

# *Manitoba's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy*

## **2017/18 Annual Report**

Pursuant to The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act,  
this document reports on the status of  
21 indicators of poverty reduction and  
social inclusion in the 2017/18 fiscal year.



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## Message from the Poverty Reduction Committee Co-Chairs

The 2017/18 fiscal year has been a year of progress for poverty reduction in Manitoba. As co-chairs of the Poverty Reduction Committee, we are pleased to report an overall decrease in poverty, as well as highlight the many provincial initiatives that support real progress towards poverty reduction.

A key activity in 2017/18 was working towards a new poverty reduction strategy by engaging more than 2,000 Manitobans through a comprehensive public consultation process. The purpose of consulting was to hear from Manitobans with diverse lived experience, and to gather ideas on pathways out of poverty. A variety of Manitobans were consulted, including people with lived experience of poverty, representatives of community based organizations, service providers, experts and advocates from across the province. This feedback is being used to develop a new made-in-Manitoba provincial strategy to reduce and prevent poverty.

Significantly, we are pleased to report that the most recent data available shows that Manitoba is no longer the “child poverty capital” of Canada. Using the Market Basket Measure, Manitoba registered the biggest improvement across Canada in the child low-income rate, falling substantially to 11.9 per cent in 2016 from 16.4 per cent in 2015. This marks the biggest decrease in child poverty nationally.

On a broader level, Manitoba registered the biggest improvement in low-income rates among the provinces in 2016, falling from 12 per cent in 2015 to 9.4 per cent in 2016. Manitoba’s improvement in low-income was better than Canada overall, according to all three low-income measures (Market Basket Measure, Low-Income Cut-off, and Low Income Measure).

This low-income data, released in March 2018 from Statistics Canada, provides encouraging signs of progress in improving the lives of vulnerable Manitobans. Manitoba families are raising their income levels by benefiting from a wide variety of supports including Manitoba’s Rent Assist program.

This annual report includes the most recent data related to poverty through Manitoba’s 21 regulated indicators. Notably, 17 of 21 poverty reduction indicators showed progress or stability.

While Manitoba is on the right track to reduce poverty rates, there is still more work to be done. Poverty is multi-dimensional and requires a fulsome response to move the needle on reducing and preventing poverty. Our government will release a new poverty reduction strategy in 2018, and is committed to a new approach to this important work.



Honourable Heather Stefanson  
Minister of Families  
Committee Co-Chair



Honourable Kelvin Goertzen  
Minister of Education  
and Training  
Committee Co-Chair

# Message des coprésidents du Comité de réduction de la pauvreté

L'exercice 2017-2018 a été une année de progrès dans la réduction de la pauvreté au Manitoba. En tant que coprésidents du Comité de réduction de la pauvreté, nous sommes ravis de faire état d'une réduction générale de la pauvreté et de pouvoir souligner les nombreuses initiatives provinciales qui contribuent effectivement à cette réduction.

Une activité clé de l'exercice 2017-2018 a été le développement d'une nouvelle stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté, un processus auquel ont participé plus de 2 000 Manitobains et Manitobaines dans le cadre d'un vaste processus de consultations publiques. L'objectif de ces consultations était d'entendre la perspective de Manitobains ayant eu des vécus divers et de recueillir des idées sur les moyens de se sortir de la pauvreté. Les consultations ont entendu une variété de Manitobains, y compris des personnes ayant vécu elles-mêmes dans la pauvreté, des représentants d'organismes communautaires, des fournisseurs de services, des experts et des militants de l'ensemble de la province. Leur rétroaction est utilisée pour mettre au point une nouvelle stratégie provinciale de réduction et de prévention de la pauvreté.

Concrètement, nous sommes ravis de souligner que les données les plus récentes indiquent que le Manitoba n'est plus la « capitale canadienne de la pauvreté infantile ». Selon la mesure du panier de consommation, le Manitoba a enregistré la meilleure amélioration du taux de faible revenu chez les enfants au Canada – ce taux étant passé de 16,4 % en 2015 à 11,9 % en 2016. Il s'agit là de la réduction de pauvreté infantile la plus importante au Canada.

D'une manière plus générale, le Manitoba a connu la plus grande amélioration du taux de faible revenu parmi toutes les provinces en 2016, ce taux ayant baissé de 12 % en 2015 à 9,4 % en 2016. La baisse du taux manitobain est supérieure à celle du taux national, selon les trois mesures de faible revenu (mesure du panier de consommation, seuil de faible revenu et mesure de faible revenu).

Ces données publiées en mars 2018 par Statistique Canada représentent des signes de progrès encourageants dans l'amélioration de la vie des populations vulnérables du Manitoba. Les familles manitobaines augmentent leurs niveaux de revenu grâce à une gamme de soutiens, y compris le Programme manitobain d'allocation pour le loyer.

Le présent rapport annuel inclut les données les plus récentes sur la pauvreté à l'aide des 21 indicateurs réglementés manitobains. Il est à noter que 17 des 21 indicateurs de réduction de la pauvreté signalent soit un progrès soit le status quo.

Bien que le Manitoba soit sur la bonne voie pour réduire les taux de pauvreté, il y a encore du travail à faire. La pauvreté est un problème multidimensionnel qui nécessite une solution substantielle si l'on souhaite faire des progrès dans sa réduction et sa prévention. Notre gouvernement publiera une nouvelle stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté en 2018 et demeure résolu à utiliser une nouvelle approche pour cet important travail.



Madame Heather Stefanson  
Ministre des Familles  
Coprésidente du comité



M. Kelvin Goertzen  
Ministre de l'Éducation  
et de la Formation  
Coprésident du comité

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## *The Poverty Reduction Committee*

As of March 31, 2018, the Poverty Reduction Committee included the following Ministers and community members:

- Honourable Scott Fielding, Families (co-chair)
- Honourable Ian Wishart, Education and Training (co-chair)
- Honourable Eileen Clarke, Indigenous and Northern Relations
- Honourable Blaine Pedersen, Growth, Enterprise and Trade
- Honourable Rochelle Squires, Sustainable Development, Minister responsible for Francophone Affairs, Minister responsible for Status of Women
- Rev. Dr. Stanley McKay
- Ms. Zully Trujillo
- Dr. Jennie Wastesicoot
- One vacant community member position

# Introduction

Under The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, the Manitoba government is required to have a long-term strategy to reduce poverty and increase social inclusion. The act also requires the establishment of indicators to measure progress, which are reported on annually.

Manitoba currently has twenty-one indicators of poverty reduction and social inclusion prescribed in the Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Indicators Regulation. This annual report provides Manitobans a strategy update and shows that there has been progress or stability on 17 out of 21 indicators.

## Poverty Reduction Indicator Summary:

The following dashboard shows the most recent data on Manitoba’s 21 indicators of poverty reduction and social inclusion related to Manitoba’s first multi-year poverty reduction strategy. The 2017/18 fiscal year marks the last year that Manitoba will report on these 21 indicators. The province’s forthcoming strategy will include a new set of poverty reduction indicators.

### Performance Data Dashboard

Between 2008/09 baseline year (unless otherwise specified) and the most recent published information available as at March 31, 2018 there has been progress or stability on 17 out of 21 indicators of poverty reduction and social inclusion in Manitoba, as follows:

	Progress	TREND Stable	Regress
<b>1 Total units of social and affordable housing supported by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC)</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Families)  <b>2.4 per cent more units supported</b> Baseline: 2009/10	✓		
<b>2 New households served through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC)</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Families)  <b>1,944 new households assisted</b> Baseline: 2009/10	✓		
<b>3 Households in core housing need</b> Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  <b>stable</b> Baseline: 2006		✓	
<b>4 Sense of community belonging</b> Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey  <b>5.2 percentage-point increase</b> Baseline: 2008	✓		

	Progress	TREND Stable	Regress
<b>5 High school graduation rates</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Education and Training) <b>2.7 percentage-point increase</b> Baseline: 2013	✓		
<b>6 Participation in adult learning programs</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Education and Training) <b>5.2 per cent decrease</b> Baseline: 2008/09			✓
<b>7 Employment rates</b> Source: Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey) <b>2.7 percentage-point decrease</b> Baseline: 2008			✓
<b>8 Average weekly earnings</b> Source: Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey) <b>8.5 per cent increase (after inflation)</b> Baseline: 2008	✓		
<b>9 Minimum wage rates</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Growth, Enterprise and Trade) <b>31.2 per cent increase</b> Baseline: 2008	✓		
<b>10 Low income rates</b> Source: Statistics Canada (Canadian Income Survey) <b>5.1 per cent decrease (based on MBM)</b> Baseline: 2008	✓		
<b>11 Income inequality</b> Source: Statistics Canada (Canadian Income Survey) <b>0.015 Gini value decrease</b> Baseline: 2008	✓		
<b>12 Post-secondary education participation</b> Source: Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey) <b>stable</b> Baseline: 2008/09		✓	
<b>13 Early Development Instrument scores</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Education and Training) <b>stable</b> Baseline: 2008/09		✓	
<b>14 Availability of licensed child care</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Families) <b>2.3 percentage-point increase</b> Baseline: 2008/09	✓		

	Progress	TREND Stable	Regress
<b>15 Number of children in care</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Families) <b>increase</b> Baseline: 2008			✓
<b>16 Teen birth rates</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Health, Seniors and Active Living) <b>37.8 per cent decrease</b> Baseline: 2008/09	✓		
<b>17 Potential years of life lost by income quintile</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Health, Seniors and Active Living) <b>stable</b> Baseline: 2008/09		✓	
<b>18 Prevalence of chronic diseases by income quintile</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Health, Seniors and Active Living) <b>increase in prevalence in lowest income quintile</b> Baseline: 2008/09			✓
<b>19 Average number of persons receiving coordinated home care services</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Health, Seniors and Active Living) <b>6.2 per cent increase</b> Baseline: 2008/09	✓		
<b>20 Continuity of physician care (Majority of care)</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Health, Seniors and Active Living) <b>stable</b> Baseline: two year period from 2007/08 to 2008/09		✓	
<b>21 Number of people using access centres</b> Source: Government of Manitoba (Families and Health, Seniors and Active Living) <b>204 per cent increase</b> Baseline: 2010/11	✓		
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

## Notes on Indicators

### 1. Total units of social and affordable housing supported by the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC)

This indicator tallies social and affordable units supported by the MHRC. Social housing refers to rental accommodation available to low-income households with rates charged on a rent-geared-to-income (RGI) scale (or determined by their Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) shelter benefit, if applicable), and affordable housing refers to units with fixed flat rate aligned with Median Market Rents. Since 2009/10, there are 2.4 per cent more units of social and affordable housing supported by the MHRC. In 2009/10, MHRC supported 30,257 units of social and affordable housing (in addition to supporting 4,700 special purpose and personal care home beds). In 2017/18, MHRC supported 30,991 units of social and affordable housing (in addition to supporting 4,204 special purpose and personal care home beds).

### 2. New households served through the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation (MHRC)

This includes the number of new households assisted through MHRC programs, which can include repairs and innovation, new affordable supply, homeownership programs, shelter allowances, and the number of new households entering social housing. In 2009/10, 1,024 new households were assisted through MHRC programs and services. In 2017/18, 1,944 new households were assisted by the MHRC, including new households that entered social housing.

### 3. Households in core housing need

Core housing need refers to housing that falls below one of Canada's affordability, suitability or adequacy standards, described below:

- Affordable dwellings cost less than 30.0 per cent of total before-tax household income
- Suitable dwellings have sufficient bedrooms for the size and make-up of households (according to National Occupancy Standards)
- Adequate dwellings are those that residents report as neither requiring any major repairs nor lacking systems (plumbing, wiring, and structure)

Since 2006, the percentage of Manitoba households living in core housing need has remained stable (11.3 per cent in 2006 and 11.4 per cent in 2016).

### 4. Sense of community belonging

Community belonging represents the percentage of population (12 years and over) who report a sense of belonging to their local community as somewhat or very strong (versus somewhat or very weak). The percentage of Manitobans (12 years and over) who reported a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging to their local community was 68.2 per cent in 2008 (baseline), and 73.4 per cent in 2017 (or a 5.2 percentage point increase between 2008 and 2017). Note that as a result of 2015 redesign in data collection, caution should be taken when comparing data prior to 2015 with data released by Statistics Canada for 2015 and onwards.

### 5. High school graduation rates

Manitoba's student-tracked high school graduation rate has replaced the proxy cohort rate previously reported for this indicator. The student-tracked rate follows individual students in public and funded independent schools from Grade 9 and calculates the percentage who graduate within a certain amount of time. Graduating within four years of beginning Grade 9 is considered on-time graduation. Because of change in methodology, the baseline year for this indicator has been changed to 2013, calculated with student-tracked data. In June 2013, Manitoba's on-time student-tracked high school graduation rate was 76.2 per cent. In June 2017, the student-tracked rate was 78.9 per cent. The on-time student-tracked high school graduation rate in Manitoba increased 2.7 percentage points from June 2013 to June 2017. For more information, please see [www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/grad\\_rates/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/grad_rates/index.html).

### 6. Participation in adult learning programs

Participation in adult learning programs includes people participating in both adult literacy programs (ALP), and adult learning centres (ALC). Participants in ALP focus on basic literacy and numeracy skills, while ALCs deliver provincial high school curriculum leading to high school course credits and/or graduation. Between 2008/09 and 2016/17, participation in adult learning programs in Manitoba has decreased by 5.2 per cent, from 10,658 participants in 2008/09 to 10,102 in 2016/17.

## 7. Employment rates

The employment rate shows the percentage of people (15 years and over) who are employed. Between 2008 and 2017, the employment rate in Manitoba has decreased by 2.7 percentage points, from 66.3 per cent in 2008 to 63.6 per cent in 2017.

## 8. Average weekly earnings

Statistics Canada's calculation of average weekly earnings is based on a survey that asks people their usual wage or salary at their main job, before taxes and other deductions, including commissions and tips, and excluding farm income and income from self-employment. Between 2008 and 2017, Manitoba's average weekly earnings increased by 8.5 per cent (after inflation), from \$810.48 in 2008 to \$879.03 in 2017 in constant 2017 dollars.

## 9. Minimum wage rates

The minimum wage, which is set by the Manitoba government, is the lowest amount per hour that employees may be paid for work in Manitoba. Between 2008 and 2017, the minimum wage increased by 31.2 per cent, from \$8.50 in 2008 to \$11.15 in 2017.

## 10. Low income rates

The low-income rate shows the percentage of population (off-reserve) living with disposable income below specified upper limits (thresholds). Statistics Canada uses various methods to set low-income thresholds, with the most common being the Market Basket Measure (MBM), Low-income Cut-offs After-Tax (LICO-AT), and the Low-Income Measure After-Tax (LIM-AT). Between 2008 and 2016, Manitoba's low income rate improved by 5.1 per cent, from 9.9 per cent in 2008 to 9.4 per cent in 2016 using the MBM methodology. The LICO-AT rate improved from 9.1 per cent in 2008 to 8.2 per cent in 2016, and the LIM-AT rate improved from 14.6 per cent in 2008 to 13.3 in 2016.

## 11. Income inequality

Income inequality is measured using the Gini coefficient expressed as a value ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (maximum inequality). Between 2008 and 2016, Manitoba's Gini coefficient (based on adjusted after-tax income) improved from 0.305 to 0.290, or a 0.015-value improvement.

## 12. Post-secondary education participation

Post-secondary education participation includes the proportion of the population, 18 to 34 years, who are attending a post-secondary institution in Manitoba. Between 2008/09 and 2017/18, the post-secondary participation rate has remained stable (19.6 per cent in 2008/09 and 19 per cent in 2017/18).

## 13. Early development instrument scores

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) measures the percentage of kindergarten children who are "Very Ready" (top 30th percentile of the Canadian baseline sample) and "Not Ready" (lowest 10th percentile of the Canadian baseline sample) across five domains of early childhood development (physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and thinking skills, and communication skills and general knowledge). Since 2008/09, the percentage of children "Not Ready" for school in one or more domains has been stable (28.7 per cent in 2008/09 and 29.4 per cent in 2016/17).

## 14. Availability of licensed child care

This indicator measures the percentage of children (ages 12 years and under) in Manitoba for whom there is a regulated child care space. The population excludes children living on-reserve and other Indigenous settlements, in institutions, and in extremely remote areas with very low population density. Since 2008/09, the percentage of children in Manitoba who have access to a regulated child care space has increased by 2.3 percentage points (16.4 per cent in 2008/09 and 18.7 per cent in 2017/18).

## 15. Number of children in care

This indicator measures the percentage of Manitoba children (17 years and younger) who are in the care of a child and family services agency. The methodology and data source have changed since 2008, the baseline year. Therefore, the more meaningful comparison is with recent years. The number of children in care has decreased by 3.6 per cent from 10,714 in 2016/17 to 10,328 in 2017/18. The percentage of Manitoba children who are in care has also declined.

## 16. Teen birth rates

The teen birth rate shows the number of live births to females (aged 10 to 19 years) as a rate per 1,000 females in the same age group. Teen birth rate decreased by 37.8 per cent from 16.4 in 2008/09 to 10.2 in 2016/17.

## 17. Potential years of life lost by income quintile

Potential years of life lost by income quintile measures premature mortality (before age 75) disaggregated by income. Between 2008/09 and 2015/16, the potential years of life lost for all Manitobans has been stable, slightly increasing from 51.7 years to 51.9 years (per 1,000 Manitobans).

## 18. Prevalence of chronic diseases by income quintile

The prevalence of chronic diseases by income quintile, adjusted for age and sex, shows the relationship between income and the prevalence of diabetes, respiratory diseases, hypertension, and arthritis. For diabetes and hypertension, the most recent data available are for 2014/15 to 2015/16; for respiratory, the most recent data available are for 2016/17; for arthritis, for 2012/13 to 2016/17. Among the lowest income Manitobans, since 2008/09 there has been an increase in the prevalence of chronic diseases, as shown in chart below:

	Prevalence (%) in Lowest Income Quintile					
	2008/09	RURAL Most Recent Data	Percentage- point change	2008/09	URBAN Most Recent Data	Percentage- point change
<b>Diabetes</b>	10.00	10.80	0.80	8.80	10.40	1.60
<b>Hypertension</b>	27.60	29.40	1.80	27.30	28.00	0.70
<b>Respiratory</b>	8.90	9.90	1.00	13.10	14.30	1.20
<b>Arthritis</b>	31.40	32.20	0.80	34.50	35.90	1.40

## 19. Average number of persons receiving coordinated home care services

This indicator shows the average number of Manitobans receiving Manitoba Home Care services (per month). Between 2008/09 and 2012/13 (most recent data available), the average monthly number of people receiving coordinated home care services increased by 6.2 per cent. Collection of data based on monthly average has been discontinued and has been replaced by yearly data tracking. The yearly number of people receiving co-ordinated home care services has increased from 38,386 clients in 2014/15 to 42,147 in 2017/18.

## 21. Number of people using access centres

The number of people using Access Centres measures the number of Manitobans who receive services from an Access Centre (only available in Winnipeg). Note that individuals may receive multiple services or units of service. Units of service comprise an array of health and social service support, including Children's disABILITY Services, Community Living disABILITY Services, marketAbilities, child development and inclusion support, Employment and Income Assistance services, prenatal/post-partum referrals, home care, mental health and primary care programming. The number of units of service provided at Winnipeg Access Centres has increased from 42,175 units of service provided in 2010/11 to at least 128,034 units of service in 2017/18. The most recent data (2017/18) is understated as this excludes the influenza vaccination services due to data collection limitations.

## 20. Continuity of physician care (Majority of care)

Continuity of physician care (or majority of care) shows the percentage of Manitobans receiving the majority of their ambulatory care (at least 50 per cent of their ambulatory care visits) from the same physician over a two year-period. Between the two year periods 2007/08 to 2008/09 and 2015/16 to 2016/17, continuity of physician care has slightly increased by 0.5 percentage point from 70.6 per cent to 71.1 per cent.

# Cross-Government Highlights:

Drivers of poverty are complex and require an all-of-government approach to be most effective. To this end, a number of initiatives across government have been established to support poverty reduction and prevention. Below is a listing of Manitoba government initiatives.

## 1. Early Learning and Child Care

In 2017/18, the Early Learning and Child Care Program funded 607 new spaces in centres through both capital projects in communities and schools.

On February 23, 2018, it was announced that Manitoba had signed a bilateral Early Learning and Child Care Agreement with the Government of Canada, which will invest nearly \$47 million from 2017/18 to 2019/20 to create 1,400 new and newly funded early learning and child care spaces throughout Manitoba.

On March 2, 2018, the Manitoba government announced that \$2.3 million annually will be allocated to 621 existing licensed early learning and child care spaces at 63 centres across the province through new operating grant funding, under the bilateral agreement. These spaces were previously created by facility-driven expansion and were on a wait list to receive subsidy.

## 2. Community Mobilization Models

Community Mobilization is a process where individuals, groups, and organizations in a community come together to address particular social issues associated with health and safety, crime prevention, and community development.

Manitoba's approach to community mobilization recognizes that communities are unique, and therefore, each community should implement a model that works for their unique situation.

There are 12 communities in Manitoba implementing community mobilization initiatives. The models being used include the START Model, Thunderwing, Prince Albert Model, and unique models created by individual communities. The Block by Block Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiative, in partnership with the RCMP, has brought these communities together to form the Manitoba Community Mobilization and Safety Initiatives (MCMSI) Network. The purpose of the MCMSI Network is to provide a collaborative provincial platform for the promotion and

strategic alignment of Manitoba multi-agency community safety projects. The network also serves to build capacity of members through knowledge exchange, sharing of resources and support communities in the development of multi-agency community safety initiatives. The MCMSI Network has met three times since April 2017.

Manitoba is committed to Community Mobilization, as indicated in Manitoba's Criminal Justice System Modernization Strategy (March 2018).

## 3. Social Enterprise

During fiscal year 2017/18, the Manitoba government co-chaired a Steering Committee to support the Social Enterprise Strategy. The scope of work included the evaluation of the outcomes of the strategy's first three years and a confirmation of the following:

1. There is continued growth of employment-focused social enterprises that provide training and employment opportunities to those with barriers to entering the labour market.
2. The business skills of social enterprises have been enhanced through formal and informal organizational development opportunities.
3. There is an increased awareness within the community of the value of social enterprise and an improved network of organizations and individuals interested in the outcomes created by social enterprises.
4. Social enterprises consolidated existing market opportunities and were introduced to new markets.
5. The social enterprise sector is better prepared for growth and increased impact in the community.

In fiscal year 2017/18, the Manitoba government spent \$4.7 million contracting with social enterprises across the province. These social enterprises provided training and employment opportunities to more than 200 individuals, helping them and their families move out of poverty.

#### **4. Look North Strategy**

Look North is a movement by northerners, for northerners to unleash the economic potential of northern Manitoba. In April 2017, the Look North Task Force held three economic summits in Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Thompson, and Churchill along with several meetings, events, and conversations with northerners. In October 2017, the Look North Task Force presented the Look North Report and Action Plan to the Government of Manitoba. The report outlines six priority areas with the greatest potential to grow the northern economy: northern mineral and other resource potential; strategic infrastructure investment; housing challenges and opportunities; enterprise eco-system of support; Indigenous engagement and partnerships; and education, training and workforce development.

From December 2017 to March 2018, joint action groups were formed and roundtable meetings took place in Thompson and Flin Flon to discuss specific solutions and recommendations for each of the Look North priority areas. The Look North initiative is a long-term vision and collaborative plan to change the trajectory to stability and growth for generations to come.

#### **5. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and The Path to Reconciliation Act**

In March 2016, The Path to Reconciliation Act was passed with unanimous support in the Manitoba Legislature. The Act sets out the government's commitment to advancing reconciliation, guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Calls to Action and the principles set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The principles of respect, understanding, engagement and action guide the Manitoba government's efforts towards reconciliation. In the November 2017 Speech from the Throne, the Manitoba government committed to the development of a Reconciliation Strategy, built upon meaningful engagement with Indigenous nations and peoples, as well as all other Manitobans, to develop a strategic path forward.

Manitoba's 2017/18 Path to Reconciliation Act Annual Progress Report highlights achievements towards the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and emphasizes the collective responsibility and action taken to promote reconciliation in Manitoba. This is visible through the many partnerships between the Manitoba government, Indigenous communities and organizations, and the private and not-for-profit service providers.

#### **6. Improving Accessibility for Manitobans**

The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) is helping break down barriers that can prevent access to services and opportunities, especially for Manitobans with disabilities. In 2017/18, the Manitoba Government guided the development of two standards under the AMA: (1) accessible employment and (2) accessible information and communications. Manitoba's Disabilities Issues Office (DIO) is charged with creating public awareness, resource development and training to help the private sector meet its November 2018 deadline to comply with Customer Service Standard under the AMA.

Achievement Highlights:

- **Government Leadership:** At the bottom of every government webpage there is now an "accessibility" link to the Manitoba Government Customer Service Policy. This link also includes the Manitoba Government Accessibility Plan 2016-18, informs visitors about accessibility accommodations, and offers a feedback option.
- **Bilingual Accessibility Resources:** [www.AccessibilityMB.ca](http://www.AccessibilityMB.ca) provides a wide range of information and resources to help organizations comply with the law and to meet the accessibility needs of customers or participants.
- **Public Awareness:** In March 2018, the DIO launched an ad campaign to promote accessibility legislation through social media. Almost 3 million people viewed the ad. Over 12,600 then visited [www.AccessibilityMB.ca](http://www.AccessibilityMB.ca) for more information

#### **7. Income Security Promotion – Access Centres and Health and Social Services Centres**

Income Security Promotion provided at Access Centres and Health and Social Services Centres includes assistance with income tax completion to optimize financial benefits and with obtaining proof of identity to open bank accounts.

Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) has created a stronger community presence through community engagement activities, community-based intake initiatives, and integrated case management with public health nurses, Manitoba Housing staff and the Healthy Aging Resource Teams in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. Integrated case management provides better service coordination and support for mutual clients.

Through the Pathway Initiative, individuals receive assistance navigating the Family Doctor Finder system and obtain a medical appointment with a primary care provider. In addition, Access Centres provide provincial assistance for newcomers and asylum seekers to support working toward independence.

### **8. Rent Assist**

Rent Assist helps low-income Manitobans with the cost of renting in the private market, as safe and affordable housing provides a foundation for health, well-being and achieving greater financial independence. Rent Assist supports the affordability of rent in the private market. In July 2017, Rent Assist rates were increased to maintain indexation to 75 per cent of median market rent. Changes to the client contribution percentage were made to ensure that the program remains financially sustainable and available to low-income Manitobans with the greatest shelter-related needs

As of March 2018, approximately 25,000 households on Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) in private rent, board and room, trailer and homeowner situations received Rent Assist.

As of March 2018, there were 7,582 low-income households not on EIA and renting in the private market receiving Rent Assist, a 9 per cent increase compared to the year prior and 60 per cent increase over 2016.

Expenditures for non-EIA Rent Assist in 2017/18 were approximately \$30.5 million. This represents an increase of almost \$3.7 million over the previous year.

### **9. School Nourishment Programs**

In 2017/18, the Manitoba government, in partnership with the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba, supported over 4.5 million meals and snacks served to approximately 28,000 students in 259 nourishment programs across the province. The Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba is a charitable organization dedicated to helping school children learn, grow, and succeed by providing funding and support for breakfast, snack, and lunch programs. The Manitoba government provided a total of \$976,000 in funding to the Child Nutrition Council in 2017/18.

### **10. My Health Teams**

My Health Teams (MyHTs), formerly known as Primary Care Networks, are virtual networks of providers and organizations that deliver a wide menu of primary care services. MyHTs include fee for service clinics, community organizations and regional health authorities that work together to plan, deliver, and improve primary care services. Improved service is defined by better care delivery, better health outcomes and greater health equity. Increased access and continuity of care along with more coordinated services and outreach to marginalized populations (among others) are key standards that MyHTs are actively planning for in their respective communities.

In addition, a complementary initiative, Home Clinic started on April 1, 2017 and provides data that has not been available in the past to clinicians or system planners. Having enrolment data helps clinics, MyHTs and provincial planning tables know which Manitobans have access to primary care and will assist these primary care sites to target services to address the needs of individuals or populations who do not have access to primary care.

There are 11 MyHTs operational in three Regional Health Authorities (Winnipeg, Prairie Mountain and Southern) and four MyHTs in planning phases in Interlake Eastern and Prairie Mountain. As of March 2018, 24 per cent of insured residents in Manitoba are enrolled in clinics that are part of a MyHT. Over the year, MyHTs have engaged new partners, including Community Health Centres, Cancer Care, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and First Nation communities, which allows them to expand services available to the public. As of March 2018, 227 clinics in Manitoba are participating home clinics, which represents about 80 per cent of all eligible clinics and just under 65 per cent of all clinics in Manitoba. There are just under 730,000 individual patients captured in the database.

# Poverty Reduction Strategy Consultations:

Fiscal year 2017/18 marked the five-year strategy renewal cycle. To support consultation on a new strategy, the Poverty Reduction Committee established a Poverty Reduction Subcommittee to provide advice on a consultation framework and other supports. The subcommittee comprises staff of various government departments and includes Poverty Reduction Committee members, Ms. Trujillo and Dr. Wastesicoot.

At its October 2017 meeting, the Poverty Reduction Committee endorsed a consultation framework and plan to support development of a new strategy. Government launched consultations on November 28, 2017. Workshops with stakeholders, conversations with Manitobans living in low-income, a call for written submissions, an online survey and internal consultations were held through to March 23, 2018. Public consultations encouraged participation of those at highest risk of poverty including persons with disabilities, Indigenous people, newcomers, and vulnerable youth. A variety of experiences relating to poverty and local challenges are reflected in the findings from sessions held in Winnipeg, Selkirk, Brandon, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas and Dauphin.

## **Consultation Framework:**

Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Committee endorsed a vision and framework to guide the consultation process. The framework features five themes deserving exploration in relation to poverty reduction. The consultation process provided opportunities for Manitobans to share their thoughts about these themes, as well as views on how to measure progress.

### **CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK**

#### **Vision**

All Manitobans have resources, opportunities and access to achieve a better quality of life

#### **Themes**

- 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

Participants at in-person sessions and respondents to the online survey were asked questions related to the areas listed below:

- access and barriers
- pathways, solutions and priorities for action to prevent and reduce poverty
- measuring progress

## **Methodology:**

Government reached out to speak with Manitobans on Manitoba's new poverty reduction strategy using several channels of communication:

- Community conversations, facilitated by community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Community workshops, facilitated by government
- Online survey, available in French and English
- Call for written submissions
- Self-directed workshops, with provincial government staff

Poverty is a topic that touches Manitobans in a multitude of ways, as reflected in both the volume and variety of responses received during the consultation period. Over 1,550 responses were received through four streams of the online survey. 58 written submissions were received from organizations and individuals, 379 Manitobans were consulted through a series of 13 in-person community conversations and 11 community workshops were held in seven Manitoba communities. Consultation within government comprised various departments hosting self-directed workshops.

Consultations encouraged participation of those at highest risk of poverty including persons with disabilities, Indigenous people, newcomers, and vulnerable youth. The methodology captured a geographical dimension of poverty and how it is experienced in different parts of the province.

## PARTICIPATION RESULTS

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### In-Person Sessions

- 201** participants who are living in poverty
  - 178** community-based organization participants
  - 92** Manitoba government staff participants
- 



### Surveys

- 266** participants who are living in poverty
  - 994** other participants
  - 304** community-based organization participants
- 



### Written Submissions

- 382** responses from 2 targeted campaigns
- 58** emails, letters, phone calls, papers





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