

# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Budget 2005 reflects the growth and optimism Manitobans are experiencing. More young people are moving to our province, housing starts are up, employment and investment have reached record levels and earnings growth is among the best in Canada. This is not a record to rest on, but a record to build on.

## Budget 2005 is built on four key pillars:

- Paying down debt
- Making strategic investments
- Keeping our promises on tax reductions
- Saving for our future

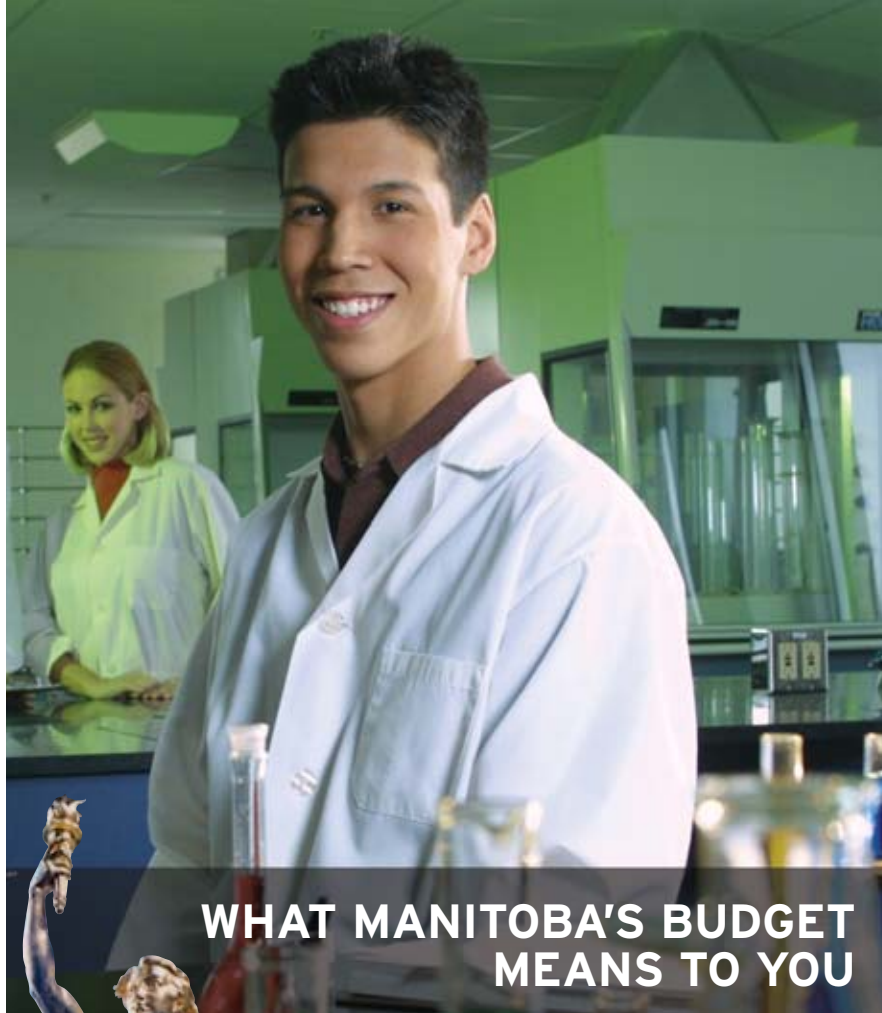
Budget 2005 is balanced. It maintains our policy of fiscal responsibility while continuing to grow the economy and keep Manitoba strong. It invests in the priorities of Manitobans: health, education, roads and water. At the same time, we will continue to keep taxes affordable, pay down debt and ensure our future is secure by saving for tomorrow.

By balancing priorities, building opportunities and investing in tomorrow Manitobans can feel confident and optimistic about their future.

To find out more about Budget 2005, please visit our Web site at [www.manitoba.ca](http://www.manitoba.ca).

*Greg Selinger*

**Greg Selinger**  
Minister of Finance



**WHAT MANITOBA'S BUDGET MEANS TO YOU**



# MANITOBA BUDGET 2005

**BALANCING PRIORITIES. BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES. INVESTING IN TOMORROW.**



**Manitoba**  
Building for the Future

# STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS



## BUILDING MANITOBA - IMPROVING COMMUNITY ROADS, WATER AND TRANSIT

Manitoba communities are the foundation of our economy and our enviable quality of life. Budget 2005 provides funding for infrastructure upgrades and enhancements across Manitoba - including a new program to provide a portion of fuel taxes directly to municipalities for roads, water and transit.

- *New Building Manitoba Fund* will invest over \$600 million over five years in local roads, water and transit - including the equivalent of a three cent a litre share of provincial fuel taxes
- First significant funding increase for public transit in 10 years
- \$16 million more in provincial funding for highways bringing this year's investment to \$145 million
- Provincial support to municipalities across Manitoba is increased by 8 per cent on average
- Water treatment plants will be upgraded in Garson/Tyndall, Winnipeg and Gimli
- \$56 million to support Red River Floodway construction - the largest infrastructure project in Winnipeg's history

## CONTINUING THE COMMITMENT TO HEALTH CARE



Budget 2005 provides new and ongoing funding to address the health care priorities of Manitobans. Improved access, more procedures, new diagnostic equipment and more health care professionals are all highlights of this year's budget.

- Increase in hip and knee surgeries
- 20 new ambulances
- Expanding surgeries and cancer treatments outside of Winnipeg to provide better access to care closer to home
- \$3.6 million more for healthy living initiatives, including diabetes prevention
- \$9.7 million to expand home care
- Funding to improve operating rooms and health care facilities throughout Manitoba

## BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MANITOBANS



Budget 2005 recognizes the importance of young Manitobans with initiatives that help build their future right here at home.

- Tuition reduction maintained for the fifth year in a row
- More resources for bursaries, scholarships and student loans
- Increased funding for technical vocational training and apprenticeship programs
- More training spaces for medical doctors and health technologists
- Additional \$135 million in capital funding for public schools over three years



# STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

## PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Budget 2005 provides funds that will help Manitoba families grow and prosper. This includes new and ongoing programs for families - from the very youngest to the most senior members of our communities.

- Over \$17 million for community living supports for adults living with mental disabilities
- New programs to support parents
- New integrated shelter benefit to help make housing more affordable for low-income Manitobans
- More funding for the arts to further enrich our quality of life



## GROWING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Safe and healthy communities are a priority for all Manitobans. Budget 2005 provides funding for a variety of programs that will help our communities thrive.

- 40 additional police officers for Winnipeg, Brandon, rural and northern Manitoba
- Expanding the successful Lighthouses program for Manitoba youth
- New resources to protect Manitobans from sexual predators and dangerous offenders
- New resources to combat domestic violence
- New strategy to deal with illicit drug manufacturing



## PROTECTING FRESH WATER AND MANAGING NATURAL AREAS

Our province has an abundance of fresh water and natural areas. Budget 2005 continues the commitment to protect our water and natural resources now and in the future.

- Increased funding for Water Stewardship - the only dedicated water department in Canada
- \$1.1 million for water quality initiatives
- More parkland and upgraded park facilities
- Supporting actions to clean up and protect Lake Winnipeg
- More support for sustainable forest management
- Green Strategy that addresses climate change, water protection and natural areas

# REDUCING TAXES

Budget 2005 continues the commitment to ongoing tax reductions for Manitobans - bringing personal income and property tax savings since 1999 to \$391 million annually.

- Manitobans save an additional \$80 million annually with new personal income and property tax reductions
- New property tax cuts save a typical family with a \$125,000 home approximately \$120 - property tax cuts over the last six years have resulted in savings of \$1,425
- Farmland School Tax Rebate is increased from 33 per cent in 2004 to 50 per cent in 2005, providing Manitoba farmers a yearly saving of \$20 million
- Business taxes fall a further \$54 million - the corporation tax rate will fall to 14.5 per cent in 2006 while the small business rate will drop to 4.5 per cent in 2006



## PAYING DOWN DEBT AND BALANCING THE BUDGET

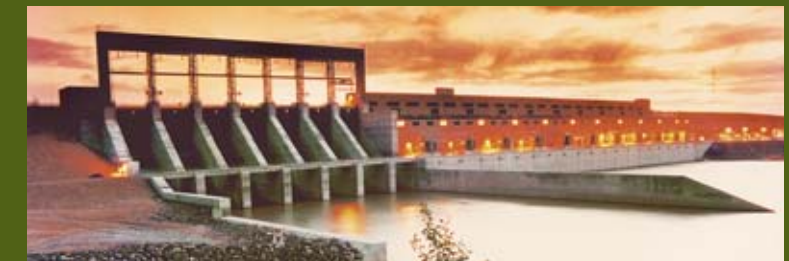
Budget 2005 invests in tomorrow by making government affordable today.

- Budget 2005 is balanced under the province's balanced budget law and the summary financial statements
- Budgeted debt payment is increased from \$96 million last year to \$110 million this year
- Per capita spending remains the 2nd lowest in Canada
- Continuing voluntary reduced work time for civil servants, which saved \$2.4 million in 2004

# SAVING FOR THE FUTURE

This year's budget announces one of the largest deposits in history to the province's savings account.

- \$314 million deposited into the rainy day fund
- No budgeted draw from the rainy day fund for the second year in a row
- Increases the debt and pension liability payment to \$110 million - bringing the total payment to \$594 million since 1999/00



## INVESTING IN OUR ECONOMY AND KEEPING MANITOBA COMPETITIVE

Through strategic investments and tax reductions, Budget 2005 supports Manitoba's growing economy and helps to sustain our province's competitive edge. More young people are making Manitoba home with net youth migration over 1,100 in 2004.

- Number of jobs has grown on average by 7,200 a year since 1999
- Building Manitoba's economy by developing our clean energy resources of hydroelectricity and wind
- Support for research and innovation - \$1 million for Asper Research Centre and \$1 million for biotechnology commercialization
- Extension of the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund to 2010
- Enhancement of the R&D tax credit
- Expanding settlement programs to help reach a goal of 10,000 new immigrants
- Continuing work with the Premier's Economic Advisory Council in implementing the province's seven-point action strategy for economic growth