

# Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy

Annual Report  
2021 – 2022



Pursuant to The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, this document reports on the status of indicators of poverty reduction and social inclusion in the 2021/22 fiscal year.

**This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.**

**For alternate format requests, please contact [povertyreduction@gov.mb.ca](mailto:povertyreduction@gov.mb.ca).**

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

## **Message from Poverty Reduction Committee Co-Chairs**

As co-chairs of Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Committee, we are pleased to present the 2021/22 annual report on Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy, which highlights our work and achievements in reducing poverty and creating opportunities for a better quality of life for all Manitobans.

[Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) (2019) continues to guide our work to break the cycle of poverty by focusing on pathways that lift Manitobans out of poverty and improve outcomes for families, children and youth.

Our strategy recognizes that poverty is complex and requires a whole of government approach that brings together the collaborative work from across departments, agencies, other levels of governments, and community partners to improve the lives of Manitobans. This annual report will highlight these collective efforts to address the varied facets of poverty along the six priority areas of the strategy.

As 2021/22 saw the emergence of various COVID-19 variants, this report will also present some of the COVID-19 response efforts taken to help vulnerable Manitobans during these difficult times.

This report includes data on 13 poverty indicators to measure our progress in reducing poverty and social exclusion. We are happy to note that based on the most recent data from Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, Manitoba's child poverty rate fell to six per cent in 2020 from 19.3 per cent in 2015, which is a 69 per cent improvement. There were 35,000 fewer Manitoba children living in poverty in 2020 compared to 2015. This shows that Manitoba has exceeded its key target to reduce child poverty rate by 25 per cent by the year 2025, compared to the 2015 baseline.

While we have achieved significant progress, we must continue to work together with our partners in the face of great challenges ahead. The impact of COVID-19 continues, disproportionately affecting Manitobans who are living in poverty. Events in the latter part of 2021/22 created inflationary pressures, resulting in inflation rates not seen in decades, which sharply reduces the purchasing power of family and individual incomes. Amid the difficulties and financial hardship that the future may bring to the most vulnerable Manitobans, our government remains committed to sustain, if not surpass our progress in creating a better future for all Manitobans.

Sincerely,



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 2021/22**

In 2021/22, Manitoba demonstrated its resiliency in enduring the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Manitoba government and communities worked together to put the province back on track to recovery while protecting Manitobans.

Amid the difficulties caused by the pandemic, the Manitoba government remained focused on its commitment to reduce poverty and promote the well-being of all Manitobans. This commitment was entrenched in law in 2011 through The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, which sets out the requirements for a long-term provincial strategy, the establishment of poverty indicators to measure the progress of the strategy, and annual reporting of progress.

Manitoba made significant achievements in several areas, supporting those in greatest need: Manitobans experiencing homelessness, persons with severe and prolonged disabilities, adult Manitobans with an intellectual disability, Manitobans at risk of gender-based violence, and youth who are exiting child welfare. At the same time, the government made important strides in improving supports for Manitobans by strengthening our systems – transforming the Employment and Income Assistance program, modernizing the child care system, improving Kindergarten to Grade 12 education, updating the tax system, and innovating service delivery through the Social Innovation Office.

This annual report highlights these achievements in 2021/22 and presents the data on thirteen indicators to measure our progress.

## **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, 2022, members of the Poverty Reduction Committee were<sup>1</sup>:

- Honourable Rochelle Squires, Families (co-chair)
- Honourable Wayne Ewasko, Education and Early Childhood Learning (co-chair)
- Honourable Dr. Alan Lagimodiere, Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations
- Honourable Jon Reyes, Advanced Education, Skills and Immigration
- Honourable Sarah Guillemard, Mental Health and Community Wellness

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<sup>1</sup> There was a Cabinet shuffle and re-organization on January 18, 2022, wherein the previous co-chair Honourable Cliff Cullen, Minister of Education moved to another portfolio, and some department names were changed.

- Bob Lagassé, MLA for Dawson Trail
- Dilly Knol
- Jeremy Smith
- Ashling Sweeny
- Bonnie Emerson

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

In March 2019, the Manitoba government released [Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), a multi-year, whole-of-government strategy focused on creating pathways to success and positive outcomes for Manitobans. Its vision is that "all Manitobans have resources, opportunities, and access to achieve a better quality of life."

Built on the spirit of reconciliation, the strategy is focused around six priority areas:

- 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

The strategy recognizes that building pathways to a better life around these priority areas requires strong partnerships with communities, organizational stakeholders, and other orders of government.

## **Highlights of Actions Taken in 2021/22**

This section shares some of the key initiatives that the Manitoba government undertook to create a better life for Manitobans.

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

#### **Enhancing Opportunities for Early Learning and Child Care**

Having access to affordable and high quality early learning and child care (ELCC) is an essential component of a successful poverty reduction strategy. The Manitoba government is committed to further building its early learning and child care system by increasing the quality, accessibility, affordability, flexibility and inclusivity in early learning and child care. This includes investments in school-aged child-care spaces, as well as focusing on additional investments to enhance and expand the services and programs that support the needs of children, parents, families, and communities.

Key achievements from the provincial early learning and child care program during 2021/22 include:

- Funded 233 new home-based family child care spaces.

- Funded 458 new spaces in centres through the development of new community and school-based capital projects.
- Issued three Letters of Eligibility to corporations to support the development of 196 new child care spaces in future years under the Child Care Centre Development Tax Credit program.
- Through the Inclusion Support Program dual stream service approach, supported 1,043 unique children with additional support needs to attend child care by assisting eligible child care facilities in addressing barriers to allow all children to participate in programming.

### **Modern Child Care System**

Changes to create a modern child care system and funding model will enable and support the child care sector to grow in line with demand from Manitoba families. The modernized child care system will make child care more affordable; increase access to licensed care; and offer more choices and flexibility that reflect the needs and challenges facing today's parents.

To support this modernization, Manitoba introduced Bill 47: The Early Learning and Child Care Act, which formally introduces the concept of early learning into legislation, and enables more responsive and flexible ELCC services to better meet the diverse needs of families and children, as well as the maintenance and sustainability of high standards for ELCC services. Bill 47 received Royal Assent in June 2021, and the new act will come into effect upon proclamation at the same time as new ELCC regulations are finalized.

### **Child Care Subsidy Program – Increased Income Thresholds**

In August 2021, Manitoba entered into the Canada-Manitoba Canada-wide ELCC Agreement, providing Manitoba with \$1.2 billion over five years to support affordable, accessible, inclusive and high quality child care. A key objective of the Canada-wide ELCC Agreement is to reduce child care fees by 50 per cent by 2023, with the goal of achieving an average out of pocket parent fee of \$10 per day by March 31, 2026.

In February 2022, Manitoba invested a total of \$82.7 million through a combination of federal and provincial funding to increase income thresholds under the Child Care Subsidy Program by 45 per cent. This change was supported through amendments to the Child Care Regulations and will expand program eligibility, supporting increased workforce participation for low and middle-income families. It is estimated that up to an additional 12,000 children will become eligible for subsidy in the first year. This funding allows more parents to move forward with employment or educational plans. Increasing the threshold for subsidies is a first step to affordability supports for families who need it the most, with the goal of improving affordability for all Manitobans over the coming years.

## **New and Innovative Funding for Child Care**

In February 2022, Manitoba and Canada signed the 2021/22 – 2024/25 Canada-Manitoba ELCC Agreement providing Manitoba with federal funding to enhance and expand regulated ELCC services for children under six. This agreement is an extension of the previous agreement and the majority of the funding supported ongoing operational costs for spaces created under the 2017/18 – 2019/20 agreement.

In addition, the government of Manitoba provided funding support for the creation of child care spaces through the Child Care Centre Development Tax Credit, an innovative way of fostering private sector partnerships. This funding approach provides a tax credit to private corporations who invest in new ELCC spaces to support their employees and the surrounding community. In 2021/22, a total of \$1.96 million in tax credits was committed to support the creation of up to 196 child care spaces. There has been significant, positive interest in the tax credit.

Additional innovative funding approach is through the Child Care Sustainability Trust, an endowment fund managed by the Winnipeg Foundation. In June 2021, \$111,000 was provided to eight centres and two home-based child care operators through the Trust for infrastructure improvements and to replace aging equipment in their facilities.

Recognizing the importance of a strong workforce in achieving a high quality, affordable and accessible early learning and child care, an investment of more than \$19 million was made to begin offering targeted support for the recruitment and retention of qualified staff for the early learning sector. By the end of March 2022, over \$12 million of the investment was used to:

- increase wages for eligible current staff that enhance economic stability and support the lowest-paid workers in the sector;
- provide a one year “top-up” of the percentage offered by Manitoba to the pension plan for centres and the RRSP program for home child care providers; and
- provide facilities with funding to provide staff a one-time investment in a tax-free savings account, to support increased financial security of the workforce based on years of service.

## **Removing Barriers to Education, Employment and Training Opportunities for Youth**

Through targeted youth programming, the Manitoba government provided more than 15,500 youth under 30 with job readiness and job search supports, employment opportunities and business development supports to help them navigate the Manitoba labour market and successfully access employment.

The government partnered with post-secondary institutions, child and family services Authorities and the non-profit sector to assist youth through the Tuition Waiver Program

and the Advancing Futures Bursary. These programs removed financial barriers for youth currently or formerly in care to access post-secondary education. In 2021/22, 311 Advancing Futures Bursaries were awarded.

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

### **Reducing the Tax Burden on Manitobans**

The Manitoba government is committed to reducing the tax burden on Manitobans while strengthening the services that families and individuals depend on. As part of the \$2,020 Tax Rollback Guarantee, Manitoba's Personal Income Tax Brackets and the Basic Personal Amount increased by 1.0 per cent for the 2021 taxation year as they are indexed to the Manitoba Consumer Price Index. As a result, an estimated 1,530 taxpayers were removed from the 2021 tax rolls.

Beginning in 2021, Manitoba began to phase out the education property taxes that are included on annual property tax statements by implementing the Education Property Tax Rebate.

Owners of residential and farm properties will continue to pay education property taxes but received a 25 per cent rebate of the school division special levy payable in 2021, while commercial property owners received a 10 per cent rebate.

### **Enhanced funding for Child Nutrition Programs in Schools**

In November 2021, the Manitoba government provided a funding increase of \$200,000 to the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba (CNCM) to increase support for school nourishment programs throughout the province. CNCM is a charitable organization that provides application-based grant funding to Manitoba schools for breakfast, lunch, and snack programs. This new funding was in addition to the \$976,000 funding provided annually by Manitoba and was intended to address the increased demand for school nutrition programs. In 2021, CNCM supported more than 271 programs, reaching more than 33,000 students per day. With the additional funding provided, CNCM was able to support 27 new programs, which increased their reach to approximately 36,000 students per day. Access to nutritional food at school supports the health and well-being of students, families and communities, and plays an important role in supporting students to learn and thrive at school.

### **Northern Healthy Foods Initiative**

The Northern Healthy Foods Initiative, a Manitoba government program, supports local and regional projects that contribute to the development of culturally relevant, healthy food systems, while improving the health and wellbeing of Manitobans. Northern Healthy Food Initiative goals are to improve sustainable access to healthy and culturally appropriate foods in Manitoba's north and strengthen community-led development in increasing food security.

## **Implementation of the National Housing Strategy**

Manitoba's 2021/22 allocation under the National Housing Strategy was \$19.4 million. The strategy is an agreement between Manitoba and Canada that aims to increase access to housing, reduce housing need and achieve better housing solutions; 2021/22 marked the third year of the agreement.

### *Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit*

Under the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit, one of the funding streams of the National Housing Strategy provides a portable rent subsidy to youth leaving the care of Child and Family Services, people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness, and people with mental health and addiction issues. As at March 31, 2022, 264 individuals are in receipt of the benefit.

### *Consultations with Housing Stakeholders*

Manitoba Housing led consultations with stakeholders during the summer of 2021 to inform the development of Manitoba Housing's second three-year action plan (2022/23 to 2024/25) under the National Housing Strategy. A [What We Heard report](#) summarizing feedback from the housing consultations has been released.

## **Supporting Affordable Housing and Addressing Homelessness**

In 2021/22, Manitoba Housing continued to invest in housing options and supports for Manitobans in housing need. Some key initiatives included:

- Completed construction of 62 affordable housing units in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson and continued the delivery of an additional 284 affordable housing units.
- Continued the construction of 40 Supportive Recovery Housing beds and units on behalf of Manitoba Mental Health and Community Wellness.
- Continued the delivery of \$2.0 million to develop 15 new homes and provide financial assistance for up to 77 families to enter into homeownership. Manitoba Housing also committed \$1.0 million to provide down-payment assistance to an additional 58 families.
- Sold seven 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.

The Manitoba government continued working in partnership with End Homelessness Winnipeg to increase service coordination, maximize the collective impact of all stakeholders and optimize provincial investments to address Winnipeg's homelessness challenges.

Other key 2021/22 initiatives include:

- Worked with the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association (MNPHA) in developing the Manitoba Rent Relief Fund in 2021/22. From May 2021 to March 2022, the Manitoba Rent Relief Fund provided 431 interest-free loans to prevent evictions and engaged over 1,000 households in intake conversations and connections to resources for housing and financial stability.
- Provided MNPHA with a one-time grant of \$2.56 million to provide wraparound supports for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Partnered with Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre Inc. on Astum Api Niikinaahk to help provide 22 units of culturally appropriate, low-income housing for people exiting unsheltered homelessness.
- Provided financial support for Ross Ellen Housing. Home First Winnipeg Inc., a non-profit registered charity established by Winnipeg's Pollard family, is developing 47 micro suites that will run on a Housing First model.

### **Homelessness Strategy**

The Manitoba government completed community consultations for the provincial homelessness strategy. The consultation team facilitated 32 sessions with 407 participants from businesses, municipalities and non-profit organizations and supported 12 agency-led sessions for people with lived experience. Government released the [What We Heard Report](#) in March 2022, which summarized the feedback and recommendations from participants.

### **Providing Mental Health Services and Supports**

Mental health problems and poverty are interrelated. 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. Below are initiatives undertaken in 2021/22 to provide mental health supports to Manitobans.

#### *Crisis Stabilization Unit and Expansion*

The Manitoba government invested more than \$500,000 in one-time funding to add six crisis stabilization unit beds to the Crisis Response Centre's intervention program in order to improve access to mental health services, reduce wait times and add bed capacity at Emergency Departments.

#### *Telepsychiatry Expansion*

The Manitoba government invested more than \$342,000 to provide emergency telepsychiatry assessments to rural Emergency Departments and First Nations communities in order to improve access and reduce travel for care.

### *RAAM Clinics*

The Manitoba government invested more than \$819,000 to increase the capacity of Winnipeg's two Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinics to deal with increased demand for addictions services during the pandemic.

In 2021/22, the Manitoba government also invested \$450,000 to support the RAAM Hub, a centralized coordination centre for RAAM Hubs throughout Manitoba, as well as \$250,000 for a RAAM clinic in Southern Health-Santé-Sud.

### *Supportive Recovery-Housing Units in Rural and Northern Manitoba*

The Manitoba Government invested in two supportive recovery-housing projects in Thompson and Brandon. Westman Youth for Christ Inc. has developed nine new supportive recovery-housing units in Brandon with an investment of nearly \$90,000 provided by the Manitoba government. They are dedicated to serving young people with social, physical, employment, health and well-being and spiritual supports. Men Are Part of the Solution Inc. (MAPS) based in Thompson is now offering an additional 12 supportive housing-recovery units for women. The additional \$402,000 from the province has allowed MAPS to expand its existing location, Phoenix House, to include women's units.

### *Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral*

The Canada and Manitoba governments are providing \$650,000 over three years to support the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral initiative, which provides early interventions and referrals to treatment for adults living with mental health and addictions issues.

### *Enhanced Funding to Healthy Together Now*

The Manitoba government provided \$400,000 in new funding to Healthy Together Now, focusing on mental health promotion. Healthy Together Now is a community-led, regionally co-ordinated program focused on preventing chronic disease. Projects are planned and led by individual communities while the Manitoba government and regional health authorities provide funding, support, and training. This enhanced funding will allow Healthy Together Now to support a variety of accessible mental health promotion programs recognizing the growing demand created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **InSight Mentoring Program**

In 2021/22, the Manitoba government invested \$1.5 million in the InSight Mentoring Program, an evidence-based Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention program for people who are pregnant or have a child/children under 1 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. Evaluation has shown that

participants in the InSight program had a reduced risk of alcohol use during pregnancy. InSight has seven program sites: Winnipeg (two sites), Portage la Prairie, Dauphin, The Pas, Flin Flon, and Thompson.

### **A New Disability Income Program for Persons with Severe and Prolonged Disabilities**

The Disability Support Act was introduced in April 2021 and received Royal Assent in October 2021. The Act establishes a framework for a new income support program for persons with severe and prolonged disabilities, separate from Employment and Income Assistance. Throughout 2021/22, work on program design and consultation with stakeholders continued; implementation of the new program is expected to launch in late 2022.

### **Indexation of Rent Assist Benefits**

Rent Assist provides financial supports to Manitobans renting in the private market. The benefit is available to persons who receive monthly benefits through Employment and Income Assistance (EIA), and by application to persons not receiving EIA. The Manitoba Assistance Act requires the annual indexation of Rent Assist benefits to reflect the actual cost of renting. Rent Assist benefits for persons enrolled on EIA are indexed to reflect 75 per cent of the median market rent rate. In 2021/22, more than \$20 million was invested in the non-EIA Rent Assist budget, and the formula for determining benefits was amended to reflect 80 per cent of the median market rent.

### **Comprehensive Provincial Diabetes Strategy**

Recognizing that type 2 diabetes disproportionately affects individuals living in poverty, the Manitoba government is developing the Manitoba Diabetes Action Plan, which will consist of recommended actions to improve the prevention of type 2 diabetes and diabetes-related complications, and enhance the care and management of diabetes in Manitoba.

## **3. Promoting economic inclusion through employment, education and training**

### **Helping Children and Youth Succeed in School**

Education is a foundation for building life-skills, creating inclusion and helping children and youth explore pathways to success. Examples of how the Manitoba government worked to improve the educational outcomes in 2021/22 included:

- Consultation sessions were held in the fall of 2021 with school division representatives, education stakeholder associations, parents and students, to inform the focus areas and priorities of the K-12 Education Action Plan.

- The Provincial Task Force on Poverty and Education was established in the fall of 2021 to provide actionable recommendations to support children living in poverty and reduce barriers to their participation in learning, with an understanding that Indigenous youth are overrepresented amongst those experiencing the impacts of poverty. This follows-up on a recommendation of the Commission on Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education and correlates with the province's Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- The Manitoba government launched a review to develop a new education funding model, including consultations with school divisions and key education stakeholder organizations in 2021/22. Building on the findings of the Commission on K to 12 Education, the new funding model will update and simplify the funding formula, address differences in programming, particularly in rural, remote and northern communities and ensure the equitable allocation of provincial funding so all students succeed regardless of where they live, their background or their individual circumstances.
- A five-year, \$25-million Teachers' Idea Fund was launched in 2021/22 to enhance classroom supports and improve student outcomes and well-being. The Idea Fund provides an opportunity for teachers, staff and school leaders to be involved in finding solutions to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, student transitions, mental health and well-being, and other leading models of teaching and learning. Proposals that advance achievement for Indigenous students, newcomer students, students with special learning needs and French-language instruction were encouraged. Projects implemented in 2021/22 included improving mental health, increasing math and literacy skills, and incorporating land-learning and greater cultural exposure and learning experiences.
- A Student Advisory Council is sharing their experiences, insights and input on education. The 2021/22 council consists of 30 students aged 14 to 18 with diverse interests, identities, backgrounds and perspectives from across the province and include Indigenous, French language, 2SLGBTQQIA+, visible-minority students and students with a disability.
- The Community Schools Program increased mental health and addictions resources and related prevention programming for students and families. The program supports the capacity of schools as hubs within communities to strategically gather and deploy school-community services and resources in ways that attain better outcomes for students, families and neighbourhoods that have concentrated disadvantages.

## **Skills Development and Training**

Lack of skills needed for employment contributes to the cycle of poverty. Manitoba invested in skills development and training initiatives to create pathways out of poverty. Below are some of these initiatives undertaken in 2021/22.

### *Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centres*

The Manitoba government delivers a wide range of programming to help individuals develop the skills they need to participate in the labour market. The government administers employment and training services through 13 Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centres across the province and through a network of service providers. In 2021/22, more than 27,700 Manitobans received employment and training services.

### *Skills Development Program*

Manitoba recognizes that skills development can assist in breaking down barriers to employment and link individuals to meaningful careers and sustainable employment opportunities. In 2021/22, over 6,200 Manitobans accessed training opportunities through the Skills Development program.

### *Supporting Training Opportunities in Northern Manitoba*

Manitoba has partnered with the Northern Manitoba Sector Council to deliver the Northern Industry Collaborative Employment project, which supports the design and implementation of training to employment activities for unemployed/underemployed northern Manitobans. The project aims to address labour force development needs while assisting individuals to gain sustainable employment. Projects underway include two workforce adjustment services for workers impacted by closures or near-completion mining and Hydro development projects such as Hudbay Minerals Inc.'s 777 mine, mill and zinc plant closure in Flin Flon and the Keeyask hydroelectric generating station.

Manitoba supported Indigenous individuals with skills training aligned with the Look North Strategy to enhance skills and employment opportunities in new and emerging sectors such as the Women in Industry training project and the Information Technology Readiness program to enhance access for Indigenous women to non-traditional jobs.

Manitoba's Communities Economic Development Fund partnered with University College of the North (UCN) and other stakeholders on the Northern Hospitality Technology Adaptation Project, which assisted seven northern restaurants and lodges upgrading their digital infrastructure and processes to accommodate online ordering. Six interns from the UCN Technology program in The Pas/Opaskwayak Cree Nation worked on completing the project as part of their work experience training.

## **Workforce Training Opportunities for Women**

The employment rate is lower for women than for men. In 2021/22, the Manitoba government provided workforce training for women to help them succeed in the labour market.

### *Trades Training for Indigenous Women*

On August 18, 2021, the Manitoba government announced more than \$600,000 in funding to partner with the Manitoba Construction Sector Council to deliver a multi-faceted, skilled trades training initiative for Indigenous women in four northern and remote communities. This is a significant step in advancing economic equality for women by supporting programs and initiatives that help more women succeed in non-traditional work industries that provide sustainable and reliable employment opportunities, and help to support communities that require these skilled workers. Four communities participated in these programs; Pinaymootang First Nation, Pimicikamak Cree Nation, Dakota Tipi First Nation and York Landing First Nation.

### *Aerospace Training*

The Manitoba government has provided \$285,000 in funding for a multi-faceted training initiative that trained up to 15 women and then transitioned them into the aerospace industry. With women making up less than 20 per cent of skilled workers in aerospace and aviation sectors in Manitoba, this program will address the immediate need of workers and provide women in Manitoba a well-paid and skilled job. The program began in early 2022, with 12 successful trainees hired at StandardAero with opportunities to progress as journeypersons or upgrade their skills through Apprenticeship Manitoba

## **Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Awards**

The Manitoba government provided \$5,000 to Manitoba Indigenous Youth Achievement Awards in 2021. The Awards bring Indigenous communities together in celebration of youth role models who have demonstrated leadership abilities. In addition to providing financial support for recipients, the Awards strengthen the confidence of Indigenous youth leaders through recognizing their successes. The government sponsored a scholarship awarded to a female Indigenous youth who demonstrated significant dedication to the preservation and understanding of Indigenous cultures and languages.

## **Partnerships with Manitoba Universities and Colleges**

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, Prep for Post-Secondary Education, Social Work, and Teacher 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 goal.

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 on a 2:1 private to public ratio. The organizations assess, determine and award scholarships and bursaries to students. Preliminary estimates show that in 2021/22 Manitoba's investment of close to \$10 million has helped institutions to provide around \$30 million to 20,150 students, including over 3,200 Indigenous students. The bursaries and scholarships helped many students to overcome barriers to accessing post-secondary education.

### **Supporting Apprenticeship Opportunities**

Apprenticeship Manitoba is working with Skills Canada-Manitoba to promote the skilled trades to youth. Skills Canada-Manitoba connects with schools from across Manitoba to promote the skilled trades to youth and target groups through a variety of presentations as part of its in-school program. This includes Hands-On – Try-a-Trade activities, where possible, to directly expose youth to the possibility of a career in the trades.

Through its partnership with Apprenticeship Manitoba, Manitoba Building Trades operates the Manitoba Building Trades Exhibition Hall, which aims to expose youth to the skilled trades as a career option. The Exhibition Hall features the skilled construction trades and provides interactive experiences, such as Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality, training simulator technology for youths from grades 9 to 12. The Exhibition Hall promotes economic inclusion, allowing for all young people to be directly immersed in the world of a skilled construction tradesperson.

Technical training for apprentices is largely subsidized by the Manitoba government. The government funds approximately 90 per cent of training costs for apprentices, while apprentices contribute the remaining 10 per cent of personal contribution fees, making apprenticeship an affordable post-secondary option for Manitobans. Furthermore, there are a variety of grants and other financial incentives available for apprentices. These supports allow apprenticeship to be an accessible training option to those who may require financial assistance with tuition fees, textbooks, purchasing of new tools, childcare, travel and lodging expenses.

### **Adult Learning and Literacy Programs**

Strong literacy and numeracy skills are associated with successful participation in social and economic life, contributing to the reduction of poverty and increasing benefits for individuals and families. Manitoba's Adult Learning and Literacy programs help Manitobans improve their ability to understand and employ printed information in daily living activities at work, at home, and in the community and to obtain high school

credentials so they can access higher education and/or better employment opportunities. Programming is tuition-free to participants. Adult Learning and Literacy also administers the General Educational Development (GED) Testing Service in Manitoba. GED certificates are recognized by most employers and may be accepted for employment, apprenticeship admission, and other training programs.

### **Seed Winnipeg: Recognition Counts**

Recognition Counts is a program that provides supports to skilled immigrants wishing to have their training/certification acquired in a country outside Canada recognized so they can work in their fields of expertise in Manitoba. The program offers financial counselling, as well as the opportunity to apply for a loan of up to \$15,000, to help with the cost of having international qualifications recognized in Manitoba and obtaining employment in a profession or trade. The financial counselling and loans provided positively impacts the employment of skilled immigrants in Manitoba enabling economic inclusion.

### **Jobs On**

Jobs On is a rapid employment-engagement service model with centres in Brandon and Winnipeg that works with EIA participants assessed as closest to the labour market. The objective of the Jobs On model is to support clients to overcome barriers and move to employment, to prevent long-term dependency. In service of this goal, Jobs On staff quickly engage with clients and provide referrals to appropriate employment programming. In 2021/22, Jobs On 9th in Brandon served more than 355 participants, while Jobs On Market in Winnipeg served more than 2,270 participants.

## **4. Facilitating partnerships and supporting community-based organizations**

### **Supporting Resource Centres, Shelters and Programs for Vulnerable Manitobans**

Community organizations play a vital role in delivering essential services to the most vulnerable Manitobans. The Manitoba government provided supports for community resource centres, shelters and community programs that are benefitting the homeless, persons at risk of domestic violence, Indigenous youth, and those who are struggling with mental health problems and substance misuse. Some of these initiatives are profiled below.

#### *The Pas Family Resource Centre (Minisewin Waska)*

Minisewin Waska is an Indigenous led, non-profit organization that is a cultural support space for Indigenous individuals, specifically youth. This organization received \$245,000 for renovating a recently acquired larger and more suitable space in the downtown core. The renovation will ensure accessibility, safe space for cultural

traditional practices and arts, gatherings or ceremony and a commercial kitchen for the preparation of traditional foods.

#### *West Central Women's Resource Centre and North End Women's Centre*

Manitoba supported transitional housing operated by West Central Women's Resource Centre (\$855,600) and North End Women's Centre (\$400,000). This funding supports safe, supportive and culturally appropriate transitional housing units for women in recovery from trauma, including wrap-around supports and a place where women can rebuild a sense of community.

#### *N'Dinawemak and Oscar's Place Shelters*

In 2021/22, Manitoba invested \$1.5 million in operating and \$660,000 in capital funds to support N'Dinawemak, a new 150-bed homeless shelter in Winnipeg. Overseen by End Homelessness Winnipeg, the facility operates 24/7 providing overnight shelter and resources, cultural programming and practical supports during the day.

As well, government provided an additional \$75,400 to the homeless shelter in The Pas, Oscar's Place, to stabilize and ensure sustainable operations.

#### *Shelter Support Foundations Microcredential Training*

The Manitoba government, Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters and End Homelessness Winnipeg have collaborated on a program that will address unprecedented shelter staffing shortages by providing microcredential training at Red River College Polytechnic. Developing this program began in the early months of 2021. Manitoba entered into a contribution agreement with the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters for \$450,000 to cover costs of developing the Shelter Support Foundations Microcredential and the delivery of the initial cohort which will take place in Winter of 2023. This program will serve to train individuals for the shelter sector, while increasing capacity at Family Violence Prevention Program funded shelters and agencies involved with End Homelessness Winnipeg.

#### *Holy Name House of Peace*

Holy Name House of Peace works with women who may be survivors of domestic violence, or are struggling with mental health problems. It empowers women allowing them time to heal, further their education and find employment. Programming includes counselling and five step sessions, youth groups, groups for women trapped in abuse and hosts workshops and cultural events throughout the year. In 2021/22 the Manitoba government approved funding of \$500,000 for their "Beyond Bricks" campaign, to purchase their current building to ensure the program is able to continue.

#### *Buffalo Riders*

The Canada and Manitoba governments provided \$350,000 to the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation in support of the Buffalo Riders program, which provides early interventions for Indigenous youth at risk for substance use and addictions.

### *Youth Hub Expansion*

The Manitoba government, Shared Health and a group of philanthropic partners led by United Way Winnipeg expanded Integrated Youth Services in Manitoba by awarding five additional Youth Hub sites. The Manitoba government is investing \$1.05 million annually in this youth hub expansion, plus additional funding for the re-branding of integrated youth services throughout the province to Huddle Manitoba.

### *The Mothering Project*

In 2021/22, 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.*

The Manitoba Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Strategy, which was launched in 2007, ensures that all Manitoba FASD programs and initiatives, across all areas of government and community service, are working together towards the common goal of supporting those impacted by FASD and alcohol use in pregnancy. 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.

### *Clan Mother Turtle Lodge's Healing Village*

Manitoba supported the Clan Mother Turtle Lodge's healing village. Aiming to address several Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, including reduction of children in care and expanded supports for traditional healing practices, the healing village provides healing and opportunities for experiential, sexually trafficked and exploited individuals.

### **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:

- From 2020/21 - 2021/22, \$238,500 in total was provided to enhance the Swan Valley Community Mobilization Initiative (\$58,500), Winkler Community Care Program (\$90,000) and Altona CommUNITY Support Team (\$90,000). To further increase the number of at-risk individuals and families supported by this community driven process, an additional \$50,000 is provided annually to each of these initiatives to employ a Community Mobilization Coordinator.
- Funding was provided in October 2021 for the development and implementation of the City of Thompson's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. The plan identified areas to focus collective efforts and improve safety and wellbeing within the city.

## **Victim Services**

There is a close association between poverty and violence. Individuals who are victims of domestic violence and crime are often also victims of poverty. Equally, violence is often also caused by the stress and trauma that poverty brings.

The Manitoba government supports victims of domestic violence and serious crimes, as outlined in The Victims' Bill of Rights, through trauma-informed, culturally relevant supports and services. The government also facilitates partnerships with several community-based agencies including:

- The Ndinawe Child and Youth Care Practitioner Program received \$30,000 in 2021/22 from Victim Services. The program is an accredited training program that specifically supports individuals with a history of sexual exploitation to receive a Child and Youth Care Practitioner certificate or a two-year diploma from Red River College Polytechnic.
- Resource Assistance for Youth received \$300,000 for 2021/22 to 2023/24 from the government to support its Justice Program. The project plans to develop a Mental Health Booth at West End 24 Hour Safe Space for Youth for youth experiencing marginalization, street entrenchment, and/or homelessness to access low barrier mental health support.

## **Keeping Indigenous Women and Girls Safe**

The Manitoba poverty reduction strategy takes a reconciliation-focused approach to building pathways to a better life for Indigenous people. In partnership with Indigenous communities and organizations, the Manitoba government is committed to building a safe and inclusive environment, where the Indigenous people are provided with opportunities to live safely and achieve economic prosperity.

In February 2022, the Government of Manitoba announced a partnership with Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre and the provision of \$130,000 in funding to support the co-development of a provincial implementation plan to raise awareness and end violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples in Manitoba. While the province has taken many steps in its efforts to address the issues of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG), further alignment of government

actions with Indigenous and community-based priorities is needed along with funding for a co-ordinated provincial response. The plan will be Indigenous-led and informed by the federal government's national action plan addressing the Calls for Justice put forward in the final report from the National Inquiry into MMIWG.

### **Building Sustainable Communities Program Funding**

The government's 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 2021/22 the Building Sustainable Communities program budget was increased by \$3.3 million for a total of \$13.6 million (\$5.6 million allocated to a new large capital stream and \$7.9 million for the regular stream) to aid in Manitoba's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. A total of 307 projects were approved to support community projects by non-profit and charitable organizations, municipalities, and Northern Affairs community councils.

### **Urban/Hometown Green Team Program**

The government's 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 2021/22, the Urban/Green Team program budget was increased by \$5.0 million for a total of \$9.0 million to aid in Manitoba's COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. A total of 691 projects were approved to support approximately 2,260 youth employment opportunities across Manitoba. This included over \$1M in funding to municipal governments to hire youth to work on 133 community projects throughout rural Manitoba.

## **5. Strengthening client-centred service delivery**

### **Advancing the Path to Reconciliation**

Poverty and the legacy of colonialism are closely connected. The experience of poverty for Indigenous people is different than other communities. Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy is part of Manitoba's commitment to forge a path to reconciliation. Taking a reconciliation-focused approach, the strategy seeks to foster healing and create a more equitable and inclusive society.

In March 2022, The Path to Reconciliation Act was amended to include the Calls for Justice as a guiding tool as we work to advance reconciliation in Manitoba. This amendment was introduced to reflect the work of the National Inquiry for Murdered and missing Indigenous Women and Girls, and ensure that the safety of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ peoples is included as a reconciliatory priority.

## **Diagnostic Supports For Young Adults With FASD**

The Adult Diagnostic Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) three-year pilot project completed its second year. The pilot includes access to the diagnosis program as well as case management 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 three years (2020/21 to 2022/23) in provincial funding, as well as more than \$375,000 in in-kind support over the same three-year period for staffing, training, and other provisions. This includes continued focus on the FASD Court docket, which provides responsive judicial sentences for those diagnosed with FASD. The expanded capacity for strength-based, responsive supports ensure youth and young adults with FASD diagnosis are connected to effective resources, ultimately providing better outcomes for program participants and communities.

## **Supports for Clients Leaving Justice Custody**

The Manitoba government has trained a number of probation officers in Winnipeg in the delivery of Employment and Income Assistance benefits, ensuring income supports to clients leaving justice custody and reintegrating into the community. This assists in eliminating the waiting period to access these benefits, ensuring people are able to immediately qualify for housing, purchase food and other essential items, thereby reducing poverty with individuals leaving custody.

## **Mental Health and Substance Misuse Training Program for Family Violence Sector Employees**

The Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters was awarded \$30,000 to work with an appropriate subject matter expert to develop and implement a free, virtual training program for family violence sector employees focused on improving employee capacity to work with and support clients who are presenting mental health and substance misuse issues. In November 2021, the partnership between the Manitoba government, Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters, the subject matter expert and the University of Manitoba Social Work was announced.

## **Vulnerable Persons Task Force – Implementing the Recommendations**

The Manitoba government is committed to supporting adults with an intellectual disability to lead inclusive, satisfying lives in the community. In September 2020, the Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Task Force was established to identify opportunities to transform the system of supports for adults with an intellectual disability. In December 2021, the government released the task force final report *Pathways to Dignity: Rights, Safeguards, Planning and Decision Making*, along with a two-year implementation plan beginning January 2022.

In the first quarter of 2022, notable successes included:

- Providing \$100,000 to Inclusion Winnipeg to deliver person-centred training across the province to direct service workers employed by service providers and community

service workers employed by the government. Person-centered planning is a way of offering services that focuses on the goals, dreams and wishes of individuals.

- Providing \$675,000 to the 120 Maryland Group, a group of five established disability advocacy and service provider organizations, to develop a pilot project with two goals:
  - Develop peer support networks for families and enhance existing networks
  - Promote the use and successful recruitment of community-based assisted decision makers
- Ensuring that all abuse investigations involving adults with an intellectual disability are led by the Provincial Protection Investigations Unit.
- Beginning policy reviews on the issues of individual planning, abuse, and transition planning for children with disabilities reaching adulthood.

The government has committed to publicly reporting on the status of implementing the recommendations at the 3, 6, 12, 18 and 24 month timelines. Additional information can be [found here](#).

### **Ensuring Access for Manitobans Living with Disabilities**

To promote full inclusion and participation of Manitobans with disabilities in 2021/22, the government carried out the following initiatives:

- Launched a new, free [online learning portal](#) for all public and private sector organizations, to support learning and training opportunities about Manitoba's accessibility legislation, The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA). The portal offers two specific modules on the accessible customer service and employment standards, including knowledge checks, facilitator guides and certificates of completion.
- Introduced the Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) to provide annual, sustainable grants to promote AMA principles and assist Manitoba organizations to remove accessibility barriers and improve compliance with accessibility standard requirements. In February 2022, the pilot year launched with first intake of applications open from March 1 to April 15, 2022. Guidelines, an online application form, FAQs and glossary were made available in French and English on [AccessibilityMB.ca](#). A cross-departmental selection committee was established to evaluate MAF project proposals; each project could ask for a maximum amount of \$50,000. Recommended projects will be submitted to Manitoba's Minister responsible for Accessibility for approval.
- In addition to development of new accessibility standards for transportation and design of public spaces, the Accessibility Advisory Council (Council) conducted a Five-Year Review of the Accessibility Standard for Customer Service under section

11 of the AMA. Council reviewed existing standard provisions, participated in pre-consultation meetings with stakeholder groups and launched a consultation plan that included eight sector-specific focus groups, an online EngageMB survey, two virtual town halls and written and oral submissions. Council submitted their report containing 22 recommendations to the Minister on September 10, 2021. The Manitoba government will implement the recommendations over the next two to three years.

- Created [Frequently Asked Questions](#) and Barriers and Solutions documents to supplement already existing resources on the Accessible Employment Standard and a video entitled: “[Accessibility in the Workplace Good for Everyone](#)” documenting the experiences of people with disabilities in the workplace. The government continues to expand its list of tools and resources to support compliance with the AMA found on [AccessibilityMB.ca](#).

### **Improved Crisis Line Technology for the Family Violence Sector**

A provincial toll-free information and crisis line (1-877-977-0007) offers information and support 24 hours per day, seven days per week to individuals seeking assistance due to family violence. Calls are answered by staff at the ten family violence shelters. To improve the access to information, the Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) has been working on introducing a new web-based platform for delivery of crisis line services. Modernizing the crisis line system used by shelters will not only improve the ability of those in need of support to access it, but it will allow for better tracking of client data.

This initiative has been underway since late 2020, and will be implemented within the shelter system by the end of 2022. FVPP is in the final stages of entering a signed agreement with the selected proponent of a Request for Proposals initiated in August 2021.

### **Clare’s Law**

Beginning in the spring of 2021, the Manitoba government has been working to develop Manitoba’s version of Clare’s Law. Clare’s Law is named after a British woman named Clare Wood who was murdered by her former partner in 2009. Her family advocated to establish a disclosure protocol that enables people to obtain information from the police about a partner’s documented history of violence. The goal of this protocol is to provide individuals with information about their partner, allowing them to utilize this information to increase their safety.

Manitoba’s proposed version of Clare’s Law is unique as the purpose is to provide Manitobans with access to information as well as access to public and community-based supports to promote safety and end the cycle of violence. Manitoba will be the first jurisdiction in Canada to include family violence and sexual violence within an intimate partner relationship, along with domestic violence. After months of collaboration

with working groups, key leads on Clare's Law from around the world, The Disclosure to Protect Against Intimate Partner Violence Act (Bill 43) was introduced. This bill is enabling legislation and will be followed up by regulations and policies. The intent is for this protocol to be implemented by the end of 2023.

## **Making the Connection to Appropriate Community Resources**

The Manitoba government continues to transform income assistance in the province by providing increasingly client-centred services to Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) participants in effort to 'meet people where they are at' and provide the supports needed to advance towards employment and independence from the program. Development of milestones programming, supportive planning and connections to community are key components to modernizing the program and helping to build a bridge to meaningful employment for clients through the focusing on engaging with participants, assessing their service needs and connecting persons to appropriate community programming to lessen barriers to independence.

A number of new transformation tools and resources that are focused on consistency and best practices in the delivery of services were developed and refined in 2021/22. These supports strengthen the collection of data in the program and support a continued assessment on the effectiveness and availability of programming in relation to the needs of EIA clients.

## **6. Making positive change through social innovation**

### **Social Finance**

Manitoba's Social Innovation Office (SIO) uses innovation processes to create unique and impactful solutions to complex social problems often experienced by vulnerable populations through the development of social finance tools, such as outcome-based projects and outcomes funds, and targeted investor engagement. In 2021/22, the SIO began coordinating two new outcome-based projects, bringing the total number of outcome-based projects underway in Manitoba to eight.

Much work was done in 2021/22 to develop three outcome-based projects for launch in 2022/23. These projects address issues that are linked with poverty, as profiled below.

#### *Reducing Youth Recidivism*

Poverty is one important factor that contributes to youth involvement in the justice system, including recidivism. In 2021/22, work was underway to develop a social finance project intended to reduce recidivism in youth, aged 12 to 18 years, currently involved with restorative justice, community supervision orders and/or in custody.

### *Funding for Women's Heart Health*

Poverty is closely linked to the health of an individual. Poor health creates challenges that restrict one's ability for employment, and increases the risk of living in poverty. Heart disease is a significant health issue facing Manitoba women today. Recognizing women's unique experience with heart health and the importance of addressing this issue, the Manitoba government announced in September 2021 its intent to develop a social finance project dedicated to reducing the risk of heart disease among women.

### *Helping Manitobans Quit Smoking*

Because of correlation between poverty and health, improving the health outcomes of Manitobans is a priority of Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy. Much work was done in 2021/22 to develop the first health-related social finance project (Quit Smoking with Your Pharmacist) in partnership with Shoppers Drug Mart to support thousands of people in becoming non-smokers. This project was launched in April 2022.

### **Restoring the Sacred Bond**

In 2021/22, the Manitoba government continued to partner with the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC) in delivering the Restoring the Sacred Bond, the landmark social impact bond in Manitoba. This pilot completed the final year of service delivery, whereby up to 200 expecting mothers working with a SFNNC Child and Family Services agency assessed to be high risk of infant apprehension were connected to Indigenous Birth Helpers and intense supports. This initiative provides preventative care for expecting Indigenous mothers through a culturally appropriate lens as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls for Action and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice.

### **Strengthening Manitoba's Social Finance Ecosystem**

In 2021/22, the SIO in partnership with SVX, a non-profit financial services organization, led an engagement process to inform investor engagement action plan that will be used to strengthen Manitoba's social finance ecosystem. The SIO also facilitated solutions labs, bringing subject matter experts together to develop solutions; provided consultation to other departments on social finance methodology and processes; and provided social innovation training opportunities to departments.

### **Solution Labs**

In 2021/22 the Social Innovation Office explored the multi-system barriers that were negatively impacting two groups: 1) Indigenous youth and 2) those considered to be distant from the labour market. Consultations with end users of the Employment and Income Assistance services, community organizations, and subject matter experts were conducted to better understand the service gap that people are experiencing in their attempt to secure and sustain meaningful employment. Key insights were used to inform the service requirements for future requests for proposals and service designs.

## **COVID-19 Response to Support Manitobans in Need**

Despite a swift vaccine roll-out and relatively high vaccination rates, the COVID-19 pandemic continued in 2021/22 with the emergence of new COVID-19 variants. While the government focused on moving the province towards a strong economic and social recovery, protecting the health and well-being of Manitobans remained an urgent priority. This section presents the government's COVID-19 response to help Manitobans mitigate the challenges of the pandemic.

### **Mental Health Supports for Students During the Pandemic**

- The government worked with school divisions to meet student needs and provided additional funding for staff and student mental health supports. This is in addition to the \$2.5 million dollars announced in 2020/21. This included:
  - An additional \$380,000 to the Canadian Mental Health Association to provide supports to the education workforce, including service-navigation specialists, online resources in French and English, and a peer wellness coaching team.
  - An additional \$100,000 for Sources of Strength to allow further expansion such as French translation of materials, provide peer-programming training for 50 more educators, as well as expanding the number of secondary schools offering the program.
  - \$40,000 to provide SafeTalk training for 50 educators, who then train students age 15 and over, teachers and parents in suicide prevention and intervention, and also provide for a centralized SafeTalk registry for easy access and resource deployment.
  - \$80,000 to provide further professional development for educators and leaders that is trauma-informed and culturally relevant to address the effects of long-term trauma caused by the pandemic.
  - \$150,000 for pilot projects to support and enhance well-being through the engagement of elders and knowledge keepers in schools.
- Services offered to students and families at local schools make it easier for those who live in poverty to access needed supports. These included:
  - An Enhanced School-Based Mental Health and Addictions pilot was launched during the pandemic and allowed for flexibility in meeting the mental health needs of students and their families where those who experience complex mental health needs could have fallen between the cracks. .

- Tip sheets, created at the beginning of the pandemic are still in circulation, provide information for students, teachers, and families highlighting Manitoban and Canadian resources with a focus on starting with the school team.
- The Mental Health Networking Group worked with school divisions, staff and school teams to identify students that needed elevated supports and provided wellness baskets with items such as pens, USB with work, soap, food, and tampons, individually created to meet student need and allow for engagement, connection and check-ins.
- The Canadian Mental Health Association Care for All in Education site was launched, recognizing the need for teacher well-being and mental health as it directly impacts student's well-being and mental health.
- The launch of the 5T mental health strategy - talking, training, teaching, tools and taking care - helped school divisions look at overall system well-being and mental health needs in a way that could transition through the pandemic to recovery learning.
- The Kids Help Phone was expanded to include Counsellor in the Classroom programming as well as the preparation of a Manitoba specific resource package that school based staff could find on the website and create student/school/community based resources as needed, including downloadable materials for students where internet may be limited. .

### **United Way Funding**

The Manitoba government provided \$2 million in funding to the United Way of Winnipeg, to support community organizations in addressing increased mental health, wellness and recovery needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This investment supported the timely and accessible delivery of a variety of mental health, substance use, and addictions supports, as well as wellness and health promotion programs. The partnership will fund programs for one to three years, with a particular focus on reducing service wait times, supporting Indigenous service organizations, and providing training/competency building for service providers.

### **Supporting Safe Schools**

Over the last two years, nearly \$250 million in Safe Schools Funding has been allocated to school divisions and schools for COVID-19 related spending. The province allocated \$63 million in Safe Schools funding for the 2021/22 school year to ensure continued pandemic protection for schools, to support the mental health and well-being of students, and for ventilation improvements. School divisions were also able to direct funding based on their local needs, including increasing funding for nutrition programs.

The priority was to keep schools as safe as possible and open for in-class learning.

### **Vaccine Implementation Task Force (VITF)**

The Vaccine Implementation Task Force was a whole-of-government team, including Crown corporations and regional health authorities, working to address the challenges of immunizing the public against COVID-19. Recognizing the need for a multifaceted approach, the Task Force launched initiatives aimed at promoting education and leveraging community partnerships to ensure information and vaccines were accessible to structurally-marginalized Manitobans including:

- **Raise Your Hand:** An in-person Q&A event with Dr. Roussin and Dr. Reimer about COVID-19 and issues that affected youth. The event was held in Winnipeg's north end and livestreamed to dozens of classrooms across the province.
- **Vaccine Lottery:** An incentive-based promotion that used a monetary prize or scholarship as a financial motivator to Manitobans who were not influenced by other vaccine-related initiatives. The effort helped to increase immunization levels by 20 per cent over the campaign period in lower income neighbourhoods.
- **ProtectMB Community Outreach and Incentive Grant:** A community grant program that offered up to \$20,000 to organizations, businesses and cultural groups who work in and with low-uptake and vulnerable communities. Dozens of recipients organized hundreds of initiatives, with over 15,000 first and second shots directly attributed to their activities.
- **Protect our People Campaign:** An Indigenous-focused immunization campaign focused on reaching populations who did not connect with government and public health recommendations. Promoted through social media, influencer marketing, community activations and direct outreach, the initiative focused its efforts on low income core areas.
- **Urban Indigenous Vaccine Clinics:** An Indigenous-led COVID-19 immunization program that provided accessible, culturally safe clinics to people facing vaccination barriers. Thousands of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples received immunizations over the course of the initiative.
- **The Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Vaccine Outreach Project:** The project's goal was to reduce EIA client vaccination hesitancy resulting from the potential of a lack of understanding or knowledge of resources in accessing COVID-19 vaccinations. Counsellors in the EIA program reached out to and engaged with clients over the month of June, offering supports and general information about the COVID-19 vaccination, assisting and empowering clients to make informed choices and receive support in accessing health services.

- School-based clinics across the province: In-school vaccine clinics for children aged five to 11 were offered at schools across the province in partnership with local regional health authorities. Where needed most, some of these clinics offered vaccines outside of school hours that were open to families and the community.

### **Making COVID-19 Information Available to All Manitobans**

In 2021/22, the Manitoba government assisted other levels of government, public and private sector organizations to access tools, resources and information about Manitoba's accessibility legislation and standards, including training, to encourage removal of accessibility barriers during the pandemic. These materials were free, posted on [AccessibilityMB.ca](https://www.accessibilitymb.ca), and shared in electronic and virtual formats at events, through Accessibility News and by request. The government also continued to encourage the provision of American Sign Language (ASL) during COVID-19 news briefings and educating the public and those responsible for vaccine implementation about disability accommodations throughout the process.

### **Maintaining Safe, Reliable Access to Services Helping Manitobans Find Jobs**

The Manitoba government through its Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development Centres and service providers continued to provide access to resources and supports through virtual and in-person services to ensure that Manitobans had access to career development support and employment resources needed to succeed in the labour market.

### **Employment Support Programs for Individuals and Businesses**

To support employment during the pandemic, Manitoba provided \$37 million in wage supports through the Healthy Hire Manitoba program, which amalgamated with the Manitoba Youth Jobs program. Over 3,200 businesses received funding to hire 14,785 employees.

### **Air Services to Remote Communities throughout COVID**

An agreement signed by both Manitoba and Canada ensured air services to remote northern communities continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The agreement financially supported carriers that provided scheduled transportation service to 21 remote communities that rely on air service as the only year-round mode of transportation to ensure the continued supply of food, medical supplies, and other essential goods and services.

### **Extra funding for Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) funded shelters**

In October 2021, family violence shelters experienced particularly high demand for services at a time when staffing levels were at a critical level. To address these immediate needs, FVPP provided \$45,000 for short-term relief.

This funding allowed two full-time positions. The first position at Willow Place helped to transition individuals that stayed at Willow Place and Ikwe Widdjiitiwin into hotels. The second position was at West Central Women's Resource Centre and had similar responsibilities but focused on transition from hotel to longer-term housing. FVPP was also able to support numerous shelters with \$69,500 to address overtime costs.

### **Support for Organizations Serving Homeless Population**

In 2021/22, Manitoba provided one-time COVID-19 financial support for homeless-serving organizations, including Siloam Mission, Main Street Project, End Homelessness Winnipeg, and Resource Assistance for Youth, totalling \$3.9 million. This included \$1.8 million for isolation accommodations and daytime services provided by Main Street Project.

### **Home Nutrition Learning Program (HNLPP)**

In 2021/22 the Manitoba government continued to partner with five community-based organizations in Brandon, Winnipeg, Cross Lake, and the Bayline Region to deliver the Home Nutrition and Learning Program. The program supported families with school-age children experiencing food disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic by providing boxes of nutritious breakfast foods and simple, child-friendly recipes and learning activities to up to 6,500 children each week.

### **The Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Service Centre**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure continued access to essential services for low-income Manitobans, the Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program established the EIA Service Centre. The Service Centre started as a safe and responsible way to improve accessibility while continuing to provide services to program participants, community agencies and the public while public health orders were in effect. Following its success during the pandemic, the Service Centre has been made a permanent fixture of EIA service delivery supports.

### **Poverty Reduction Indicators**

A good measurement framework is vital to appropriately monitor the results of government actions and ensure the success of Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy in reducing poverty and promoting social inclusion in Manitoba.

Included in this framework is the strategy's primary target, which is to reduce the child poverty rate by 25 per cent by 2025, compared to the baseline year of 2015.

As poverty is complex and multi-faceted, the strategy's measurement framework comprises a set of 13 indicators, including Canada's official poverty measure, that will track the overall progress of the strategy. These indicators were based on consultations and the federal measurement framework.

This section presents the data on the strategy's 13 indicators on key areas that are strongly correlated with poverty and social exclusion: income, education, child care, child welfare, employment, health, income inequality, and housing. 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) has entrenched the Market Basket Measure (MBM) as Canada's official poverty measure.

[Pathways to a Better Future](#) uses the MBM as an indicator to measure the poverty rate. The MBM is among the 13 indicators used to monitor the progress of poverty reduction efforts under the strategy.

Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey (CIS) is the source of the MBM data to track the achievement of its primary target. Statistics Canada produces this data based on the CIS with a two-year lag. For the 2021/22 poverty reduction annual report, the most recent MBM data available is for year 2020.

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.

In September 2020, Statistics Canada released an improved MBM methodology, the 2018-base MBM data series, which is presented in this annual report.

## **Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators**

The most recent MBM data (2020 data) shows that Manitoba exceeded its target of reducing child poverty rate by 25 per cent by 2025, compared to the 2015 baseline. In 2020, the child poverty rate improved significantly to six per cent from 19.3 per cent in 2015, or a 69 per cent improvement. Similarly, Manitoba's overall poverty rate (rate for All Persons) improved significantly to 6.8 per cent in 2020 from 14.1 per cent in 2015, or a 52 per cent improvement.

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><b>Market Basket Measure (Canada's Official Poverty Line)<sup>1</sup></b>                      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"> <li>- Poverty rate for All Persons</li> <li>- Child poverty rate</li> </ul>	<p>14.1 per cent (2015)</p> <p>19.3 per cent (2015)</p>	<p>6.8 per cent (2020)</p> <p>6.0 per cent (2020)</p>	<p>51.8 per cent decrease</p> <p>68.9 per cent decrease</p>	<p>progress</p> <p>progress</p>
<p><b>Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)<sup>2</sup></b>                      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>10.3 per cent (1Q2015)</p>	<p>8.7 per cent (1Q2022)</p>	<p>15.5 per cent decrease</p>	<p>progress</p>
<p><b>Availability of licensed child care</b>                      The percentage of children (ages 12 and under) for whom there is a regulated child care space.                      Source – Government of Manitoba (Education and Early Childhood Learning)</p>	<p>18.2 per cent (March 31, 2015)</p>	<p>19.2 per cent (March 31, 2022)</p>	<p>5.5 per cent increase</p>	<p>progress</p>
<p><b>Children in Care</b>                      The percentage of children who are in the care of a child and family services agency.                      Source – Government of Manitoba (Families)</p>	<p>10,714 children</p> <p>3.5 per cent of Manitoba children (March 31, 2017)</p>	<p>9,196 children</p> <p>2.9 per cent of Manitoba children (March 31, 2022)</p>	<p>14.2 per cent decrease</p> <p>17.1 per cent decrease</p>	<p>Progress</p>

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Most recent data</b>	<b>Percentage change</b>	<b>Trend</b>
<p><b>Premature mortality<sup>3</sup></b> 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>	<p>53.2 years of life lost (2014/2015)</p>	<p>49.8 years of life lost (2019/2020)</p>	<p>6.4 per cent decrease</p>	<p>progress</p>
<p><b>Poverty entry rate</b> 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>	<p>3.9 per cent (2014/2015)</p>	<p>4.3 per cent (2018/2019)</p>	<p>10.3 per cent increase</p>	<p>regress</p>
<p><b>Poverty exit rate</b> 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>	<p>25.3 per cent<sup>4</sup> (2014/2015)</p>	<p>25.4 per cent (2018/2019)</p>	<p>0.4 per cent increase</p>	<p>stable</p>
<p><b>Core Housing Need<sup>5</sup></b> 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>	<p>11.3 per cent (2006)</p>	<p>11.4 per cent (2016)</p>	<p>0.9 per cent increase</p>	<p>stable</p>
<p><b>Employment</b> The percentage of people aged 15 and over who are employed</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey)</p>	<p>64.4 per cent (2015)</p>	<p>62.1 per cent (2021)</p>	<p>3.6 per cent decrease</p>	<p>regress</p>

Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
<p><b>High school graduation</b> 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)	82.9 per cent (June 2021)	7.2 per cent increase	progress
<p><b>Income inequality (Palma ratio)<sup>6</sup></b> 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)	0.93 (2020)	14.0 per cent decrease	progress
<p><b>Literacy (reading skills)<sup>7</sup></b> Average scores of 15-year old Manitobans in Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in Reading</p> <p>Source – Program for International Student Assessment</p>	498 (2015)	494 (2018)	0.8 per cent decrease	stable
<p><b>Numeracy (math skills)<sup>7</sup></b> 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

<sup>1</sup> Data based on new 2018-base Market Basket Measure (MBM) series released by Statistics Canada on September 8, 2020, reflecting an improved methodology and replacing the old 2008-base MBM series. The 2015 data shown is slightly different from data reported in previous year's annual report because of population rebasing done by Statistics Canada on 2012-2019 Canadian Income Survey data.
<sup>2</sup> Percentage of youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) during the first quarters of years 2015 or 2022.
<sup>3</sup> 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. Data reported for this indicator will not be comparable with those reported in annual reports published in years prior to 2020/21 as a different methodology was used starting in 2020/21 to establish a new standard going forward.
<sup>4</sup> In August 2021, Statistics Canada made a correction on the values associated with total income and after-tax income definition, resulting in minor changes in the previously published data. Because of this correction, the baseline data (2014/2015) was changed to 25.3 per cent from 25.2 per cent that was previously reported.
<sup>5</sup> Data on core housing need is from census and available every five years. The 2011 core housing need data is not comparable with 2016. The 2011 data was based on National Household Survey while 2006 and 2016 data were based on the census. Therefore, the 2006 data is used as a baseline. Data from 2021 Census is not available at the time of writing this annual report.
<sup>6</sup> 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 16, 2022). The 2015 data shown is slightly different from data reported in previous year's annual report because of population rebasing done by Statistics Canada on 2012-2019 Canadian Income Survey data.
<sup>7</sup> Data on literacy (reading skills) and numeracy (math skills) are available every three years from Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). The baseline data was changed from 2012 data to 2015 data when the 2018 PISA became available. 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. No new information for PISA is currently available.

## Disaggregated Indicator Data

Some demographic populations are more at risk of experiencing poverty in Manitoba. For better insight into how poverty affects vulnerable Manitobans, this section presents disaggregated data on some indicators where data is available.

### Low Income Rate

The Manitoba government recognizes that there are Manitobans who are in greatest need of support. Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy seeks to alleviate the burden of poverty, particularly for those most-at-risk.

Table 2 shows Manitoba's poverty rates for select demographic groups for 2015 – 2020. While poverty rates improved significantly in 2020 for all vulnerable groups shown, the rates for persons in youth-led families, and single non-elderly individuals (ages 45-64 years) are more than three times the provincial rate.

Although progress has been made, much work remains to be done to break the cycle of poverty for the most vulnerable Manitobans.

**Table 2: Market Basket Measure Poverty Rates (Per Cent), Manitoba, Select Groups, 2015 - 2020<sup>1</sup>**

Population Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Per Cent Change	
							2015 to 2020	2019 to 2020
All Manitobans	14.1	12.4	11.2	11.1	11.5	6.8	-51.8	-40.9
Children	19.3	15.5	12.8	13.1	13.5	6.0	-68.9	-55.6
Seniors	5.9	4.9	5.4	6.1	5.6	2.3	-61.0	-58.9
Persons in Lone Parent Families	44.5	38.4	28.6	30.3	33.5	15.2	-65.8	-54.6
Women	13.7	12.2	11.5	11.1	11.0	6.5	-52.6	-40.9
Men	14.5	12.5	10.9	11.2	12.0	7.0	-51.7	-41.7
Indigenous (off-reserve)	23.9	26.3	20.7	27.4	21.7	12.6	-47.3	-41.9
Persons with Disabilities	19.2	17.3	15.9	13.8	14.0	7.5	-60.9	-46.4
Persons in Youth-led Families <sup>2</sup>	36.7	45.1	39.0	39.0	39.3	31.1	-15.3	-20.9
Single Individuals (45- 64 years)	31.9	33.5	30.6	31.0	34.3	23.4	-26.6	-31.8
<sup>1</sup> Source – Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey, 2018-base Market Basket Measure series. Data for 2015 to 2019 shown differ from data earlier reported due to population rebasing done by Statistics Canada.								
<sup>2</sup> Age of primary income earner is 24 years or less.								

### **Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)**

Understanding and tracking the proportion of young people who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) is important as it may indicate problems in the educational system and the labour market. It may also indicate trends in the attitude of young adults towards work.

Manitoba's NEET rate indicator 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 (OECD).

Table 3 shows that Manitoba's NEET rate in the first quarter of 2022 improved to 8.7 per cent from 10.3 per cent in first quarter of 2015. A similar trend is also shown by Canada overall, which improved to 10 per cent from 10.6 per cent in first quarter of 2015. The data indicates that Manitoba is well on track to recover from the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

**Table 3: Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) for Youth Aged 15 – 24 Years, Canada and Manitoba, 1Q2015 to 1Q2022<sup>1</sup>**

	1Q2015	1Q2016	1Q2017	1Q2018	1Q2019	1Q2020	1Q2021	1Q2022
Canada NEET rate (per cent)	10.6	10.6	9.6	9.8	9.3	11.8	11.4	10.0
Manitoba NEET rate (per cent)	10.3	11.3	11.3	11.5	11.8	11.3	11.7	8.7
- Number of persons (000)	16.7	18.4	18.7	19.4	20.1	19.2	19.6	14.5
- Rank (1 is best)	3	5	5	8	8	3	5	2

<sup>1</sup> Source – Statistics Canada, custom data for first quarter 2015 to first quarter 2022.

Table 4 shows improvement in NEET rate in the first quarter of 2022 compared to the first quarter of 2021 for all provinces except for Quebec that showed a slight increase. Manitoba registered the second best NEET rate in first quarter of 2022.

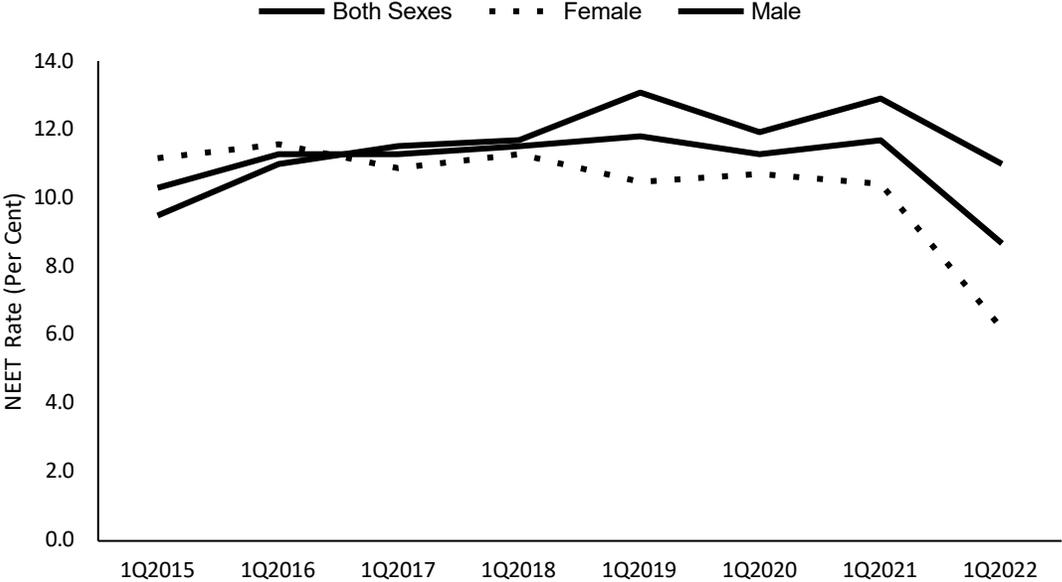
**Table 4: Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) rate (per cent), Youth Aged 15 – 24 Years, Canada and Provinces, 1Q2015 to 1Q2022<sup>1</sup>**

	1Q2015	1Q2016	1Q2017	1Q2018	1Q2019	1Q2020	1Q2021	1Q2022
<b>Canada</b>	10.6	10.6	9.6	9.8	9.3	11.8	11.4	10.0
<b>AB</b>	9.3	11.0	10.5	11.1	9.9	12.1	11.8	9.3
<b>BC</b>	11.5	9.6	9.1	9.3	8.6	12.5	12.4	10.4
<b>MB</b>	10.3	11.3	11.3	11.5	11.8	11.3	11.7	8.7
<b>NB</b>	14.2	15.9	14.5	14.5	12.1	12.0	12.8	12.5
<b>NFL</b>	13.5	15.3	17.0	11.4	13.9	16.6	15.8	13.0
<b>NS</b>	11.3	11.9	11.3	11.9	10.5	13.9	11.4	10.2
<b>ON</b>	10.1	10.0	9.3	9.6	9.5	11.2	11.5	10.1
<b>PEI</b>	13.5	13.6	16.0	9.6	10.2	11.2	11.6	7.9
<b>QC</b>	11.1	10.8	8.1	8.5	8.0	11.6	9.4	9.7
<b>SK</b>	11.1	11.6	11.5	11.1	9.3	13.7	13.6	9.2

<sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada, custom data for first quarter of 2015 to first quarter of 2022.

The Manitoba NEET rate for Female has remained better than the NEET rate for Male since 1Q2017. In first quarter of 2022, the Female NEET rate was 6.2 per cent, while the Male NEET rate was 11 per cent.

**Chart 1: NEET Rate, Youth Aged 15 to 24 Years, Manitoba, 1Q2015 to 1Q2022<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>Source - Statistics Canada, custom data, first quarter of 2015 to first quarter of 2022.

**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.

Indicative of Manitoba’s recovery from the pandemic and the successful partnership of provincial and federal governments in supporting the child care sector, the availability of licensed child care at March 31, 2022 increased significantly compared to the baseline at March 31, 2015.

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

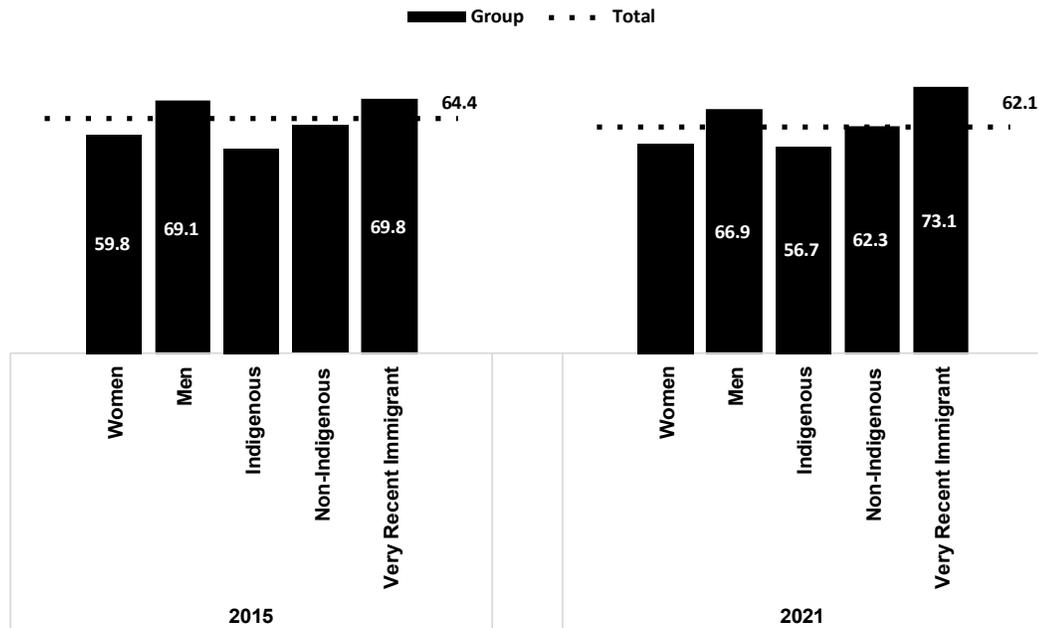
**Table 5: Percentage of Children for Whom There is a Regulated Child Care space**

Age Group	At March 31, 2015	At March 31, 2022	Per Cent Increase
0 to 5 years	26.1%	27.9%	6.7%
6 to 12 years	11.3%	11.8%	4.4%
Total 0 to 12 years	18.2%	19.2%	5.5%

## Employment

The 2021 employment rate across various population groups continues to exhibit the same pattern as the 2015 baseline. The employment rates of women and Indigenous groups are lower than the overall Manitoba employment rate; while the employment rates for men, non-Indigenous group, and the very recent immigrants (landed within five years prior) are higher than the provincial rate.

**Chart 2: Employment Rate (%) by Select Group, Manitoba, 2015 and 2021<sup>1</sup>**

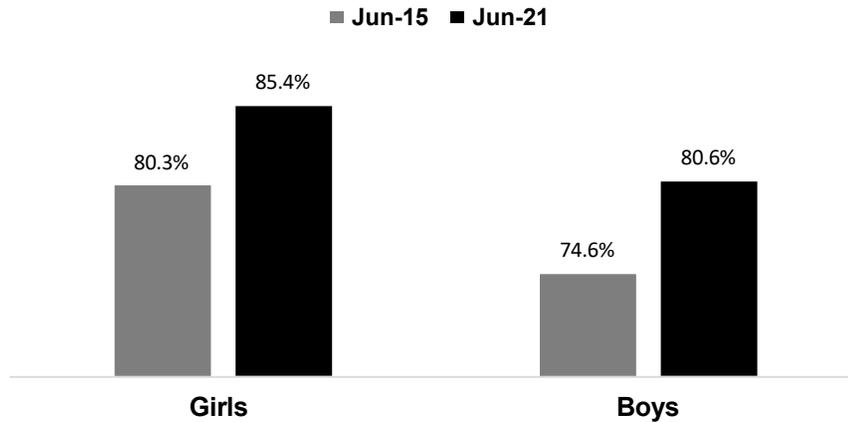


<sup>1</sup>Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

## 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 2021.

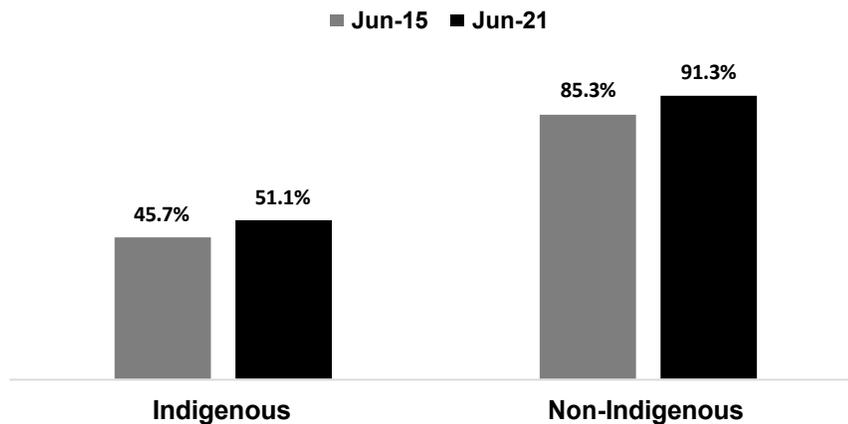
**Chart 3: High School Graduation Rate, Girls and Boys, June 2015 and June 2021<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>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, 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 51.1 per cent in June 2021.

**Chart 4: High School Graduation Rate, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous, June 2015 and June 2021<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup>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, adjusted for attrition. Source - Government of Manitoba

## 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 6 shows the number of years of life lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years, by income quintile in 2014/2015 and 2019/2020. 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.

**Table 6: Premature mortality, Manitoba, by Income Quintile, Rural and Urban, 2014/2015 and 2019/2020<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Income Quintile</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>Difference (2019/2020 less 2014/2015)</b>
Lowest - Rural	95.2	89.0	-6.2
Second - Rural	68.6	64.3	-4.3
Third - Rural	53.6	44.7	-8.9
Fourth - Rural	47.1	41.4	-5.7
Highest - Rural	38.9	35.4	-3.5
Lowest - Urban	91.5	87.5	-4.0
Second - Urban	54.8	51.7	-3.1
Third - Urban	43.8	36.0	-7.8
Fourth - Urban	35.8	39.3	3.5
Highest - Urban	28.2	25.2	-3.0
<b>Manitoba overall</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>-3.4</b>

<sup>1</sup>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 age

75. The data were adjusted for age and sex to allow for fair comparisons among areas with different population characteristics. Data reported for this indicator will not be comparable with those reported in annual reports published in years prior to 2020/21 as a different methodology was used starting in 2020/21 to establish a new standard going forward.

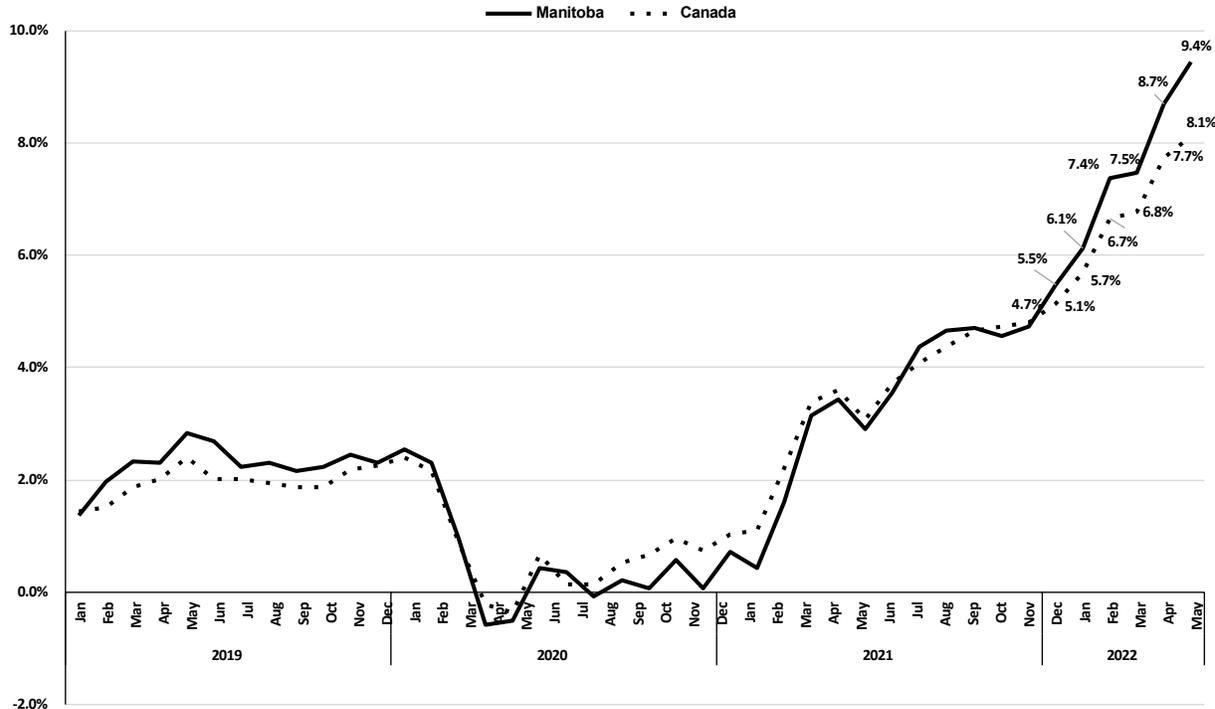
Source – Government of Manitoba (Health)

## **Moving Forward**

Recent events in the latter part of 2021/22 may lead to financial difficulties for Manitobans, as inflationary pressures continue to build in the 2022/23 fiscal year. Economic disruptions arising from the pandemic such as the labour shortages particularly in the transportation sector, created supply chain bottlenecks that have been pushing prices upwards. The severe drought experienced in the summer months of 2021/22 resulted in food supply shortages, further contributing to the supply problem, while the war in Ukraine following the Russian invasion in February 2022 was another event that exacerbated the supply crisis. Russia is a major supplier of oil and gas, while Ukraine is a major supplier of grains. All of these events help to explain the sharp

increases in inflation rates across the country, as indicated by the Consumer Price Index data from Statistics Canada.

**Chart 5: Consumer Inflation Rate<sup>1</sup>**  
(Year-over-Year Percentage Change in Consumer Price Index)



<sup>1</sup>Consumer inflation rate shown is based on year-over-year percentage change in Consumer Price Index for all items using Statistics Canada's Table 18-10-0004-01 Consumer Price Index, monthly not seasonally adjusted (accessed 2022 07 28).

The Manitoba government is committed to create a better life for all Manitobans and is focused on making life more affordable for Manitobans. In the year ahead, Manitoba is gearing up to face the new challenges from extremely high inflation rates not seen in a generation.