

Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy

Annual Report
2022 – 2023



Pursuant to The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, this document reports on the status of indicators of poverty reduction and social inclusion in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.

For alternate format requests, please contact povertyreduction@gov.mb.ca.

This publication can also be found online at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/povertyreduction/>.



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**MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND
EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING**

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Letter of Transmittal from the Committee Co-Chairs

Her Honour, the Honourable Anita R. Neville, P.C., O.M.
Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba
Room 235, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

May It Please Your Honour:

We have the pleasure of presenting Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

This report fulfills the obligation set out in Section 5 of The Poverty Reduction Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Honourable Rochelle Squires
Minister of Families
Committee Co-Chair



Honourable Wayne Ewasko
Minister of Education and
Early Childhood Learning
Committee Co-Chair



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Progress in 2022/23

In 2022/23, the economic disruptions in the supply chain caused by the pandemic and the invasion of Ukraine by Russia resulted in extremely high inflation rates across the world. Amid the ensuing financial difficulties, the Manitoba government responded quickly, focusing on ensuring help for Manitobans when they needed it most.

Responding to the urgency of helping Manitobans cope with the rising cost of living, 2022/23 saw the implementation of historic measures: Manitoba launched the first provincial homelessness strategy; introduced an \$87 million Family Affordability Package that included the Food Security Fund; increased the basic needs benefit for many recipients of the Employment and Income Assistance program; provided the Carbon Tax Relief Fund benefit to eligible Manitobans; granted a \$3 million fund to Harvest Manitoba to support its network of over 360 community food banks; launched a new benefit program Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities; and increased the minimum wage above the inflation rate.

The Manitoba government was successful in sustaining the progress that has been made in reducing poverty. Based on the most recent data using the Market Basket Measure, Canada's official poverty measure, Manitoba's child poverty rate in 2021 was 9.5 per cent, approximately 51 per cent lower compared to the 2015 baseline rate of 19.3 per cent, and 30 per cent lower than the pre-pandemic 2019 rate of 13.5 per cent. This improvement exceeded the poverty reduction strategy key target of reducing the child poverty rate by 25 per cent by 2025 compared to the 2015 baseline. There were 24,000 fewer Manitoba children living in poverty in 2021 compared to 2015, and 11,000 fewer compared to 2019.

This annual report highlights the important actions that contributed to improving the lives of Manitobans in 2022/23 and presents data on 13 poverty indicators to measure progress in reducing poverty and social exclusion in Manitoba.

Poverty Reduction Committee

Under The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, the Poverty Reduction Committee, comprised of community members and provincial ministers responsible for poverty-related policies, programs and services, oversees the implementation of the strategy, provides advice and facilitates community involvement in strategy development.

As of March 31, 2023, members of the Poverty Reduction Committee were¹:

- Honourable Rochelle Squires, Families (co-chair)
- Honourable Wayne Ewasko, Education and Early Childhood Learning (co-chair)
- Honourable Eileen Clarke, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations
- Honourable Jon Reyes, Labour and Immigration
- Honourable Sarah Guillemard, Advanced Education and Training
- Honourable Janice Morley-Lecomte, Mental Health and Community Wellness
- Ms. Dilly Knol
- Mr. Jeremy Smith
- Ms. Ashling Sweeny
- Ms. Bonnie Emerson

¹ There was a Cabinet shuffle and re-organization on January 30, 2023, wherein new departments were created and some department names were changed.

Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy

In March 2019, guided by extensive consultations with Manitobans, the Manitoba government released **Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy**, a strategy that affirms government's commitment to reducing poverty and social exclusion in the province. The strategy aims to break the cycle of poverty, with a vision that "All Manitobans have resources, opportunities and access to a better quality of life."

Taking a whole of government approach, the strategy is focused on building pathways to success and positive outcomes for Manitobans while advancing reconciliation through collaborative work with community partners and various levels of government.

Pathways to a Better Future identifies six priority areas of focus to reduce poverty and social exclusion:

- investing in Manitoba's future prosperity through supports to children and youth
- working together to improve health outcomes and standard of living
- promoting economic inclusion through employment, education and training
- facilitating partnerships and supporting community-based organizations
- strengthening client-centred service delivery
- making positive change through social innovation

This annual report highlights the key initiatives put into action by the government in the six priority areas of the strategy.

Highlights of Actions in 2022/23

This section shares some of the key initiatives in 2022/23 that the Manitoba government put into action to create a better life for Manitobans.

1. Investing in Manitoba's future prosperity through supports to children and youth

Supporting High Quality, Accessible and Affordable Early Learning and Child Care

Child Care Affordability

In March 2023, Manitoba announced plans to decrease parent fees to \$10 per day for children 12 and under attending licensed, funded early learning and child care centres and homes for regular periods of care starting on April 2, 2023, a full three years ahead of the target date. This builds upon changes to the Child Care Subsidy Program that increase income thresholds to reduce child care fees to as low as \$2 per day for eligible Manitobans.

Child Care Spaces and Capital Program Expansion

To support Manitoba's objective of ensuring access to high-quality and affordable early learning and child care, the Manitoba government is expanding the number of spaces across the province. Key achievements include:

- opening 3,841 new child care spaces for children ages 0-12
- committing to 1,670 new spaces through partnerships with municipalities and Indigenous governing bodies, using an innovative Ready-to-Move hybrid build technology
- committing to 260 new community-based spaces under the Early Learning Child Care Building Fund
- supporting the creation of 190 new spaces through the Renovation Expansion Grant

Quality Enhancement

Education and Early Childhood Learning provided \$60 million in quality enhancement grants to child care facilities to support infrastructure improvements, curriculum development and retention. The grants support the principles of quality, inclusivity, and sustainability. The Quality Enhancement Grants provide Manitoba's early learning and child care providers with the flexibility to choose and apply funding to where this is needed most so that they are better positioned to build a stronger, more responsive early learning and child care system for the future.

Ready-To-Move Child Care Centres

The Manitoba government implemented the Ready-To-Move (RTM) Child Care Centres Project, an innovative approach towards building high-quality child care spaces in facilities quickly, while leveraging economies of scale. The project offers a collaborative approach to construct a large number of child care facilities servicing infant and pre-school spaces under expedited timelines and in areas with a demonstrated child care need. RTM construction technology allows the development of high-quality new facilities built under controlled conditions before they are moved to the final site and placed on a permanent foundation. This initiative was launched in partnership with municipalities and Indigenous governing bodies, allowing for greater collaboration with local governments and ensuring long-term sustainability of centres. Including expansion plans announced in July 2023, this initiative will support the development of 25 new facilities including 1,970 new child care spaces.

Supporting the Francophone Child Care Sector

Manitoba partnered with the Fédération des Parents du Manitoba, providing \$100,000 to support the Francophone child care sector. This included providing professional support to facilities in the areas of facility management, training and development. Under this model, the team provided professional development for Francophone providers, centre Directors, and potential home-based providers through the Parcours d'ouverture d'une garderie familiale – Journey to Open a Family Daycare.

Helping Children and Youth Succeed in School

Poverty and Education Task Force

The Poverty and Education Task Force was launched in September 2021 in response to a recommendation in the final report of the Manitoba Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education. The task force's mandate was to identify actions to remove barriers to participation and engagement in learning for students living in and with poverty. Upon the release of the **Final Report of the Poverty and Education Task Force** in February 2023, the government is committed to expanding the Community Schools Program and the philosophy of community education; reviewing in-school meal programs; and developing an anti-racism policy. Manitoba is also working with internal and external stakeholders to identify strategies at the classroom, school, school division, community, and organizational levels to support students in high-poverty communities.

Teachers' Idea Fund

The Teachers' Idea Fund provided \$5 million to support mental health initiatives and other teacher-initiated projects in 2022/23. Funding went to 38 projects supporting mental health and well-being and 25 projects supporting innovations across Manitoba classrooms. The Teachers' Idea Fund will continue in 2023/24, with a commitment of \$5 million. A total of \$11 million has been committed since the fund was launched in 2021.

Increased Support for Newcomer Students

The Manitoba government increased its Intensive Newcomer Support Grant by \$900,000 to \$1.8 million in 2022/23 to help school divisions deliver appropriate programming for newcomer students.

School Funding Increase

The Manitoba government increased school funding for K to12 education for the 2022/23 school year. An additional \$7 million was provided to school divisions to support students with special needs and \$22 million was provided to strengthen student support and learning. Manitoba remains committed to strengthening the education system and preparing students for success by investing over \$200 million in permanent operating funding in Budget 2023.

K to12 Funding Model Review

Throughout the 2022/23 fiscal year, work continued on the development of a new funding model in consultation with school divisions and key stakeholders. The new model is guided by the principles of increased flexibility, accountability, stability, transparency, and equity, and will help all students succeed in school regardless of where they live, their background or their individual circumstances. Consultations will continue in 2023/24.

Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With – An Indigenous Education Policy Framework

The Manitoba government launched the Indigenous Education Policy Framework, which supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners by helping Manitoba educators to incorporate Indigenous languages, cultures, and identities into their teaching and practices, setting Indigenous students up for success in school and beyond. Orientation sessions and resources have also been developed to help bring the framework to life in the classroom.

Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative

The Manitoba government expanded the implementation of Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative province-wide to all 37 school divisions in 2022/23. The initiative supports students, educators, and families to learn First Nations, Métis and Inuit histories, cultures, traditional values, contemporary lifestyles and traditional knowledge systems across all learning environments through authentic engagement. In November 2022, the First Annual Elders and Knowledge Keepers in Schools Initiative Symposium was held in Winnipeg with over 230 attendees. Guidelines for working with Elders and Knowledge Keepers were also developed.

Student Presence and Engagement

The Safe and Caring Schools: A Policy Directive and Action Plan to Enhance Student Presence and Engagement

was released in January 2023, along with a public education media campaign (“School. Keep Going.”). The public campaign provided students, parents, and caregivers with more information regarding the benefits of regular school attendance and created public discussion as school divisions and schools update their local policies. School divisions were asked to update their local policies by the end of the 2022/23 school year. The ongoing implementation of the Policy Directive and Action Plan is being coordinated by Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning’s new School and Community Support Unit.

Minister’s Advisory Council on Inclusive Education

The Minister’s Advisory Council on Inclusive Education was established to improve access to high-quality education for all students and to support the philosophy of inclusion. The council focused on timely access to assessments, learning supports, and clinical services for students with diverse learning needs, as well as reviewing the professional learning needs required to enhance classroom supports for all learners. The council released their final report in February 2023, **On the Path to Inclusion in Manitoba’s K to 12 Education System: Supporting our Diverse Learners in Achieving Their Full Potential**. The report lists seven recommendations that will strengthen the concept of ability, continuously improve student outcomes, ensure equity, and promote well-being and inclusion. The Student Services Inclusive Education Committee is developing an implementation plan to respond to these recommendations.

Canada – Manitoba Housing Benefit Youth Stream

Under the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit (CMHB), one of the funding streams of the National Housing Strategy, the Manitoba government provides a portable rent subsidy to vulnerable Manitobans, including youth leaving or who have left the care of Child and Family Services. In 2022/23, the government conducted a review of the CMHB to improve uptake and service delivery. Several design changes have been made to the program, including expanding the depth and eligibility of the benefit.

Supports for Young Adults Grant

The Supports for Young Adults Grant was established, formalizing measures used through the COVID-19 pandemic, to expand eligibility for Child and Family Services (CFS) supports for young adults who would otherwise have been ineligible for supports when leaving care. This enabled CFS Authorities and agencies to offer additional supports to any young adult when they turned 18 and after they reached 21 years old. CFS agencies were able to continue supporting these young adults through a provision of supports and services (financial assistance, housing and specialized services) for a successful transition to adulthood.

Tuition Waiver Program for Vulnerable Youth

The Manitoba government partnered with post-secondary institutions, child welfare authorities and the non-profit sector to provide targeted supports to youth currently or formerly in care and facing unique challenges to accessing post-secondary education and achieving their career goals. Manitoba is helping to remove financial barriers and improve access for youth transitioning from the child welfare system to independence by supporting individuals accepted into the Tuition Waiver Program.

SafeRide

The SAFE Ride pilot project, delivered by the Child and Family All Nations Coordinated Response (ANCR), focuses on early intervention through the delivery of a rapid response to youth and children in the child welfare system in Winnipeg who are absent from placement, and safely returning them. The pilot project addresses the Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth recommendations that response plans be created for missing youth in general, and, sexually exploited youth in particular who are at risk of imminent harm. The pilot is funded \$1.6 million annually through the Idea Fund, and has demonstrated significant outcomes in the first year of operations.

Supporting Youth Experiencing or At-Risk of Justice Involvement

Social, health and economic conditions associated with poverty contribute to youth involvement in the justice system. Manitoba provided community support to help reduce youth recidivism, and empower and support youth at risk of justice involvement in making healthy and meaningful changes for their futures.

Thompson Healing Lodge

The Manitoba government is providing \$2 million in funding to Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) to lead the implementation and operation of a youth healing lodge in Thompson. The healing lodge, opening in the 2023/24 fiscal year, is a first in Manitoba and will ensure that supports are closer to home and community connected.

Ototema Mentoring

Big Brothers Big Sisters received \$30,000 to fund the delivery of Ototema, a mentorship program, which offers justice-involved youth one to one support from a trained mentor.

TurnAbout Program

Manitoba's Justice Turnabout program continued to support children under the age of 12, and their families, in accessing community-based prevention supports with the objective of intervening early to promote positive development and to prevent future involvement with the criminal justice system.

Youth Resources Centre

The Manitoba government provided \$120,000 to The Link, an organization that helps youth and families in crisis, to administer the Youth Resources Centre/Shelter (YRC). The YRC provides access to eight short-term, overnight emergency shelter beds for youth 12 to 24 years of age that can be accessed on a first come basis, 24-hours per day. Crisis intervention counselling, food, hygiene needs, shower facilities, clothing and case management are all services offered to youth accessing a shelter bed.

Lighthouses Program

Manitoba's Lighthouses program continued to support communities and organizations to provide youth with positive alternatives after school and on weekends, a safe healthy environment, personal skill development (leadership, communication, problem solving, decision-making, conflict resolution, anger management, etc.).

Farm to School Manitoba Program

The Farm to School Manitoba Program promotes and supports the purchase of local agricultural products, nutrition, food skills development, and learning resources for youth. The government has provided valuable support, links, ideas, direction and resources to the development, ongoing evaluation and widespread reach of Farm to School Manitoba.

Farm to School Manitoba works closely with other organizations that also have an interest in and commitment to providing healthy foods to schools, daycares and families in our communities. These organizations continue to provide valuable feedback and recommendations for the operations and reach of our program.

Youth Huddle Expansion

The Manitoba government invested \$1.54 million in 2022/23 to enhance access and services in six established Huddle sites around Manitoba. Huddle Manitoba is an integrated youth services joint initiative between the Province of Manitoba, Shared Health, and United Way Winnipeg, with support from philanthropic partners. There are six Huddle locations throughout the province that provide wrap-around health and social services supports in one location to children and youth aged 12 to 29. This includes mental health and addictions support, peer support, Indigenous programming, primary care and social services including employment and education supports.

Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders Program Expansion

The Manitoba government invested \$224,667 for the expansion of capacity of the Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders Program at Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg to improve access and reduce wait times for children and youth experiencing an eating disorder.

Enhanced Funding for School Meal and Snack Programs

In September 2022, the Manitoba government provided a funding increase of \$1.3 million to the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba (CNCM) to support school nourishment programs (SNPs) across Manitoba. This funding increase is intended to address rising food costs and increased demand for SNPs, and brings Manitoba's total annual investment in CNCM to \$2.5 million. Access to nutritional food at school supports the health and well-being of students, families, and communities, and plays a key role in supporting students to learn and thrive at school.

2. Working together to improve health outcomes and standard of living

Making Life More Affordable

In 2022/23, the Manitoba government introduced several key measures to ease the burden of inflation and help Manitobans make ends meet.

Family Affordability Package and Carbon Tax Relief Fund

The Family Affordability Package and Carbon Tax Relief Fund payments provided nearly \$290 million to Manitobans. These benefits included:

- affordability payment for families: providing eligible families with dependent children under 18 with a one-time payment of \$250 for the first child and \$200 for each additional child.
- affordability payment for seniors: providing eligible seniors who rent or own their homes with a one-time \$300 benefit.
- Carbon Tax Relief payment: providing eligible Manitoba singles and couples with a one-time payment of \$225 for single individuals and \$375 for couples.

Help for Manitobans Most in Need

Effective November 2022, and as part of the Family Affordability Package, many recipients of Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) saw an increase in their basic needs benefits. Recipients of the General Assistance category without dependent children began to receive an additional \$50 per adult per month. Recipients of the Disability category began to receive an additional \$25 each month. These increases are permanent additions to EIA benefits, and represent the first increase to EIA basic needs in many years.

Food Security Programs

Due to high inflation, many Manitobans continue to struggle with food insecurity and rely on food banks to support their families. The Family Affordability Package included a \$1.75 million Food Security Fund to support food banks across the province for the operation and management of their food projects between December 2022 and December 2023.

In addition, the government provided \$3.0 million to Harvest Manitoba to support its province-wide network of community foodbanks in keeping up with the growing demand for emergency food services in rural and urban communities.

Tax Measures

Manitoba instituted tax measures that provided financial relief to Manitobans in the face of a rising cost of living. These measures included:

- increasing the Basic Personal Amount by 2.1 per cent for the 2022 taxation year as it is indexed to the Manitoba Consumer Price Index.
- continuing to phase out the education property taxes that are included on annual property tax statements by increasing the School Tax Rebate to 37.5 per cent for residential and farm property owners and maintaining the 10 per cent rebate for other property owners for 2022.
- providing a zero per cent rent increase guideline in 2022 and 2023 and locking in a \$525 annual Residential Renters Tax Credit in 2022, with up to an additional \$300 for low-income seniors.

Increase to Indexation of Rent Assist

As part of an initiative to improve community safety and wellness across Manitoba, in October 2022, the province announced that maximum EIA Rent Assist rates would be indexed to reflect 77 per cent of median market rent beginning in January 2023, rather than the previous standard of 75 per cent. The increase to Rent Assist resulted in maximum monthly benefits for eligible EIA clients rising between \$16 and \$33 per month, depending on the size of the household. This represents an approximate three per cent increase in benefits and keeps rent affordable for EIA recipients.

Rent Assist will continue to be indexed each year in July, based on 77 per cent of median market rent for recipients of income assistance and 80 per cent of median market rent for other low-income Manitobans renting in the private market.

Minimum Wage Increase

Recognizing the exceptional financial challenges facing Manitobans caused by high inflation, the Manitoba government passed legislative amendments to The Employment Standards Code that, in prescribed circumstances, allows minimum wage to be increased by an additional amount above the legislated inflation-tied formula.

The increases started with a \$1.55 increase to \$13.50 on October 1, 2022, to be followed by a 65 cent increase to \$14.15 on April 1, 2023, and a further \$1.15 annual increase on October 1, 2023 to \$15.30.

Support for Manitobans in Housing Need

The Manitoba government recognizes that safe and stable housing provides the base for Manitobans to improve their well-being. In 2022/23, the government continued to invest in housing options and support for Manitobans in housing need. Some key initiatives included:

- disbursed \$49.4 million in capital funding for the Modernization and Improvement Program, and \$40.4 million for Repair and Maintenance of direct and sponsor-managed units
- maintained agreements with private landlords, non-profit, and cooperative housing providers to deliver both the Social and Affordable Rent Supplement Programs
- completed construction of 251 affordable housing units in Winnipeg, Gimli and Thompson and continued the delivery of an additional 214 affordable housing units
- completed the construction of 40 Supportive Recovery Housing beds and units on behalf of Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness
- continued the delivery of \$2.27 million to develop seven new homes and provide financial assistance for up to 77 families to enter into homeownership
- sold nine properties under the Rural Homeownership Program, assisting low- to moderate-income households with the purchase of single- and semi-detached homes in select rural communities at fair market value
- provided 119 organizations with grants through the Non-profit Community Bedbug Grant Program to support successful tenancies.

Increased Access to Menstrual Products

The Manitoba government worked in partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart Inc. to create and implement the Access to Menstrual Products Initiative in Manitoba with a commitment to distribute over 2 million menstrual products to Manitoba schools and domestic violence shelters in the first year. This included the release of **Access to Menstrual Products Initiative in Manitoba Schools: A Resource Guide for Teachers** (2023).

Dental and Oral Health

Among those living on low incomes and in poverty, Manitobans without dental insurance experience barriers to accessing adequate and timely dental care and are more likely to forgo or delay essential dental treatment. Manitoba provides targeted coverage for oral health and dental health care as well as education and preventive care for at-risk families. In 2022/23, the oral health and dental care programs included:

- the Healthy Smile Happy Child initiative
- the SMILE plus Children's Dental Program for children under 18 years from low-income families who live in Winnipeg
- funding for children in the care of the Child and Family Services system and low-income families enrolled in Employment and Income Assistance to visit the dentist
- supporting and promoting Manitobans' access to the Interim Canada Dental Benefit. The 2-year program provides eligible low-income families across Canada with direct funds for dental services for their children under 12 years, with no other access to private (including employer-based) insurance.

Manitoba Diabetes Action Plan

The Manitoba government developed the Manitoba Diabetes Action Plan, a five-year, whole-of-government plan to improve diabetes prevention, detection, management and surveillance efforts for type 1, type 2 and gestational diabetes. Recognizing that type 2 diabetes disproportionately affects individuals with low-income, the Manitoba Diabetes Action Plan is closely linked to provincial poverty reduction efforts, aiming to address the factors that contribute to increased rates of type 2 diabetes and diabetes-related complications.

Healthy Together Now

The Manitoba government provided an additional \$100,000 to the Healthy Together Now (HTN) program. HTN is a community-led, regionally coordinated chronic disease prevention program that is designed to ensure the unique needs in communities across the province are met. Projects funded through HTN focus on one or more of the following areas: 1) healthy eating and access to healthy food 2) physical activity 3) commercial tobacco prevention and reduction and 4) mental health and well-being. In 2022/23, the program funded 255 projects serving approximately 180,000 Manitobans with mental well-being and physical activity being the pillars most funded.

Addressing Mental Health Problems and Addictions

Mental health problems and substance use and addictions are recognized as significant factors linked to poverty. Poverty can cause mental health problems through social stresses and stigma. Conversely, mental health problems can result in loss of employment leading to poverty and social exclusion. Limited access to stabilizing resources over time including income, employment and housing amplifies the risk factors associated with mental illness and addictions.

The following initiatives were undertaken by the Manitoba government in 2022/23 to provide mental health, addictions and chronic disease supports to Manitobans:

1,000 Addictions Treatment Spaces

The Manitoba government invested \$12 million towards the creation and support of up to 1,000 publicly funded treatment spaces to help more individuals struggling with addictions gain access to timely and effective treatment closer to home.

Addition of Five Clinical Health Psychologists

MHCW invested \$853,000 to improve access to clinical health psychologists with the goal of reducing wait times for children, youth and adults.

Continued Support for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy with Mindfulness

An investment of more than \$700,000 provided ongoing support of a locally developed mindfulness-based cognitive behavioural therapy program that helps participants develop skills to improve their mental health.

Expansion of Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) and Opiate Agonist Treatment (OAT) Supports and Services

Over \$1.8 million was invested to increase capacity and access to addictions services through the following initiatives:

- new Indigenous-led RAAM clinic at the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre in Winnipeg
- expanded clinic hours and/or capacity at the Winnipeg Crisis Response Centre (Health Sciences Centre), Thompson Eaglewood Treatment Centre (RAAM clinic) and Portage la Prairie RAAM clinics
- expanded clinic capacity and hours at the Selkirk RAAM clinic enabling an additional 100 people to receive OAT services annually.

St. Boniface Street Links Outreach and Supportive Intervention for People Who Use Substances (OASIS) Mobile Outreach Project

The Manitoba government invested \$215,000 to support the OASIS Mobile Outreach Project led by a multi-disciplinary team that supports approximately 80 people experiencing homelessness and/or struggling with substance use. Project staff facilitate access to crisis stabilization, substance use treatment and other recovery-oriented services, including assistance for individuals who are homeless to attain stable housing.

Supporting Smoking Cessation

The Manitoba government supported expansion of the Tobacco Quit Card and Counselling program to all regions of the province. Participants are provided with a quit card that can be used to redeem up to \$300 in nicotine replacement medications at any pharmacy in the province, as well as counselling sessions with a health professional.

Telepsychiatry Expansion

The Manitoba government invested more than \$1.3 million to provide emergency telepsychiatry assessments to rural Emergency Departments and expand emergent telepsychiatry services to all 63 First Nation communities in Manitoba. This allows timely access to specialized care and avoids relocation away from community and support networks.

Northern Healthy Foods Initiative (NHFI)

The Manitoba government invested \$1.3 million from Budget 2022 towards the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative (NHFI) to partner on northern food security projects and strengthen community-led food initiatives. NHFI supports local and regional projects that contribute to the development of culturally relevant, healthy food systems, while improving health and well-being. NHFI's role is to increase access to food by working with communities and coordinating efforts aligned with the program's goals and objectives. NHFI's strategic priorities are to:

- strengthen strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts to support local food production and access. Partnerships are intended to increase community access to resources and opportunities, build on community development efforts, facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences and reflect the uniqueness of communities
- enhance support for local efforts, including strengthening community-led approaches that reflect cultural values.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Program

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a lifelong disability caused by exposure to alcohol during pregnancy and is often characterized by physical, mental, behavioural and learning disabilities. There is a strong association between the incidence of FASD and poverty. Studies have shown that on average, women who have children with FASD have lower levels of education, lower income, and are more likely to be unemployed or underemployed. In addition, families and individuals affected by FASD face more challenges in meeting the medical, educational, and daily living needs often associated with FASD, and are more at risk of living in poverty.

Guided by a community-informed FASD Strategy, the Manitoba government is taking action to address the problem of FASD through preventive, diagnostic and intervention programs. Key FASD programs in 2022/23 are profiled below:

InSight Mentoring Program

In 2022/23, the Manitoba government invested \$1.5 million in the InSight Mentoring Program, an evidence-based FASD prevention program for people who are pregnant or have a child under one year old, use substances, and are not well connected to community services. InSight offers participants and their families a three-year relationship with a mentor who provides practical support, advocacy, and connection to community resources to reduce the risk of alcohol use during pregnancy. InSight has sites in Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, The Pas, Flin Flon, and Thompson.

The Mothering Project

In 2022/23, the Manitoba government invested \$420,000 in the Mothering Project (Manito Ikwe Kagiikwe) program at Mount Carmel Clinic, supporting better health and wellness outcomes for vulnerable families. The Mothering Project supports people who use substances and are pregnant or have young children. Participants and their families can access culturally safe supports during pregnancy and throughout their children's early years, including prenatal care, health services, drop-in programs, healthy meals and nutritional learning, parenting groups, substance use programming, support to address child welfare concerns, child development supports and child care services, and access to Indigenous ceremonies and teachings.

Manitoba FASD Coalition Inc.

Manitoba supports community collaboration on FASD initiatives by providing \$55,400 in annual funding to the Manitoba FASD Coalition Inc. The coalition brings together service providers and people impacted by FASD to share information and resources, coordinate education activities, and plan together to address issues related to FASD. Manitoba FASD Coalition Inc. also provides support and networking opportunities for regional FASD coalitions from across Manitoba.

Diagnostic Supports for Young Adults with FASD

The Adult FASD Diagnosis with Supports pilot project completed its third year in 2022/23. The pilot included access to FASD diagnostic assessment as well as follow-up supports to young adults aged 18-25 years, who are involved in the justice system and who may have FASD. The project was approved for up to \$332,000 (over four years) in provincial funding, as well as more than \$375,000 of in-kind support over the same period. This includes supports through an FASD Court docket to provide responsive judicial sentences for those diagnosed with FASD. The pilot supports young adults with an FASD diagnosis to connect to the resources they need, ultimately providing better outcomes for program participants and communities.

FASD Training, Information and Resources

A free two-day FASD training course is offered by the Manitoba government to Manitoba service providers and caregivers. Manitoba Families also develops and distributes FASD resources and information across Manitoba.

3. Promoting economic inclusion through employment, education and training

Employment and Training Supports for Vulnerable Manitobans

Training for Indigenous Women Experiencing Violence or Exploitation

The Manitoba government partnered with the Manitoba Construction Sector Council (MCSC) and Clan Mothers Healing Village (CMHV) to recruit and train Indigenous women and Two-Spirit people who have experienced violence or exploitation. The program included a series of micro-credential courses to gain carpentry skills in a safe and healing environment. Participants also received Grade 12 equivalency credits to complete the program with a GED. Upon completion of the course, the participants are assisting in the construction of the Clan Mothers Healing Village site, and are now employed by the all-woman construction company that Clan Mothers is incorporating as a social enterprise. The government is dedicated to promoting women in underrepresented areas and providing opportunities to secure employment.

Supporting Employment and Income Assistance Participants

Manitobans recognize that work brings dignity and meaning to life. That is why the Manitoba government is transforming its Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program to provide supports and create pathways to meaningful employment for its program participants. These supports will bring them closer to financial independence and inclusion.

In 2022/23, the Manitoba government funded and collaborated with agencies in helping EIA participants enter the labour market. These agencies and the initiatives undertaken included:

- Opportunities for Employment (OFE) - delivered three employment and training programs: Maximum Opportunities, Stages of Change and the Community Home Services Program that helped 468 participants secure employment while 24 participants accessed education or training programs. In addition, OFE delivered:
 - o the Community Home Services Program for Single Parents that provided training and part-time employment experience in light housekeeping and yard care services to help clients move towards and retain employment
 - o the Single Parent Employment Program that assisted single parents receiving EIA to transition to employment in combination with providing child care supports
 - o the Sustainable Employment Program that provided intensive supports and employment readiness training resulting in employment experience, as well as an employer and service provider incentive to reward both parties for successfully assisting participants to maintain ongoing employment after 12, 24, and 36 weeks on the job
- Taking Charge Inc. - delivered pre-skills training and pre-employment services to single parents and women receiving EIA.

- Ka Ni Kanichihk - delivered the “Honouring Gifts” program, educating and empowering a group of 24 Indigenous mothers.
- Fire Spirit Inc. - Belonging to Employment programming provided continuous and immediate supports in self-discovery and personal development to clients, including assessments to shape and guide interventions and provide a multi-tiered learning framework in order to be responsive of the needs of participants.
- YWCA Thompson - Advancement Support Services Program provided clients with individualized pre-employment and mental health supports.
- Career Connections Inc. - Employment Programming provided essential skill development for employment preparation and training to EIA clients, including pre-employment workshops, work site, assessments, vocational assessments, and/or unpaid work experience placements leading to paid employment.

Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Practitioner Program

The Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Practitioner Program received \$30,000 from the Manitoba government, and has received these funds annually since 2019/20. The program is an accredited training program where individuals with a history of sexual exploitation can receive a Child and Youth Care Practitioner certificate or a two-year diploma from Red River College Polytechnic.

Support for Technical Vocational Education and Transitions to the Workforce

The Manitoba government has invested in strategies to support multiple pathways to employment, particularly in areas of high demand. Examples of these initiatives are described below:

New Early Childhood Education Curriculum

A grade 9 to 12 Early Childhood Education curriculum was developed in alignment with Early Childhood Educator standards for delivery through Technical Vocational Education programming. The curriculum will be piloted in the 2023/24 school year.

Student Transitions to Workplace

A Manitoba curriculum framework of outcomes **Grade 12 Career Development: Transitioning to the Workplace, University, and College** was developed to provide students with practical knowledge to help them successfully transition out of high school to their next stages of life.

High School Apprenticeship Program

The High School Apprenticeship Program was promoted as a career pathway for students. The government increased the Career Development Initiative grant by \$2 million, increasing resources available to school divisions to support students enrolling in the High School Apprenticeship Program. The province also approved 34 grant applications for the Skills Strategy Equipment Enhancement Fund, totalling approximately \$1.5 million for the 2022/23 school year. These grants support new and upgraded equipment for Technical Vocational and Industrial Arts programs in grades 7 to 12.

Tuition Reimbursement Program

Manitoba launched a tuition reimbursement program for individuals enrolled in approved post-secondary Early Childhood Educator Programs, supporting 652 students in 2022/23, with students being eligible for up to \$5,000 per academic year.

The Manitoba Student Aid Program

The Manitoba Student Aid Program administers two critical student financial assistance programs to support students pursuing post-secondary education: the provincial program and the Canada Student Financial Assistance program on behalf of the federal government. Through one application, Manitoba Student Aid assesses students for financial assistance in the form of federal and provincial loans, grants and bursaries. Students with lower-incomes and additional barriers to post-secondary studies may be eligible to receive increased non-repayable financial supports. The Manitoba Student Aid program assisted 17,705 Manitoba students with access to funding for post-secondary education, providing \$258.3 million through federal and provincial student loans, grants and bursaries in the 2022/23 program year.

The Manitoba Student Aid Program continues to streamline processes and improve student access to funding. This past year, Manitoba launched the Canada-Manitoba Student Loans Integration Project, which helped streamline and simplify the administration of student loans through the National Student Loans Service Centre. Borrowers benefit by only making one monthly repayment instead of two, and now have access to improved self-service options and extended call centre hours.

Manitoba Bursary

The Manitoba Bursary provides non-repayable up-front grants of up to \$2,000 to lower-income students and an additional \$1,500 top-up is available for Indigenous students. Effective for the 2022/23 program year, the Manitoba Bursary received an additional \$1.2 million investment for a total budget of \$22.3 million. For the program year August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023, Manitoba Student Aid disbursed \$21 million through the Manitoba Bursary Fund to 11,959 lower-income students.

The ACCESS Program

The ACCESS Program is a unique Manitoba initiative with the mandate of increasing access to, and success in, post-secondary education for students facing academic, financial, cultural, language and geographic barriers. The Manitoba government provides funding and guidelines to a number of universities and colleges for their individual ACCESS programs. Students apply to the university or college for programs in Health, Nursing, Engineering, Business Administration, Social Work, and Education. The programs feature tutoring, systems navigation, cultural and language supports, counselling, life skills training and career development to help students succeed and meet their career goals.

Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative

Participating post-secondary institutions, University of Manitoba Students Union and the Business Council of Manitoba administer the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative. Government matches funds raised by these organizations. The organizations assess, determine and award scholarships and bursaries to students. The government disbursed approximately \$10 million to 12 post-secondary institutions and organizations leveraging philanthropic support for scholarships and bursaries that provided an estimated \$19.8 million to Manitoba students during the 2022/23 program year. These bursaries and scholarships help many students overcome barriers to accessing post-secondary education.

Investing in Skills Development

The Manitoba government invested in skills training initiatives to help ensure individuals get the in-demand skills they need to address barriers to employment and succeed in the workplace. In 2022/23, over 5,400 Manitobans accessed training opportunities through the Skills Development program.

Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centres

The Manitoba government delivered a range of employment and training services through 13 Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centres and a network of 157 service providers to help job seekers find sustainable employment. In 2022/23, more than 31,000 Manitobans received employment and training services

Supporting Training Opportunities in Northern Manitoba

The Manitoba government partnered with the Northern Manitoba Sector Council to deliver the Northern Industry Collaborative Employment project, which supports industry and community-driven projects that deliver employment training for unemployed and underemployed northern Manitobans. Projects included a clerical foundations program, which prepared participants for entry-level office positions in health organizations and local businesses.

The government supported Indigenous individuals with skills training aligned with the Look North Strategy to enhance skills and employment opportunities in new and emerging sectors. This included a second cohort of a Women in Industry training project, which enhanced access for Indigenous women to non-traditional jobs and the addition of a mentorship coordinator to support the Thompson Diploma in Practical Nursing program, which improved program outcomes.

Supporting Newcomer Employment

The Manitoba government, through a partnership with The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, announced the launch of a new child care pilot - the Newcomer Employment Hub in 2022. The Newcomer Employment Hub assists newcomers seeking employment overcome the barrier of finding reliable child care. In phase one, 32 child care spaces were available to support Newcomers. In February 2023, an expression of interest was held to identify facilities interested in supporting phase two of this initiative, which will result in 36 additional spaces being available to newcomers.

4. Facilitating partnerships and supporting community-based organizations

A Collaborative Homelessness Strategy for Manitoba

Through collaboration with community, the Manitoba government is determined to successfully address the problem of homelessness in the province. In February 2023, the government launched **A Place for Everyone: A Collaborative Homelessness Strategy for Manitoba**, the first provincial strategy in Manitoba to end homelessness.

Manitoba is engaging with community partners in building the strategy's action plans and carrying out needed initiatives. In 2022/23, key initiatives included:

- development of a foundational training program for shelter support workers. The first class of 28 students will graduate in July 2023.
- increase in annual funding of \$8.95 million for homeless shelters, transitional housing and outreach mentors. Based on a program review, the department set new funding rates to reflect the current costs of operating shelter and transitional housing services. The government also expanded the outreach mentor program from eight to 21 positions for existing service provider.

Renewed Commitment to For Every Family Initiative

Manitoba renewed its commitment to match up to \$4.5 million in donations from individuals, companies and foundations, made to the United Way Winnipeg's For Every Family Initiative over three years, to March 31, 2025. This continues support for 24 Family Resource Centres across Winnipeg who provide quality programs and supports that are close to home and contribute to family's well-being, including increasing children's readiness for school, keeping more money in the hands of families, and reducing the number of children in care.

Continued Support for Granny's House and Community Helpers

Manitoba continued investments in Granny's House and Community Helpers, investing in prevention services for families to help reduce their risk of involvement with child and family services. These programs are driven by Gwekaanimad, a partnership of five organizations including Andrews Street Family Centre, Blue Thunderbird Family Care, Wahbung Abinoonjiiag, Mount Carmel Clinic, and The Winnipeg Boldness Project. This support allowed for the continuation of a second location of Granny's House, led by Blue Thunderbird, which provides culturally appropriate temporary, out of home respite care for children and their families. Community Helpers provides culturally appropriate, wrap-around services to families with the goal of increasing togetherness and connection.

Manitoba Accessibility Fund: Supporting Inclusive Partnerships Across the Province

Launched in February 2022, the Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) is a \$20 million endowment fund in collaboration with the Winnipeg Foundation. It provides annual sustainable grants to promote the principles of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and assist Manitoba organizations to remove accessibility barriers and improve compliance with accessibility standard requirements.

In its first year, MAF provided project grants totaling \$756,000 to 30 organizations across the province. Each project could ask for a maximum amount of \$50,000 to implement accessibility-focused projects. Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development and implementation of projects, as well as partnerships with disability-serving organizations across Manitoba, are an essential component of all MAF projects.

Programming and Operational Supports

Gender Based Violence Shelter Funding Increases

The Manitoba government implemented a new funding model for shelters funded by the Gender Based Violence Prevention Program to improve operations of the family violence sector and better protect vulnerable Manitobans. The new funding model provides equitable funding among the 10 provincial shelters as well as staff, operational and programming increases to funding.

This increase in funding provides safe spaces for some of Manitoba's most vulnerable to turn to in their time of need, and provides access to a continuum of services that provide support to those suffering from trauma and the option of beginning a journey of healing.

EmpowerMen Project: Engaging Men and Boys

The Government of Manitoba has committed funding to support the EmpowerMen Project: Engaging Men and Boys to address sexual exploitation and sex trafficking program, led by Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata. The purpose of this program is to engage men and boys to develop solutions to reduce sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ people.

The program will partner with local Indigenous-led organizations, survivors of sex trafficking, former sex buyers, educators, police services, crown attorneys, youth leaders, tech companies, social service agencies, children and youth advocates, provincial family services, sexual addiction therapist, faith groups and newcomer agencies.

Klinic Crisis Line

The Manitoba government has committed to providing Klinic Community Health \$1 million over four years, from the Government of Canada as part of the first bilateral four-year agreement to support crisis hotlines in 2022/23. This funding will support the sustainability of Klinic Community Health's crisis lines through addressing the impacts of the pandemic, including increased call volumes, reaching more people in need, and preparing for the delivery of services post-pandemic.

Supports for Organizations Helping Vulnerable Women

Holy Name House of Peace Facility Purchase

The Manitoba government contributed to Holy Names House of Peace Inc.'s (HNHP) purchase of the land and building at 211 Edmonton Street in Winnipeg. HNHP, founded in 2004, is a refuge in the heart of the city, a home that empowers newcomer women, survivors of domestic violence and people struggling with mental health issues to begin life anew. The House of Peace operates 365 days a year and is open to the public for essential programs 13 hours a day. HNHP is a life affirming, grass roots community that embraces diverse cultures and experiences and welcomes all. It is in a perfect location for newcomer women as it is near to services, schools, employment, and good public transportation.

Neighbours is the House of Peace core program. It is the only safe home for single, newcomer women in Winnipeg. Neighbours is a home to twenty newcomer women who may stay for up to two years. This factor alone makes the House of Peace unique within the refugee, immigrant ecosystem. Neighbours captures and strengthens the dignity of each woman who lives there. Neighbors is a launching pad that empowers vulnerable women to heal and begin again.

Giganawenimaanaanig – Implementation of the MMIWG Calls for Justice

Manitoba provided \$456,000 to support the development of Giganawenimaanaanig (formerly the MMIWG Implementation Committee), an Indigenous-led project that works strategically to implement the MMIWG Calls for Justice in a culturally relevant way in Manitoba. This grassroots program will be guided by a traditional Indigenous matriarchal governing body, comprised of Knowledge Keepers, Elders, MMIWG2S+ family members, survivors and Indigenous experts.

Proposal Development Funding Program for the Housing Sector

The Manitoba government continues to support and bolster non-profit housing providers through community-based service delivery. This initiative expands capacity within the non-profit sector, realizes economies of scale and enhances opportunities to leverage federal or other funding sources to maintain a sustainable social and affordable housing stock.

Manitoba Housing relaunched the Proposal Development Funding Program to support the creation of affordable and social housing projects by providing funding to offset costs of preparing housing project proposals. Manitoba Housing has committed \$835,000 in funds to thirteen proponents in 2022/23.

Building Sustainable Communities Program

The Building Sustainable Communities Program provides project based funding to support community-based organizations and municipalities in building thriving and sustainable communities across the province. In 2022/23, the Building Sustainable Communities program budget was increased by \$15.4 million for a total of \$25.7 million (\$13.9 million allocated to large capital stream and \$11.8 million for the regular stream to aid in Manitoba's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts). This enabled provincial support for 430 community projects by non-profit and charitable organizations, municipalities, and Northern Affairs community councils.

Urban/Hometown Green Team Program

The Urban/Hometown Green Team Program creates summer employment opportunities for youth aged 15 to 29 years through support to a variety of community development projects that improve neighbourhoods, promote community involvement and help develop young leaders. In 2022/23, the Urban/Green Team program budget was increased by \$3.9 million for a total of \$7.9 million to aid in Manitoba's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. A total of 717 projects were approved to support approximately 2,485 youth employment opportunities across Manitoba. This included approximately \$1.25 million in funding to municipal governments to hire youth to work on 135 community projects throughout rural Manitoba.

Community Development Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives

The Manitoba government provided funding assistance for over 36 community partners through Community Development Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives totaling over \$9.5 million including the following highlights:

- over \$5.8 million to support five United Way/United Appeals Organizations, including United Way Winnipeg with core operating funding to enhance annual giving campaigns as well as support for the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council.
- over \$1.4 million to support 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations and other non-profit organizations with 36 community renewal projects.
- up to \$905,000 to support 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations in 13 designated areas with core operating funding.
- up to \$776,200 to 10 community recreation organizations to support initiatives that encourage increased participation in recreation for all Manitobans, including summer camps, recreational sport events, community clubs, and recreation programs for children and youth.
- up to \$540,000 to the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to support the core operations of the organization and to help advance its mandate. The organization aims to foster regional coordination and collaboration and to increase and facilitate strategic economic, social, and physical development opportunities.
- \$120,000 to support the growth of community foundations across Manitoba in collaboration with The Winnipeg Foundation. This included provincial participation in the 2022 Endow Manitoba Giving Challenge, which resulted in more than \$1.68 million being raised in Community Foundations unrestricted funds by 2,828 contributions. All of Manitoba's 55 community foundations received a gift during the campaign.

Crime Prevention and Safe Community

A safe community that reduces stress, and creates the environment for social and economic activities promotes efforts at reducing poverty.

In 2022/23, the Manitoba government collaborated with community organizations to put into action initiatives aimed at crime prevention and building a safe community.

Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program

Manitoba entered into a Project Contribution Agreement with the Manitoba Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP), to provide funding for the delivery of the program that mobilizes citizens throughout Manitoba to participate in a community-based crime prevention initiative in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies.

Community Mobilization

Community mobilization is a community-driven, multi-sectoral approach to crime prevention and public safety that supports at-risk individuals so they remain out of the criminal justice system. Continuing investments increase the number of at-risk individuals and families supported through the following community partnerships:

- \$140,000 in 2022/23 to enhance the Thunderwing program and transfer its administration to Mount Carmel Clinic.
- \$120,000 to establish the Newcomer Community Mobilization initiative in Winnipeg.
- \$55,000 to enhance the Swan Valley Community Mobilization initiative.

Community Safety and Well-Being

Manitoba's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) plans involve a community-based, proactive process where communities can reduce crime and other locally identified risks by using evidenced-based responses to address unique local circumstances and the needs of residents. Funding was earmarked in December 2022 to tender the services of an outside consultant for the implementation of the CSWB Planning Project. The consultant will facilitate, develop, and implement the planning process to address local priority risks to safety and wellbeing, resulting in CSWB plans for twelve project sites (six towns/cities and six First Nations).

Joy Smith Foundation

The Manitoba government distributed \$50,000 in Criminal Property Forfeiture funding to the Joy Smith Foundation to support the program's efforts to prevent human trafficking through education. The foundation provides educational material to teachers, parents, front-line responders and the public.

Mount Carmel Clinic's Sage House Program

Under the government's Victims of Crime Call for Proposals, Mount Carmel Clinic's – Sage House Program received \$260,000 from 2021/22 to 2023/24 from the government to support participants who do not have the resources and access to services to find permanent housing and/or stay housed.

A&O Support Services for Older Adults

The provincial seniors strategy included increased funding to A&O Support Services for Older Adults, a not-for-profit organization that provides specialized services for older Manitobans across the province to increase safety for seniors. The program will provide Home Safety Planning for seniors; work with partners to deliver educational presentations that highlight current frauds and scams that older people should be aware of, and provide support to older Manitobans who have been a victim of a crime.

Promoting Economic Prosperity in Northern Manitoba

Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) is Manitoba's regional economic development partner for northern Manitoba and leads the implementation of the Look North action plan, a long-term strategy to foster economic growth in northern Manitoba. In 2022/23, CEDF supported a range of northern industries such as natural resources, tourism, technology, construction, manufacturing and transportation. Programming and supports included:

- successful implementation of the Tourism Relief Fund, which saw 35 tourism related products being created and/or adapted and benefited 65 small and medium-sized enterprises.
- continuing to be a major source of financing to the fishing industry, delivering the Commercial Fisheries Loan Program to provide capital for Commercial Harvesters, Packers and Processors.
- through the Computers for Schools Thompson project, helping to provide over 300 computers to youth, seniors, not-for-profits and other groups across the north. In addition six interns were trained in technology repairs, warehousing and/or office administration.

Advancing Reconciliation and Cultural Support

Economic Reconciliation

The Manitoba government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development (CAHRD) to support mutual Indigenous clients in pursuit of greater self-sufficiency, independence and sustainable employment. The MOU delegates authority from Manitoba to CAHRD to recruit, assess, select and case manage CAHRD program participants who receive financial supports from the two departments.

The Pas Family Resource Centre

The Manitoba government funded The Pas Family Resource Centre in renovating property at 212 Edwards Avenue in The Pas to serve as a cultural support space for all Indigenous people (First Nations Status and Non-Status, Metis and Inuit) with an emphasis on youth. The renovation includes ensuring accessibility, safe space for cultural traditional practices and arts, gatherings/ceremony and a commercial quality kitchen for the preparation of traditional foods.

Indigenous Reconciliation Initiatives Fund

In August 2022, the Manitoba government has put in place the process for the administration of the \$5 million Indigenous Reconciliation Initiatives Fund (IRIF) for the prioritization and development of initiatives that will advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and communities in Manitoba.

Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge

The Manitoba government, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and Ka Ni Kanichihk partner to host the Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge. The Lodge offers Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infection (STBBI) testing and treatment and other primary care services, including reproductive health care. This Indigenous led clinic is rooted in Indigenous knowledge, customs, and traditions. Many clients of the Lodge face persistent health gaps resulting from racism, colonization, and poverty. This partnership enhances services to people experiencing poverty through Indigenous leadership and providing cultural safe care.

Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Award

Manitoba Student Aid, with the help of the Winnipeg Foundation, the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation and, the Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, relaunched the Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Award in November 2021 to provide Indigenous Manitobans pursuing post-secondary studies with non-repayable financial support. In 2022/23, 30 awards valued at \$2,500 each were disbursed to Indigenous Manitobans who are making a difference in eliminating the barriers of racism, sexism, violence, and indifference in society.

Newcomer Community Integration Support

The Manitoba government has allocated \$5.1 million through the Newcomer Community Integration Support (NCIS) Program in 15 organizations to assist in the integration of newcomers to Manitoba. This included funding for the Recognition Counts program of Supporting Employment and Economic Development (SEED) Winnipeg, Inc., which provides support to skilled immigrants wishing to work in their fields of expertise or alternative career in Manitoba.

Settlement services that support the meaningful integration of newcomers help drive the economy and contribute to the economic prosperity of all Manitobans, especially the newcomers who are at risk of living in poverty.

5. Strengthening client-centred service delivery

Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities

In 2019, in response to community-led advocacy, government committed to consulting with community to inform development of a new income support program for persons with severe and prolonged disabilities, separate from EIA.

The department conducted extensive community consultation, with feedback informing the key features of the new program, Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities. Key features of the new program include:

- eligibility based on both medical and functional factors of disability
- higher benefits compared to EIA, in recognition of the unique expenses of persons with disabilities

- annual indexation of basic needs benefits to the rate of inflation beginning in July 2023, to ensure that as the cost of living increases benefits will also increase
- enhanced health benefits, with basic and essential coverage available for two years following file closure
- ability to earn up to \$12,000 annually from employment before benefits are impacted
- reduced red tape and reporting

The first phase of implementation launched in January 2023, with approximately 7,500 existing recipients of EIA transitioning to the new program.

Seniors Strategy

The Manitoba government launched the provincial seniors strategy in February 2023 following extensive province-wide public consultations. This strategy affirms Manitoba's commitment to creating conditions where seniors continue to be valued and empowered to live healthy and productive lives.

The strategy included a funding increase to Self and Family Managed Care program administered by the Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) that will enable more older adults to age actively in their communities, with easier access to the comprehensive services and supports that meet their unique needs and enhance their quality of life. Increased funding was also provided to the RHA's Support Services to Seniors program, which includes seniors resource finders/coordinators, congregate meal programs, and senior centers that promote a range of coordinated, accessible and affordable community-based services that focus on promoting health, independence and well being for older persons.

Supports for Service Sector Staff

Shelter Supports Foundation Micro-credential Training

The Manitoba government worked with Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters and End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) to develop a program that provides staff with micro credential training at Red River College Polytech. This program focuses on training individuals within the shelter sector, while increasing capacity at Gender Based Violence Prevention Program funded shelters and agencies involved with EHW. It supports the homelessness and family violence sector that has experienced difficulties hiring and retaining qualified staff.

The first cohort of the micro-credential training program began in January 2023, with 28 students enrolled from both the homelessness and family violence sector. Students from across the province, ranging from Winnipeg to rural and northern communities, were able to take the course due to its virtual and asynchronous format. The first cohort completed the program in July 2023 with 25 graduates. The students enthusiastically endorsed the course, describing it as skill enhancing and relevant to their field work. The program received \$140,000 from the Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan to fund the second cohort next year.

Community Living disABILITY Services Frontline Staff Support

The Manitoba government's Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) program provides the services and supports to assist adults with an intellectual disability to meet their goals and live inclusive lives in the community. Over 7,500 adults currently access the CLDS program and receive a range of support services through a network of funded service providers across the province.

In 2022/23, Manitoba provided an additional \$10 million to increase the wages provided to frontline staff employed by CLDS-funded service providers, ensuring that program participants continue to be safely supported in community.

Supporting Children with Disabilities: Children's disABILITY Services

Building Capacity in Services for Children with Disabilities

In 2022/23, the Manitoba government invested an additional \$5 million in its Children's disABILITY Services program to improve case management services for children with autism and their families, and further reduce wait times for therapeutic services.

Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba

In 2022/23, the Children's Therapy Initiative was rebranded to the Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba (CTNM), with the launch of a new website providing helpful information and resources for families. The CTNM is a coordinated program of service providers and provincial government departments of Education, Families and Health. An estimated 46,000 children were served across the province under the program.

Out-Of-Home Respite Pilot

Continued the delivery of the two-year Out-of-Home Respite Pilot Project, which, delivered in partnership with St. Amant, provides an enhanced respite care option for children with complex needs. With stays of up to one week per month, supports are intended to avoid or delay placement in the CFS system. Work in 2022/23 included the design of the evaluation framework for the project.

Bridge Program for Children and Youth

Launched the Bridge Program for Children and Youth with Disabilities, delivered by New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults and Families. This \$8 million two-year pilot program serves families who are no longer able to provide care because of the ongoing complexity of their children's care requirements, but do not want to place their children in CFS care.

Empowering Adults with Disabilities

In 2022/23, the Manitoba government continued to support recommendations stemming from the Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Task Force by launching two pilot projects aimed at empowering adults with an intellectual disability to make their own decisions.

These two projects include:

- a two-year pilot with the 120 Maryland Group to develop peer-support networks and increase the use of assisted decision-making among Community Living disABILITY Services program participants
- a project with Inclusion Winnipeg to deliver Person-Centered Planning training to direct service workers in agencies.

Health Cards

For years, getting a health card has been a barrier to timely access to health care in Manitoba. An overly complicated process, coupled with a public website that was hard to navigate, resulted in consistently high application errors (35 to 60% error rate), long processing times (three to six months), and poor client (and staff) experience. Even updating the mailing address on one's health card, required for coverage at any hospital or clinic, could be a challenge.

In September 2022, a diverse working group at Manitoba Health, using human-centred design within a project management framework, analyzed the current health card registration process to identify gaps and opportunities. Their analysis used program data, staff feedback, and stakeholder and client engagement. Engagement included the Manitoba Association of Newcomer Settlement Organizations (MANSO), as newcomers make up the majority of first-time health card applicants, as well as all six Bilingual Service Centres, as key satellite hubs that facilitate citizen access to government services. The team designed and implemented complex solutions that leveraged information technology, including:

- new health card website that organizes information based on the desired outcome of the client, rather than on the organizational structure of Manitoba Health
- online document helper tool that identifies required documents for different health card requests, thus reducing application error
- new eforms with document upload capabilities to reduce mailed, emailed and in-person applications and accelerate processing times
- automated process that feeds eform data into the health card database to eliminate manual data input
- installation of Public Access Workstations at Manitoba Health's public registration office for clients to avoid the queue and complete their requests online.

Manitoba Health cards are sometimes used as a form of identification to qualify for other government services such as income assistance and housing subsidies. Simplifying and expediting the process to receive an updated Manitoba Health card is an important step in the work to reduce the impact of poverty.

6. Making positive change through social innovation

The Manitoba government's Social Innovation Office (SIO) enables the creation of unique and impactful solutions to complex social problems often experienced by vulnerable populations. In 2022/23, the SIO continued to launch and support a number of social innovation and social finance initiatives.

Social Innovation Project: Access to Menstrual Products

In September 2022, the Manitoba government partnered with Shoppers Drug Mart Inc. to provide free menstrual products to schools and domestic violence sector agencies to improve accessibility and reduce period poverty. Throughout a three-year contract, Shoppers Drug Mart Inc. will provide 3.3 million free menstrual products per year, distributed to participating school divisions and domestic violence sector agencies across the province. The program is designed to remove barriers for Manitobans with little or no access to regular menstrual products. Products are distributed to participating schools and domestic violence sector agencies across the province.

Social Finance Projects

Quit Smoking with Your Manitoba Pharmacist

In April 2022, the Manitoba government announced and implemented the Quit Smoking with your Manitoba Pharmacist outcomes contract. The costs of smoking – to the individual and their health and to the health-care system as a whole – are significant. The goal of the program is to increase the success rate of people who are ready to quit by making it convenient to access the right supports and resources at their local pharmacies. Five hundred pharmacists located throughout the province are professionally trained in smoking cessation and provide support, offer guidance and prescribe medications for people who want to quit smoking.

Restoring the Sacred Bond

In 2022/23, the evaluation of Manitoba's landmark Outcomes Contract, Restoring the Sacred Bond concluded. This initiative provided preventative care for expecting Indigenous mothers through a culturally appropriate lens and generated positive outcomes for the families it served. The initiative achieved its program targets and the evaluation identified that children born to mothers in the program spent fewer days in care than children in a control group born to mothers who did not participate in the program.

Her Heart Her Way

Poverty is closely tied to the health of an individual. Poor health inhibits a person's ability to maintain a viable employment and increases their risk of living in poverty. The Manitoba government continued to provide support for the Her Heart Her Way Outcomes Contract, and program intake was announced in October 2022. This initiative is aimed at reducing heart disease for women in Manitoba by improving behavioural and biometric measures that research has identified as major contributors to increasing the risk of heart disease.

Kakiskinawtahitonan – We Will Show You the Way (Reducing Youth Justice Involvement)

The Manitoba government continued to support the Reducing Youth Justice Involvement Outcomes Contract. In response to this significant over-representation of Indigenous youth in custody, the project was designed to deliver a holistic program grounded in Indigenous traditions and knowledge that would address underlying causes of Indigenous youth justice involvement and reduce participant's involvement with the youth justice system.

This project intends to reduce recidivism in youth, aged 12 to 18 years, currently involved with community supervision orders and/or in open custody. The province is providing funding for programming in Winnipeg, and the City of Thompson over the program's three-year period.

Poverty Reduction Indicators

An integral part of Pathways to a Better Future is its measurement framework that ensures accountability to Manitobans and provides an evidence-based structure for measuring the outcomes of its initiatives.

The strategy's measurement framework includes a primary target of reducing the child poverty rate by 25 per cent by 2025, compared to the baseline year of 2015, and a set of 13 indicators, including Canada's official poverty measure to track the overall progress of the strategy. These indicators describe the various facets of poverty in areas strongly correlated with poverty: income, education, child care, child welfare, employment, health, income inequality and housing.

This section presents the data on the strategy's 13 indicators. Where available, disaggregated data are also presented to provide a more detailed view of poverty in Manitoba.

Market Basket Measure

Canada's Poverty Reduction Act (2019) establishes the Market Basket Measure (MBM) as Canada's official poverty measure.

Aligned with Canada's measurement framework, Pathways to a Better Future uses the MBM to measure the progress made in meeting the strategy's primary target. The MBM forms part of the 13 indicators to track the progress of poverty reduction efforts under the strategy.

The MBM poverty threshold reflects the cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families require to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living. The basket components are food, clothing and footwear, transportation, shelter and other expenses such as personal care, household supplies and other goods and services that permit engagement in the community. Individuals or families who cannot afford the MBM basket are deemed to be living in low income or in poverty.

Statistics Canada produces and releases the MBM data with a two year lag. For the 2022/23 poverty reduction annual report, the most recent MBM data available is for the year 2021.

Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators

The most recent MBM data (2021 data) shows that Manitoba exceeded its target of reducing child poverty rate by 25 per cent by 2025, compared to the 2015 baseline. In 2021, the child poverty rate in Manitoba was 9.5 per cent, reflecting a 51 per cent improvement from the 2015 rate of 19.3 per cent. There were 24,000 fewer Manitoba children living in poverty in 2021 compared to 2015.

The winding down of the federal COVID-19 income benefits and increasing prices contributed to the increase in Manitoba’s child poverty rate in 2021 compared to 2020. However, Manitoba’s child poverty rate in 2021 was 30 per cent lower than the pre-pandemic rate of 13.5 per cent in 2019. This was the general trend across Canada.

Similarly, Manitoba’s overall poverty rate (rate for All Persons) in 2021 was 8.8 per cent, lower by approximately 38 per cent than the 2015 rate of 14.1 per cent. While the 2021 rate was higher than the 2020 rate of 6.8 per cent, it was 23 per cent lower compared to the pre-pandemic rate of 11.5 per cent in 2019.

Table 1 provides information on the 13 indicators of the poverty reduction strategy. There is progress or stability in eleven of the indicators.

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators				
Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
<p>Market Basket Measure (Canada’s Official Poverty Line)¹ The cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families need in order to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living in communities across Canada. Source – Statistics Canada (Canadian Income Survey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poverty rate for All Persons - Child poverty rate 	<p>14.1 per cent (2015)</p> <p>19.3 per cent (2015)</p>	<p>8.8 per cent (2021)</p> <p>9.5 per cent (2021)</p>	<p>37.6 per cent decrease</p> <p>50.8 per cent decrease</p>	<p>progress</p> <p>progress</p>
<p>Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)² The percentage of youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment, education or training. Source – Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey)</p>	<p>10.4 per cent (1Q2015)</p>	<p>10.2 per cent (1Q2023)</p>	<p>1.9 per cent decrease</p>	<p>progress</p>

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators				
Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
<p>Availability of licensed child care The percentage of children (ages 12 and under) for whom there is a regulated child care space.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Education and Early Childhood Learning)</p>	18.2 per cent (March 31, 2015)	19.6 per cent (March 31, 2023)	7.7 per cent increase	progress
<p>Children in Care The percentage of children who are in the care of a child and family services agency.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Families)</p>	10,714 children 3.5 per cent of Manitoba children (March 31, 2017)	8,880 children 2.8 per cent of Manitoba children (March 31, 2023)	17.1 per cent decrease 20.0 per cent decrease	progress
<p>Premature mortality³ Deaths occurring before the age of 75 measured by number of years of life lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Health)</p>	53.2 years of life lost (2014/2015)	54.2 years of life lost (2020/2021)	1.9 per cent increase	regress
<p>Poverty entry rate The proportion of Manitobans who entered low income in the second year who were not in low income in the first year</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	3.9 per cent (2014/2015)	3.1 per cent (2019/2020)	20.5 per cent decrease	progress
<p>Poverty exit rate The proportion of Manitobans who exited low income in the second year who were in low income in the first year</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	25.3 per cent (2014/2015)	41.9 per cent (2019/2020)	65.6 per cent increase	progress

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators				
Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
<p>Core Housing Need⁴ The proportion of households in housing that is below one or more of the adequacy, suitability, and affordability standards.</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	11.3 per cent (2006)	10.1 per cent (2021)	10.6 per cent decrease	progress
<p>Employment The percentage of people aged 15 and over who are employed</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey)</p>	64.9 per cent (2015)	63.7 per cent (2022)	1.8 per cent decrease	regress
<p>High school graduation Manitoba’s student-tracked high school graduation rate that follows individual students in public and funded independent schools from Grade 9 and calculates the percentage who graduate on time.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Education and Early Childhood Learning)</p>	77.3 per cent (June 2015)	82.8 per cent (June 2022)	7.1 per cent increase	progress
<p>Income inequality (Palma ratio)⁵ The ratio of the richest 10 per cent of the population’s share of after-tax income divided by the share of the poorest 40 per cent.</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	1.08 (2015)	0.97 (2021)	10.2 per cent decrease	progress
<p>Literacy (reading skills)⁶ Average scores of 15-year old Manitobans in Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in Reading</p>	498 (2015)	494 (2018)	0.8 per cent decrease	stable

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators				
Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
Source – Program for International Student Assessment				
<p>Numeracy (math skills)⁶ Average scores of 15-year old Manitobans in Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in Mathematics.</p> <p>Source – Program for International Student Assessment</p>	489 (2015)	482 (2018)	1.4 per cent decrease	stable
¹ Data based on 2018-base Market Basket Measure (MBM) series.				
² Percentage of youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) during the first quarter of years presented. The 2015 baseline data shown reflects the revision made by Statistics Canada in Labour Force Survey historical data series released in January 2023, which explains why it differs from the 2015 data in previous annual report.				
³ Deaths occurring before the age of 75 measured by the number of years lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years. The number of years lost is the difference between the age at time of death and age 75. The data was adjusted to allow for fair comparisons among areas with different population characteristics.				
⁴ Data on core housing need is from census and available every five years. The 2011 core housing need data is not comparable with the census data. The 2011 data was based on National Household Survey. Therefore, the 2006 data is used as the baseline.				
⁵ Ratio is derived from data from Statistics Canada’s “Table 11-10-0193-01 Upper income limit, income share and average of adjusted market, total and after-tax income by income decile.” (accessed: July 5, 2023).				
⁶ Data on literacy (reading skills) and numeracy (math skills) are available every three years from Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) member countries and associates decided to postpone the PISA 2021 assessment to 2022 because of COVID-19 pandemic difficulties. PISA 2022 results are not available at the time of writing this annual report.				

Disaggregated Indicator Data

Certain demographic populations are more vulnerable to experiencing poverty in Manitoba. For better understanding of how poverty disproportionately affects population groups in Manitoba, this section presents disaggregated data on some indicators where data is available.

Low Income Rate

Despite the overall progress in reducing poverty, some demographic groups have remained more vulnerable to situations of poverty. The Manitoba government is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty for vulnerable Manitobans who are in most need of support.

Table 2 shows Manitoba's poverty rates for select demographic groups for 2015 to 2021. The poverty rate for Indigenous people (off-reserve) improved to 11.4 per cent in 2021 from 23.9 percent in 2015, or more than 50 per cent improvement. Except for persons in youth-led families, the poverty rates in 2021 for the other demographic groups were better compared to their 2015 rates.

Population Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All Manitobans	14.1	12.4	11.2	11.1	11.5	6.8	8.8
Children	19.3	15.5	12.8	13.1	13.5	6.0	9.5
Seniors	5.9	4.9	5.4	6.1	5.6	2.3	5.8
Persons in Lone Parent Families	44.5	38.4	28.6	30.3	33.5	15.2	30.8
Women	13.7	12.2	11.5	11.1	11.0	6.5	9.1
Men	14.5	12.5	10.9	11.2	12.0	7.0	8.6
Indigenous (off-reserve)	23.9	26.3	20.7	27.4	21.7	12.6	11.4
Persons with Disabilities	19.2	17.3	15.9	13.8	14.0	7.5	10.9
Persons in Youth-led Families ²	36.7	45.1	39.0	39.0	39.3	31.1	37.4
Single Individuals (45- 64 years)	31.9	33.5	30.6	31.0	34.3	23.4	29.9

¹Source – Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey, 2018-base Market Basket Measure series
²Age of primary income earner is 24 years or less.

Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

The proportion of youth who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) is an important measure that will indicate problems in the educational system, the labour market, or in social services system that affect the well-being of youth. NEET youth may experience difficulties making the transition from school to the labour market, and could also be at a higher risk of social exclusion and depression. Understanding and monitoring this indicator is critical to developing the appropriate services and supports that will help young Manitobans achieve a successful adult life.

Manitoba's NEET rate is aligned with Canada's poverty indicator for youth engagement, and is a well-established indicator used by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Table 3 shows that Manitoba's NEET rate in the first quarter of 2023 (1Q2023) regressed by 1.8 percentage points to 10.2 per cent from 8.4 per cent in first quarter of 2022. However, the 1Q2023 rate was still slightly better than the 2015 baseline of 10.4 per cent and 1.5 percentage point better than the pre-pandemic rate of 11.7 per cent.

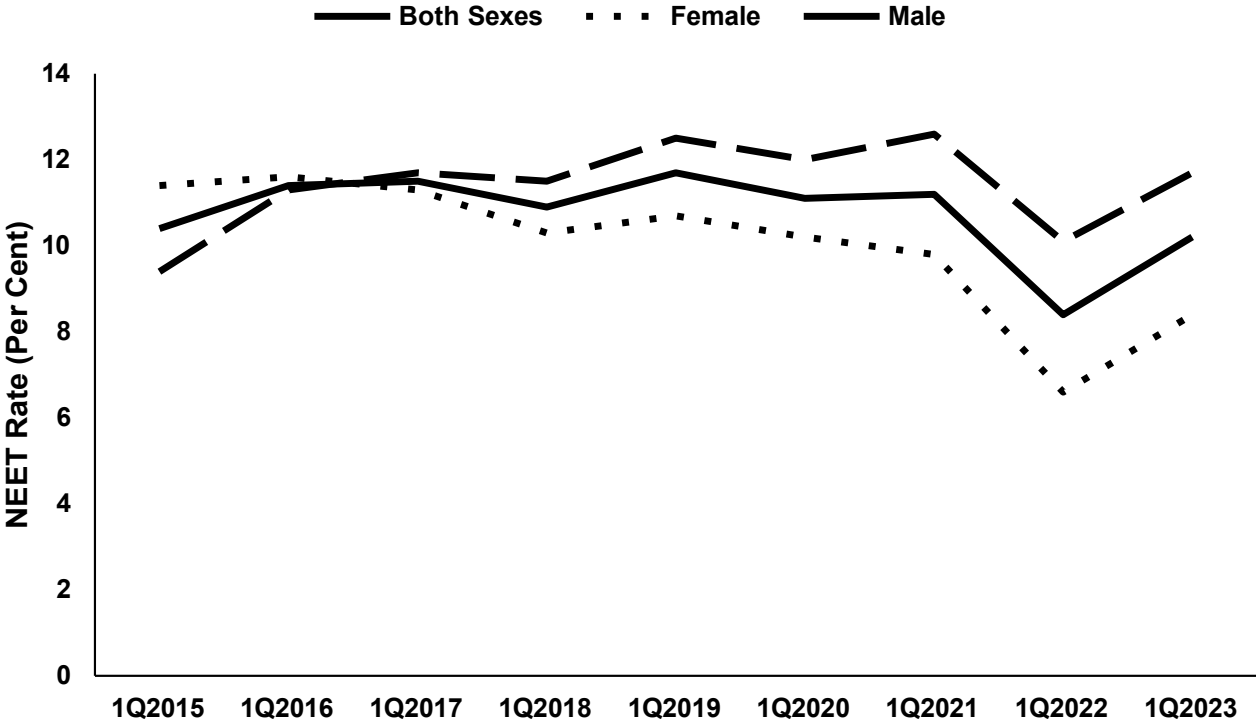
	1Q2015	1Q2016	1Q2017	1Q2018	1Q2019	1Q2020	1Q2021	1Q2022	1Q2023
Canada NEET rate (per cent)	10.5	10.5	9.4	9.8	9.3	11.8	11.3	9.6	9.0
Manitoba NEET rate (per cent)	10.4	11.4	11.5	10.9	11.7	11.1	11.2	8.4	10.2
- Number of persons (000)	17.0	18.7	19.1	18.4	19.8	18.9	18.9	14.0	17.2
- Rank (1 is best)	3	6	6	6	8	1	2	2	4
¹ Data on Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) are provided by Statistics Canada based on Labour Force Survey (LFS). The data shown for 1Q2015 to 1Q2022 reflects the revision made by Statistics Canada in LFS historical data series released in January 2023, and thus, may differ slightly from the data presented in the previous annual report.									

Table 4 compares the NEET rates across Canada. Manitoba's NEET rate registered the fourth best in first quarter of 2023, tied with Saskatchewan's.

Table 4: Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) Rate (per cent), Youth Aged 15 – 24 Years, Canada and Provinces, 1Q2015 to 1Q2023¹									
	1Q2015	1Q2016	1Q2017	1Q2018	1Q2019	1Q2020	1Q2021	1Q2022	1Q2023
Canada	10.5	10.5	9.4	9.8	9.3	11.8	11.3	9.6	9.0
AB	9.4	10.7	10.4	10.7	9.9	11.9	11.3	8.8	10.5
BC	11.2	9.9	8.8	9.2	8.5	13.0	12.6	9.6	9.3
MB	10.4	11.4	11.5	10.9	11.7	11.1	11.2	8.4	10.2
NB	13.9	15.3	14.1	13.4	11.7	13.0	12.5	12.4	11.0
NFL	14.5	14.4	17.0	12.0	13.5	15.9	15.6	15.0	11.8
NS	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.6	11.0	13.4	11.4	9.6	10.4
ON	10.0	9.9	9.0	9.8	9.7	11.4	11.4	9.9	8.6
PEI	12.4	13.0	16.0	9.6	9.6	11.2	13.0	7.4	13.2
QC	10.9	10.9	8.0	8.5	7.7	11.2	9.4	8.8	7.8
SK	11.1	11.4	11.8	11.3	9.3	13.5	13.4	9.7	10.2
¹ Data on Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) are provided by Statistics Canada based on Labour Force Survey (LFS). The data shown for 1Q2015 to 1Q2022 reflect the revision made by Statistics Canada in LFS historical data series released in January 2023, and thus, may differ slightly from the data presented in the previous annual report.									

The Manitoba NEET rate for Females has remained better than the NEET rate for Males since 1Q2017. In first quarter of 2023, the Female NEET rate was 8.4 per cent, while the Male NEET rate was 11.7 per cent.

Chart 1: NEET Rate, Youth Aged 15 to 24 Years, Manitoba, 1Q2015 to 1Q2023¹



¹ Source - Statistics Canada, custom data, first quarter of 2015 to first quarter of 2023.

Availability of Licensed Child Care

Availability of licensed child care measures the percentage of children (ages 12 and under) in Manitoba for whom there is a regulated child care space.

With the strong partnership between the provincial and federal governments in supporting the child care sector, the availability of licensed child care at March 31, 2023 increased by 7.7 per cent compared to the baseline at March 31, 2015.

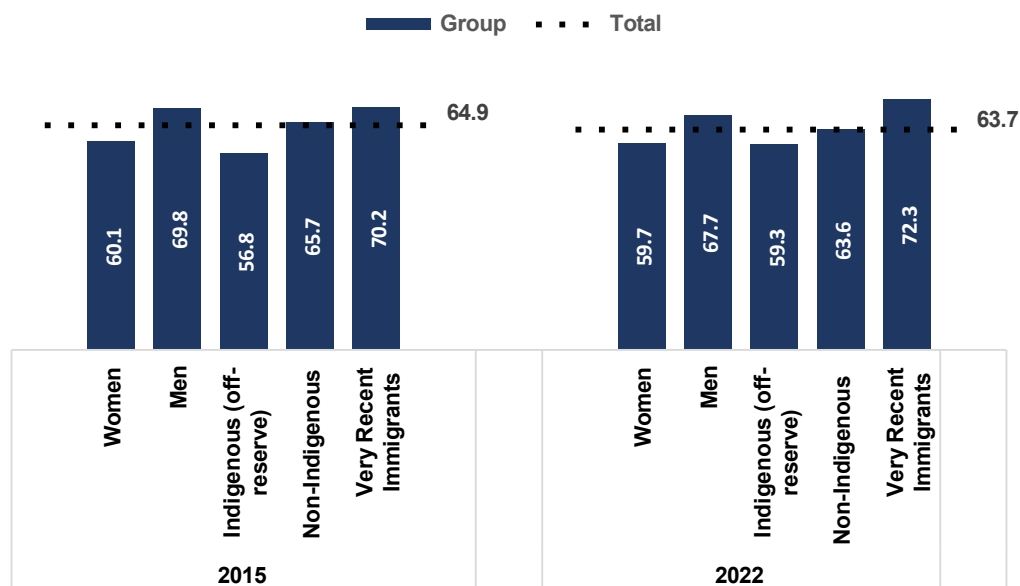
Table 5 shows the breakdown of availability of child care spaces by age group.

Table 5: Percentage of Children for Whom There is a Regulated Child Care Space			
Age Group	At March 31, 2015	At March 31, 2023	Per Cent Increase
0 to 5 years	26.1%	29.1%	11.5%
6 to 12 years	11.3%	12.0%	6.2%
Total 0 to 12 years	18.2%	19.6%	7.7%

Employment

In 2022, the employment rates of women and Indigenous (off-reserve) groups remained lower than the overall Manitoba employment rate; while the employment rates for men, and the very recent immigrants (landed within five years prior) were higher than the provincial rate. The employment rates for Indigenous (off-reserve) and very recent immigrant demographic groups improved in 2022 compared to 2015.

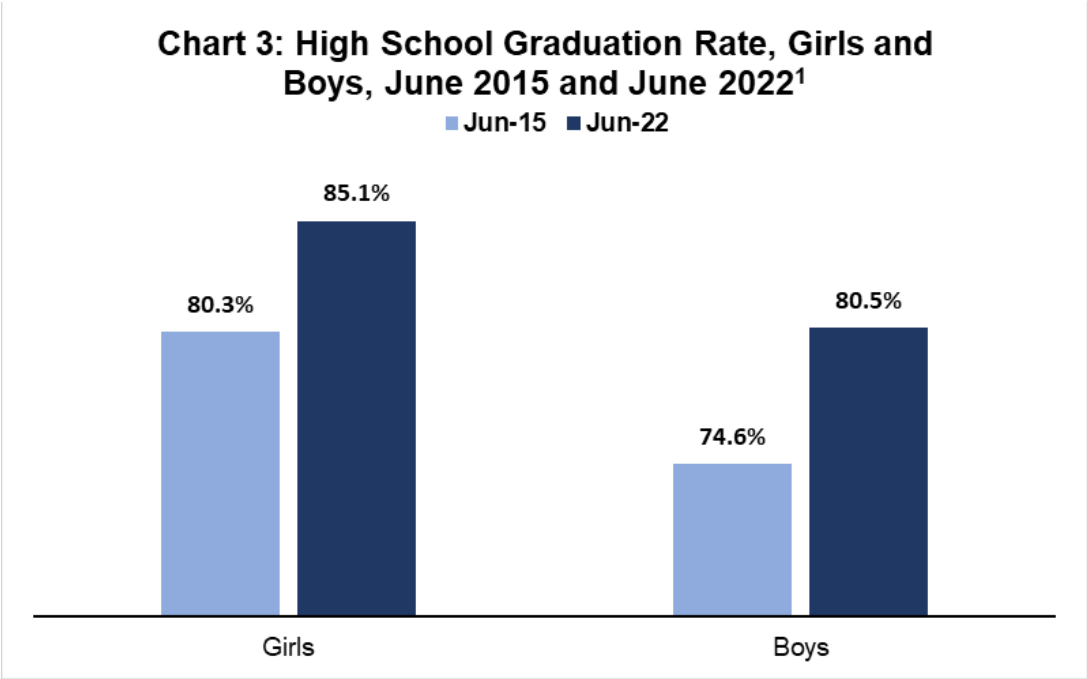
Chart 2: Employment Rate (%) by Select Group, Manitoba, 2015 and 2022¹



¹Data on employment rates are collected by Statistics Canada through the Labour Force Survey (LFS). The 2015 data reflects the historical revision made by Statistics Canada in LFS historical data series released in January 2023. That is why, the 2015 data are slightly different from the data presented in the previous annual report.

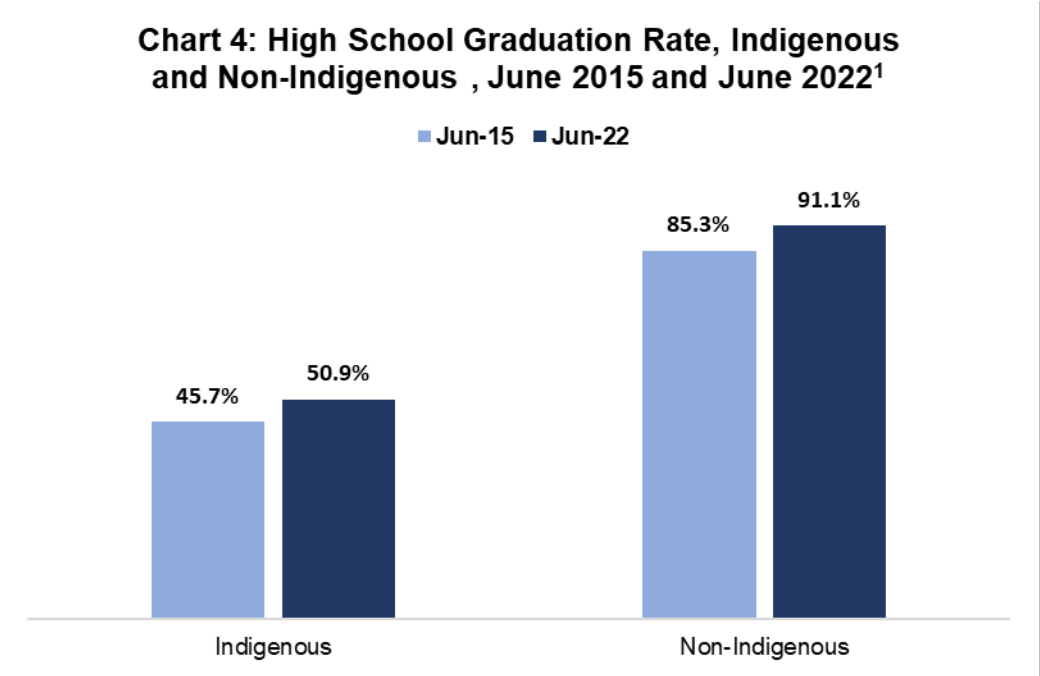
High School Graduation Rate

High school graduation rate is higher among girls than boys. Both groups experienced an increase in graduation rate from June 2015 to June 2022.



¹Student-tracked high school graduation rate that follows individual students in public and funded independent schools from Grade 9 and calculates the percentage who graduate on time, adjusted for attrition. Source- Government of Manitoba

The high school graduation rate among Indigenous children is lower than the rate for non-Indigenous children. The graduation rate for Indigenous children improved from 45.7 per cent in June 2015 to 50.9 per cent in June 2022.



¹Student-tracked high school graduation rate that follows individual students in public and funded independent schools from Grade 9 and calculates the percentage who graduate on time, adjusted for attrition. Source- Government of Manitoba

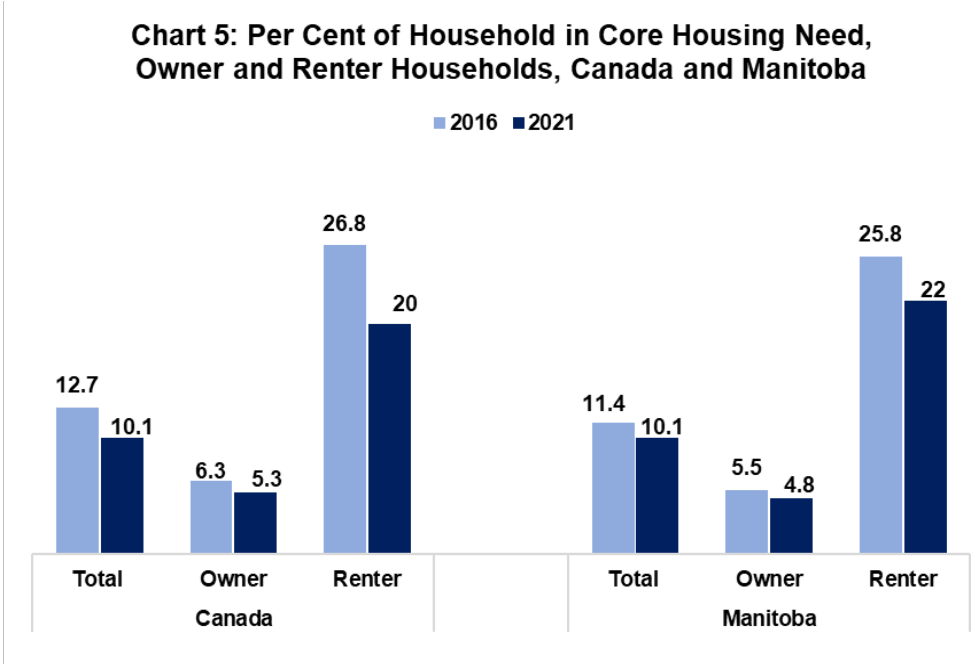
Core Housing Need

Except for Thompson, Manitoba’s core housing need improved in 2021 across key densely populated areas compared to 2016, based on census data as shown in Table 6. Among these communities, only Winnipeg exhibited a higher core housing need than the overall provincial rate.

	2006	2016	2021
Canada	12.7	12.7	10.1
Manitoba	11.3	11.4	10.1
Winnipeg (CMA)	10.4	12.1	11.1
Brandon (CA)	8.4	7.7	6.5
Winkler (CA)	9.6	6.7	6.0
Steinbach (CA)	5.0	11.7	8.4
Portage la Prairie (CA)	9.1	8.9	7.9
Thompson (CA)	9.8	9.1	9.5

¹Source: Statistics Canada's census data. According to Statistics Canada's definition, CMAs and CAs are formed of one or more adjacent municipalities that are centered on and have a high degree of integration with a large population centre, known as the core.

Census data for 2016 and 2021 indicate that the percentage of households in core housing need was higher among renter households than households with owned housing with or without mortgage (owner households). In 2021, Manitoba's core housing need among renter households was higher than Canada's overall core housing need for this type of household as shown in Chart 5. On the other hand, Manitoba's core housing need for owner households was lower than the national overall owner household core housing need.



¹Source - Statistics Canada, census data.

Premature Mortality

The premature mortality indicator refers to deaths occurring before age 75 measured by the number of years of life lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years. The number of years lost is the difference between age at time of death and 75. This measure is higher among Manitobans in lower income quintiles.

Table 7 shows the number of years of life lost per 1,000 population, by income quintile in 2014/2015 and 2020/2021. In both periods, premature mortality based on the number of years of life lost is highest in the lowest income quintile, in both rural and urban areas.

Income Quintile	2014/2015	2020/2021	Difference (2020/2021 less 2014/2015)
Lowest - Rural	95.2	96.0	0.8
Second - Rural	68.6	62.6	-6.0
Third - Rural	53.6	49.1	-4.5
Fourth - Rural	47.1	41.5	-5.6
Highest - Rural	38.9	40.0	1.1
Lowest - Urban	91.5	109.9	18.4
Second - Urban	54.8	53.1	-1.7
Third - Urban	43.8	42.3	-1.5
Fourth - Urban	35.8	36.8	1.0
Highest - Urban	28.2	26.7	-1.5
Manitoba overall	53.2	54.2	1.0

¹Deaths occurring before age 75 measured by the number of years of life lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years. The number of years lost is the difference between age at time of death and age 75. The data were adjusted for age and sex to allow for fair comparisons among areas with different population characteristics.

Source – Government of Manitoba (Health)