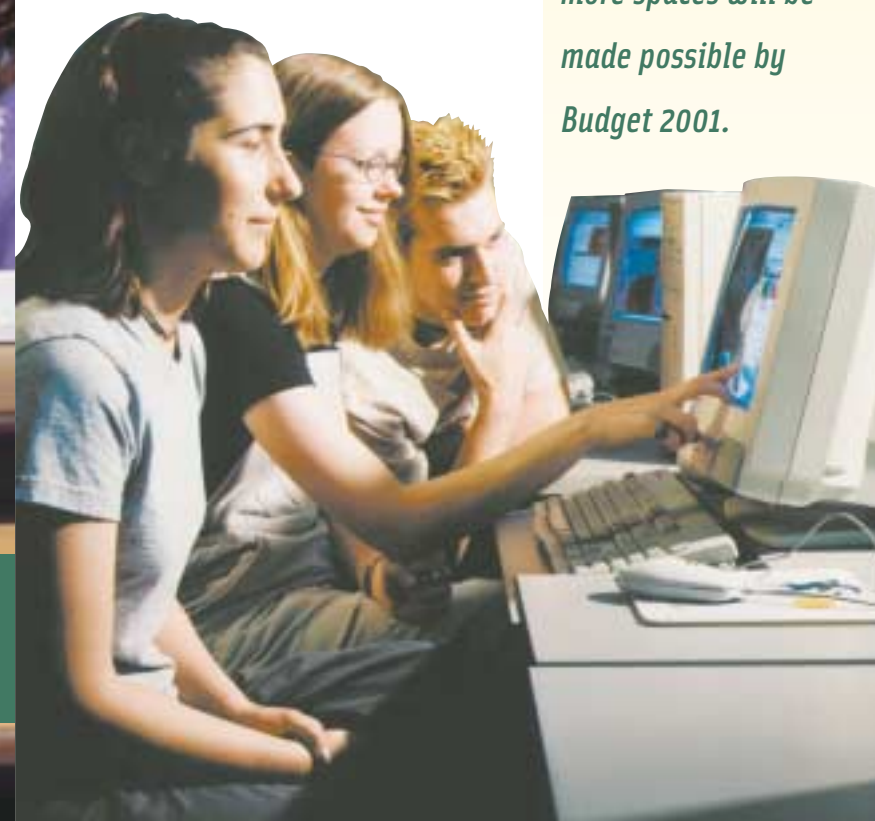


NEW HOPE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Budget 2001 commits to opportunity-building programs that will give our young people the tools they need to flourish.

- We're investing in Manitoba's children, with \$100 million more in support for public education over the past 18 months.
- For most post-secondary students, tuition fees will be held to last year's level – 10 per cent lower than in 1999.
- The bursary program introduced last year will bring higher education within reach for even more students.
- We're building on our commitment to colleges and universities – with projects like the new Red River College downtown campus.

About 13 per cent more Manitobans attended college this academic year, and hundreds more spaces will be made possible by Budget 2001.



MOVING AHEAD ON HEALTH CARE

Budget 2001 increases health care funding to \$2.6 billion, 38 per cent of the entire budget. But money is just one factor. We're introducing innovative solutions to preserve and improve universal non-profit health care.

- We'll continue to support expanded nurse training and recruitment programs, which have already increased enrollment by over 60 per cent.
- Hospital equipment will be upgraded through a \$22 million investment.
- New incentives will help keep doctors in Manitoba after they graduate.
- The world-class Pan Am Clinic will double in size as it becomes Manitoba's newest public health facility.
- Emergency medical services will receive 80 new ambulances as we continue to develop a coordinated emergency transport system.
- Disease and illness prevention become a stronger focus, with initiatives like the new HealthCheck public information program.

Our hospitals are now performing 1,400 more ultrasound tests and up to 400 more CT scans per month.



KEEPING MANITOBA CLEAN, GREEN AND GROWING

Our clean environment is both a social and economic advantage. Budget 2001 provides funding to preserve this asset.

- Through Manitoba Hydro, we're working hard to build on the global demand for clean, renewable hydropower – creating new jobs for Manitobans in the process.
- The quality of Manitoba drinking water will be safeguarded with a \$300,000 training program for inspectors and testers.
- Nearly \$400,000 will support more on-farm inspections and technical reviews – building on the Livestock Stewardship Initiative.
- A new ecological tax credit will benefit property owners who return land to a natural state.
- A \$1 million fund will address the effects and opportunities of global climate change in Manitoba.

Flood protection is a high priority with an initial \$40 million commitment to expand the Floodway's capacity and \$25 million for flood protection outside Winnipeg.

WHAT THE TAX REDUCTIONS MEAN FOR YOU



Family of 5, Two Earners Income: \$75,000		Parent and One child Income: \$30,000		Single Senior Income: \$20,000		Family of 4, One Earner Income: \$40,000	
2001 Tax Reductions*	Total Projected Savings 2000-03*	2001 Tax Reductions*	Total Projected Savings 2000-03*	2001 Tax Reductions*	Total Projected Savings 2000-03*	2001 Tax Reductions*	Total Projected Savings 2000-03*
\$882	\$3,361	\$455	\$1,617	\$351	\$1,231	\$582	\$2,259

* Compared to 1999 taxes. All figures include Education Property Tax Credits.

Look for the Personal Tax Savings Estimator on the Manitoba Budget Web site: www.budget2001.mb.ca

TAX CUTS WE CAN AFFORD

We're speeding up our tax reduction plan. Based on the last two budgets, the average Manitoban will see a 10.5 per cent provincial income tax cut by 2003.

- The education property tax credit for home owners and renters is increased by another \$75. The tax credit increases from the last two budgets mean an average six per cent property tax reduction in Winnipeg and 9.4 per cent in the rest of Manitoba.
- Changes in income tax brackets, rates and non-refundable tax credits will save money for all taxpayers.
- 4,000 lower-income Manitobans are removed from the tax rolls.
- The general corporation income tax rate is reduced from 17 to 15 per cent over four years – made possible by a \$16 million reduction in business subsidies.

- Business taxes are reduced, helping to create more jobs and investment in Manitoba. Income eligibility for the small business tax rate increases from \$200,000 to \$300,000. In addition, the small business tax rate will fall to six per cent this year and five per cent in 2002.
- Targeted tax measures will encourage the growth of promising young industries such as film production.

Manitoba's net debt per person is the third lowest in Canada. Budget 2001 continues our strong debt repayment plan. Last year \$96 million of provincial debt was repaid without using the Rainy Day Fund.

A PLAN THAT PUTS FAMILIES FIRST

Budget 2001 expands programs that help families and communities thrive.

- Child care funding receives a 7.7 per cent boost.
- The budget completely ends the clawback of the National Child Benefit for hundreds of families on income assistance with children under six.
- More will be invested in neighbourhood renewal and youth programs, which help communities become safer and stronger.
- Manitoba farm families will receive \$25 million in provincial support through the Canadian Farm Income Program as the province continues to seek greater federal assistance.

A new prenatal program will help more low-income women meet the special nutrition needs of pregnancy.

To find out more about Budget 2001, visit our Web site: www.budget2001.mb.ca

Or write:
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