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## Our Platform



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- 1) PST Off Children's Sporting Goods
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Authorized by the Financial Officer of the Party.



## **B E T T E R   H E A L T H**

### 1) Dedicated Stroke Unit

The Manitoba Liberal Party is dedicated to making the lives of Manitobans better, and that is why we will create the province's first dedicated stroke unit. We are the last province without one. Research has shown that dedicated stroke units reduce death by stroke substantially and reduce long-term disability. Victims of stroke who get the right care quickly are more likely to survive and make a full recovery. We make this commitment because it improves the quality of life for those who've suffered a stroke, and that is the right thing to do. Cost: \$7.5 million annually, but savings to the system are \$70 million annually, for a net gain of \$62 million

### 2) Mental Health Under Medicare

Improved mental health should be a goal of any government and, if elected in 2016, the Manitoba Liberal Party will invest \$20 million to ensure those who need help get it, and that it's covered by Medicare. There is no reason mental health shouldn't be treated with the same respect and dignity as any other medical concern, and that means bringing mental health under the umbrella of universal healthcare. Cost: \$20 million over 4 years

### 3) In Vitro Fertilization Funding

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to helping Manitobans who are struggling to have children by offering to pay for in vitro fertilization treatment. Our yearly investment will help 400 would-be mothers. There are no restrictions on who can apply, so single moms, same-sex couples, and surrogates may apply for treatments. The birth of a child is one of the most precious gifts we can give, and it is the right thing to do. Cost: \$4-5 million annually

### 4) Faster Hip & Knee Surgery

Manitobans who are waiting for a new hip or knee often wait unnecessarily due to yearly quotas set by the government. We believe the benefits of operating now and returning people to an active and healthy lifestyle mitigate the savings of waiting a few months for the next fiscal year to start. Other provinces have moved to a pay-for-results system and have seen no measureable cost increases. Cost: Neutral

### 5) Funding for Autistic Children

The Manitoba Liberal Party will address the needs of children living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Children with Autism need applied behavioral analysis or ABA and they need it when they're young. Time is of the essence as early treatment

makes all the difference in the world to these children and their families. Children who receive ABA tend to go on to have very productive lives, but many children with Autism are reaching an age where it is no longer effective because the wait for treatment is too long. They are literally aging out. We find this unacceptable. Cost: \$3 million annually

#### 6) Modern Approach to Homecare

We are committed as a party to revamping the system of homecare to make it more effective. We believe minor investments in homecare will take pressure off hospitals and, in the end, lead to better outcomes for patients. Cost: Neutral

#### 7) Financial Security Through Mincome

Mincome or Guaranteed Minimum Income has been a topic of discussion for decades because it has the potential to eradicate extreme poverty and save money in the delivery of government services at the same time. The concept is simple. Everyone over a certain age gets a guaranteed wage paid by the government and those who don't need it repay it monthly through their payroll deductions, but if they find themselves unemployed the Mincome becomes Employment Insurance and if their situation worsens it becomes welfare. There is no longer a complex welfare system and families and individuals are healthier and more secure as a result. Mincome has the potential to save money in health, education, family services and justice. To determine if Mincome is financially viable we need to study it further and will, just as other countries and jurisdictions are. Cost: To be determined based on size and breadth of study

#### 8) Food Security For The North

The Manitoba Liberal Party pledge to tackle nutrition issues destroying northern communities. We will do this through an investment in subsidies for healthy food options like milk, fresh fruit and vegetables. We will also establish and fund nutrition counselors in the communities to ensure that healthy eating and cooking habits are enhanced through education. We believe our investment will be returned in lower healthcare costs and better quality of life for our citizens. Cost: \$25 million annually

#### 10) Seniors Ambulance

The Manitoba Liberal Party will pick up the tab for ambulance costs for low income seniors. Seniors with an income lower than \$20,000 will have the cost of their ambulance ride covered. The average ambulance bill is about \$500 and asking seniors to choose between food and other necessities when deciding whether to call an ambulance when in an emergency is not reasonable. Cost: \$1.5 million annually.

#### 11) Organ Donation

Too few Manitobans are signing off on organ donation because we are not asking them to. There is a government website where Manitobans can go to do this, but there is no particular incentive. A Liberal government would ask Manitobans when renewing their driver's licence if they would be interested in donating their organs when they die. The decision would be logged in the system and Manitobans could, if they changed their minds, opt out. This is the smart approach to addressing the need for more organ donation that will be effective and respectful. Cost: No cost, but huge savings of lives

## **BETTER LIFE**

### 1) Vibrant Arts, Culture and Tourism

Manitoba is the centre of a diverse and vibrant art and cultural scene and we need to ensure we not only maintain that, but find ways to enhance it and ensure we are inviting the world to come to Manitoba to be a part of it. To that end we will appoint a Premier's Advisory Council on the Arts to ensure those with a stake in the industry are at the table. We will also direct infrastructure dollars to enhancing and maintaining our cultural facilities. We will invest in Tourism Manitoba so it has the money it needs to properly sell our province to the world. We have lots to offer, but if nobody knows it we will continue to be the best kept secret in Canada and the world. Cost: Dependent on investments in Tourism Manitoba – Arts Infrastructure part of current budget

### 2) Focus on Fixing Our Roads

Municipal leaders from across the province have been calling for one point of PST revenue to go directly to municipal priorities. This will give them predictable funding to plan into the future. The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to a dedicated Municipal Infrastructure Fund. *Cost: Already budgeted*

### 3) Paving the Way for Ride Sharing

The Manitoba Liberal Party will create legislation to pave the way for ride sharing services, such as Uber. Manitobans want to use their smart phones to access transportation and we will make that possible. We will work with the taxi companies and, most importantly drivers, to make the transition fair and equitable. The current government says it is looking into ride sharing, but that's just political jargon for doing nothing. Cost: Neutral

### 4) Modern Approach to Homecare

We are committed as a party to revamping the system of homecare to make it more effective. We believe minor investments in homecare will take pressure off hospitals and, in the end, lead to better outcomes for patients. Cost: Neutral

#### 5) Better Price on Liquor

Manitoba Liberals are committed to better pricing for beer, wine, and spirits. Under a Liberal government, the system will move from wholly-government controlled to government supplied and privately sold. This will essentially be the same model adopted for MPI, where the Crown provides the service and private business sells the product. We anticipate robust growth in this industry that will spur increased selection and improved price. Cost: Neutral, as no bottle would leave the warehouse without the government markup.

#### 6) Improved Traffic Safety in Rural MB

Too often, traffic safety in our smaller communities is neglected. This has created a two-tier system of safety and this, in our opinion, is not acceptable. If traffic lights or crosswalks are needed near schools, we will ensure those items are in place. The safety of our citizens is a priority no matter where they live. Cost: Included in Municipal Infrastructure Fund

#### 7) Firm Stand Against Conversion Therapy

The Manitoba Liberal Party was the first party in Manitoba that committed to a ban on LGBT “conversion therapy.” We will continue to stand against this unacceptable practice and make clear that it has no place in Manitoba. Cost: The only cost is doing nothing

#### 8) Mental Health Under Medicare

Improved mental health should be a goal of any government and, if elected in 2016, the Manitoba Liberal Party will invest \$20 million to ensure those who need help get it, and that it’s covered by Medicare. There is no reason mental health shouldn’t be treated with the same respect and dignity as any other medical concern, and that means bringing mental health under the umbrella of universal healthcare. Cost: \$20 million over 4 years.

#### 9) Protecting Our Environment

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to protecting our environment from invasive species, like Zebra Mussels. We are also determined to reduce the number and frequency of algae blooms because, if you don’t have a clean and healthy environment, you have nothing at all. Cost: Ongoing

#### 10) In Vitro Fertilization Funding

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to helping Manitobans who are struggling to have children by offering to pay for in vitro fertilization treatment. Our yearly investment will help 400 would-be mothers. There are no restrictions on who can apply, so single moms, same-sex couples, and surrogates may apply for treatments. The birth of a child is one of the most precious gifts we can give, and it is the right thing to do. Cost: \$4-5 million annually

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#### 12) Fix Our Roads

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to fixing our roads. We feel we need to repair and maintain our current infrastructure before investing in new roads or mega-projects that can wait. It would be our preference to see investments begin in the core of cities to encourage greater density and growth in the downtown areas. We will also prioritize regional routes that carry the bulk of our traffic. Cost: Already budgeted, this is about priorities

#### 13) Fresh Approach to Downtown Revitalization

The Manitoba Liberal Party, if elected on April 19th, is ready to put your money where your mouth is. One of the biggest impediments to revitalizing downtown Winnipeg is availability of high-quality food options in the core. To that end, we will build a year-round fresh food market in downtown Winnipeg. It will provide Manitobans a place to source great locally grown produce, meat and other groceries and this market will draw other businesses and residents to our core.

#### 14) Smart Campground Bookings

The Manitoba Liberal Party today announced it will improve the annual registration process for campground registrations by implementing a simple date change that the NDP has refused to do.

#### 15) Condo Taxes

The Manitoba Liberal Party, if elected on April 19th will offer condo owners a better deal on their property taxes. Condominium owners' property taxes are calculated the same way as those of single family homes despite a drastically smaller footprint. If this is about



taxing property then this system is simply unfair. We will allow municipal governments to adjust the rates controlled by provincial legislation. Cost: None.

## **LOWER POVERTY**

### 1) Financial Security Through Mincome

Mincome or Guaranteed Minimum Income has been a topic of discussion for decades because it has the potential to eradicate extreme poverty and save money in the delivery of government services at the same time. The concept is simple. Everyone over a certain age gets a guaranteed wage paid by the government and those who don't need it repay it monthly through their payroll deductions, but if they find themselves unemployed the Mincome becomes Employment Insurance and if their situation worsens it becomes welfare. There is no longer a complex welfare system and families and individuals are healthier and more secure as a result. Mincome has the potential to save money in health, education, family services and justice. To determine if Mincome is financially viable we need to study it further and will, just as other countries and jurisdictions are. Cost: To be determined based on size and breadth of study

### 2) Rent Freeze

As part of our housing and poverty reduction strategy, a Liberal government will put a freeze on rent increases for two calendar years. This will start in 2017 and affect all renewals through 2018. During that time, we will work with all stakeholders to ensure rent control is doing what it's meant to do, and that's hold the line on rent increases. This is one way we can help Manitobans struggling with rising taxes and rising prices. It is essential to ensuring affordability, especially for those on fixed incomes. Cost: Neutral.

### 3) Funding for Northern Housing

The Manitoba Liberal Party will begin to address the housing crisis on northern Manitoba First Nations. We recognize this is federal jurisdiction and welcome the federal government to the table, but are prepared to start without them. We will begin by investing an additional \$15 million yearly to start to improve this dire situation. We realize this initial investment will not be enough and as more resources become available we will invest more. We cannot accept third-world conditions in Manitoba. Cost: \$15 million yearly.

### 4) Food Security For The North

The Manitoba Liberal Party pledge to tackle nutrition issues destroying northern communities. We will do this through an investment in subsidies for healthy food options like milk, fresh fruit and vegetables. We will also establish and fund nutrition counselors in the communities to ensure that healthy eating and cooking habits are enhanced through

education. We believe our investment will be returned in lower healthcare costs and better quality of life for our citizens. Cost: \$25 million annually.

#### 5) Family First Approach to CFS

We believe children are best raised by parents or family members, but when they must be apprehended for their own safety, those children should be placed as near to home as possible to allow them to continue to socialize with friends and those close to them. Expecting children to live and thrive in downtown Winnipeg hotels is not working, and the system needs a re-think from top to bottom. Cost: Full plan in development

### **SMARTER CHILD CARE**

#### 1) Childcare

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to putting the resources into childcare that are needed to ensure more parents who choose to return to work can make a meaningful contribution in the workforce. To do this we will invest in social infrastructure to build new centres and repair existing ones. We will also be looking to attach centres to senior's residences for the benefit of the children and older Manitobans. We will invest in training and offer better salaries to our early childhood educators to make it attractive to stay in the industry. To ensure the system is viable we will look to create a fee structure that is fair, but also one that is progressive. This means those who can pay more for childcare will. Cost: \$30 million annually on top of the current funding levels

### **SMARTER EDUCATION**

#### 1) Student Loans Converted to Grants

Manitoba students are graduating with too much debt, and that is why a Liberal government will convert Manitoba student loans to non-repayable grants starting in the 2016-17 academic year. This will make a meaningful difference in the lives of Manitoba students upon graduation. We will work with the federal government to push them to convert their loans to grants as well. Currently, the federal portion of a student loan makes up 60 percent of the loan, while the province of Manitoba covers 40 percent. Cost: \$10 million annually

#### 2) Mental Health Under Medicare

Improved mental health should be a goal of any government and, if elected in 2016, the Manitoba Liberal Party will invest \$20 million to ensure those who need help get it, and

that it's covered by Medicare. There is no reason mental health shouldn't be treated with the same respect and dignity as any other medical concern, and that means bringing mental health under the umbrella of universal healthcare. *Cost: \$20 million over 4 years*

### 3) Anti-Bully Bill

We supported Bill 18, introduced by the government to stop bullying, specifically in our schools. We acknowledge the bill was found wanting in its scope and consequences, but feel it was a step forward, especially for those bullied due to sexual orientation. We also strongly support Bill 18's protection for Gay-Straight Alliances (GSA's), and we will stand against attempts by the Pallister Conservatives to take Gay-Straight Alliances away. *Cost: Neutral*

### 4) Vibrant Arts, Culture And Tourism

Manitoba is the centre of a diverse and vibrant art and cultural scene and we need to ensure we not only maintain that, but find ways to enhance it and ensure we are inviting the world to come to Manitoba to be a part of it. To that end we will appoint a Premier's Advisory Council on the Arts to ensure those with a stake in the industry are at the table. We will also direct infrastructure dollars to enhancing and maintaining our cultural facilities. We will invest in Tourism Manitoba so it has the money it needs to properly sell our province to the world. We have lots to offer, but if nobody knows it we will continue to be the best kept secret in Canada and the world. *Cost: Dependent on investments in Tourism Manitoba – Arts Infrastructure part of current budget*

### 5) Funding for Autistic Children

The Manitoba Liberal Party will address the needs of children living with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Children with Autism need applied behavioral analysis or ABA and they need it when they're young. Time is of the essence as early treatment makes all the difference in the world to these children and their families. Children who receive ABA tend to go on to have very productive lives, but many children with Autism are reaching an age where it is no longer effective because the wait for treatment is too long. They are literally aging out. We find this unacceptable. *Cost: \$3 million annually*

### 6) Full-Day Kindergarten

The Manitoba Liberal Party is ready to begin the transition to full-day kindergarten. We will begin the 5 year phase-in at schools with children who need it most, primarily those who suffer socio-economic disadvantage. This is a move parents, educators and school divisions have been calling on for years and other provinces have been doing for years. Full-day kindergarten helps children get a jump on their education and studies show they are better prepared cognitively and socially when they have access to full-day

kindergarten. We make this investment in the future because it is the right thing to do.  
Cost: \$50 million fully rolled out over 5 years

#### 7) More Exercise in Schools

The Manitoba Liberal Party is ready to make sure our children are getting enough exercise while in school and will work with teachers and school divisions to make this happen. Children who get regular exercise are able to focus better in class and will become healthier adults. It's the sound body, sound mind principle. Physical education and music were two of the biggest victims of the cuts in the 90's, Cost: Infrastructure already in place, this will save health care dollars in the long run.

#### 8) Liberals Commit to School in South Brandon

The Manitoba Liberal Party, if elected on April 19th will build the school in south Brandon that has so badly been needed and ignored for years now. The NDP have long promised it, but never delivered until the year of the election and the PCs just do not care to invest in education.

### **SMARTER GOVERNMENT**

#### 1) Financial Security Through Mincome

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#### 2) Better Price on Liquor

Manitoba Liberals are committed to better pricing for beer, wine, and spirits. Under a Liberal government, the system will move from wholly-government controlled to government supplied and privately sold. This will essentially be the same model adopted for MPI, where the Crown provides the service and private business sells the product. We

anticipate robust growth in this industry that will spur increased selection and improved price. Cost: Neutral

### 3) Focus on Fixing Our Roads

Municipal leaders from across the province have been calling for one point of PST revenue to go directly to municipal priorities. This will give them predictable funding to plan into the future. The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to a dedicated Municipal Infrastructure Fund. Cost: Already budgeted

### 4) Fair Share for Municipalities

The Manitoba Liberal Party, if elected in April of 2016, will rebate PST paid by municipal governments, including the major cities. This will return \$25 million to local government when fully implemented. We will phase this in over 5 years at a rate of 20 percent each year.

### 5) Proportional Representation

Today, the Manitoba Liberal Party is committing to electoral reform that ensures every vote counts. If elected in 2016 we will move to a form of proportional representation in time for the next provincial election.

### 6) More Powers for Auditor General

The Auditor General plays a key role in Manitoba, ensuring the government is not only playing by the rules, but is using taxpayer funds wisely. We believe the Auditor General should have more powers to investigate and report failings of government without interference or editing by the ruling party. Cost: Less than \$1 million.

### 7) Improved Traffic Safety in Rural MB

Too often, traffic safety in our smaller communities is neglected. This has created a two-tier system of safety and this, in our opinion, is not acceptable. If traffic lights or crosswalks are needed near schools, we will ensure those items are in place. The safety of our citizens is a priority no matter where they live. Cost: Included in Municipal Infrastructure Fund.

### 8) Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women

First Nations women are far more likely to go missing or be murdered than other women, and First Nations and all Manitobans deserve to know why this is. Countless Manitobans have repeatedly called for a national inquiry into missing and murdered Aboriginal women, and we support this call. It's the right thing to do. The federal government had

pledged to taking steps towards an inquiry, and we fully support their efforts, here in Manitoba. Cost: \$1-2 million.

#### 9) Drain Lake Manitoba

Lake Manitoba needs a permanent outlet for water coming from the Assiniboine River. We are committed to building a permanent outlet that allows Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin to drain into Lake Winnipeg. Cost: \$200 – \$450 million depending on design (Will be completed after the budget is balanced.)

#### 10) Drug Treatment Court

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to investing more in drug treatment courts to keep non-violent offenders who need help more than prison a chance to plead guilty and get that help instead of costly court and jail time. This will save the province millions of dollars in justice costs that just aren't necessary. The Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court (WDTC) is funded by the federal government and we will double that funding to get better results for more people. Cost: \$400,000 yearly, but it will be a net savings to Manitobans.

#### 11) Fix Our Roads

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to fixing our roads. We feel we need to repair and maintain our current infrastructure before investing in new roads or mega-projects that can wait. It would be our preference to see investments begin in the core of cities to encourage greater density and growth in the downtown areas. We will also prioritize regional routes that carry the bulk of our traffic. Cost: Already budgeted, this is about priorities

#### 12) 10% of the Seats in the Manitoba Legislature to Indigenous Peoples

The Manitoba Liberal Party is ready to ensure Indigenous Manitobans are part of the decision making of their government. We offer a real seat at the table and that mean affording 10 percent of the seats in the Manitoba Legislature to Indigenous persons under proportional representation. Reconciliation requires action not just words. Cost: No cost, the only cost is in doing nothing to include our Indigenous Manitobans

#### 13) End Excessive Perks for MLAs

Manitoba Liberals will start the search for savings in government at the top in the Legislature. The premier, ministers and the leader of the official opposition will no longer get a car provided to them. Manitobans don't get a free car to drive and neither should the governing executive. We will also drastically reduce the amount of mailers an MLA can

send to constituents. These have become partisan communications pieces and Manitobans don't want them. They certainly shouldn't have to pay for them. Cost: Net savings

## **BETTER TAXATION**

### 1) PST Off Children's Sporting Goods

We believe all children should have the chance to be involved in sports. That is why the Manitoba Liberal Party, if elected in 2016, will remove all PST from children's sporting goods, up to and including age 14. Children's clothing is already PST exempt, and we believe every little bit counts for parents trying to get the most from their budget. Cost: \$3-4 million annually

### 2) PST Off Cut and Colour

The Manitoba Liberal Party will remove the PST from salon services over \$50. This is a tax that disproportionately affects women and is harmful to the economy of our province. Salon services are exempt on haircuts and other services under \$50 and PST was only added to services over \$50 in 2012 under the current government. This commitment is one way we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of Manitobans. Cost: \$7 Million Annually

### 3) No Land Transfer Tax for 1st Time Homebuyers

Low mortgage rates are great, but the cost of purchasing a home is often out of reach for many young buyers. That's why the Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to removing the Land Transfer Tax for first-time home buyers to mitigate the costs of owning a home and encourage more Manitobans to buy property. *Cost: \$10 million annually*

### 4) Phase Out of Payroll Tax

The payroll tax is nothing more than a tax on success and on jobs. Manitoba businesses are some of the last in the country to still pay a tax on their payroll. Business leaders have told us they want this gone and we are listening. We will start by removing the payroll tax from educational institutions once the provincial budget is in balance. Cost: \$450 million long-term (Payroll tax will be phased out over time, commencing once the budget is balanced.)

### 5) Fair Share for Municipalities

The Manitoba Liberal Party, if elected in April of 2016, will rebate PST paid by municipal governments, including the major cities. This will return \$25 million to local government when fully implemented. We will phase this in over 5 years at a rate of 20 percent each year.

## **CLEANER ENVIRONMENT**

### 1) Lake Manitoba

Lake Manitoba needs a permanent outlet for water coming from the Assiniboine River. We are committed to building a permanent outlet that allows Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin to drain into Lake Winnipeg, and our federal cousins are on board and prepared to invest \$240 million. *Cost: \$200 – \$450 million depending on design*

### 2) Idling Law

The Manitoba Liberal Party is committed to passing anti-idling legislation to get Manitobans to turn off their vehicles when they are parked. The goal is to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases entering our atmosphere and to reduce pollution and carcinogens in our communities. The law would be specifically for areas near schools, parks and hospitals where children and the most vulnerable are present, but the hope is that awareness will help more Manitobans turn off the car in other areas. *Cost: No Cost*

### 3) Vehicle Rebates

The Manitoba Liberal Party is ready to engage Manitobans who want to be part of the solution to combating climate change. We will offer rebates on new vehicle purchases to offset the cost for those who buy fuel efficient vehicles. The rebate will be determined by the fuel efficiency of the vehicle on a sliding scale and be as high as \$5,000. We want Manitobans to take a proactive role in combating climate change and feel this is the first step to driving that movement. *Cost: \$2 million annually.*

### 4) Lake Winnipeg Commitment

The Manitoba Liberal Party is ready to place a priority on Lake Winnipeg and that starts with a minister in charge of the health of the lake. We would also set up a Lake Winnipeg Advisory Council. We will amend the Phosphorus Reduction Act to eliminate phosphorus from all soaps including industrial-use soaps and detergents. Presently the Phosphorus Reduction Act exempts industrial and commercial dishwashers. We will introduce legislation banning micro beads from all products sold in Manitoba similar to legislations passed in the United States and in progress in Ontario. *Cost: \$400,000 annually to support a Lake Winnipeg Advisory Council*