



# Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

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## Poll: Budget must provide more money for people living in poverty *Family of four can't afford food and rent under current programs, 90% say*

A new poll released on the eve of tomorrow's budget shows widespread voter support for more government money for people living in poverty.

The vast majority of Manitobans — almost 90 per cent — agree that current government support programs fall far short of providing the money needed for a family of four to survive.

Three in four Manitobans, 76 per cent, want the province to provide more money to people living in poverty, with 48 per cent supporting “much more help.”

These are two of the key results of a Probe Research poll released today by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg on behalf of Campaign 2000 Manitoba, the social justice coalition that commissioned the survey.

“New Statistics Canada data show that in 2019, Manitoba's child poverty rate rose for the second year in a row. Manitoba continues to have the highest rates of child poverty of all the provinces. The pandemic brought the precarity of living paycheck to paycheck home to too many. The Probe data proves that Manitobans of all political stripes want the province to take ending poverty seriously.” said Kate Kehler, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.

Other poll results include:

- Creating a guaranteed annual income was considered one of the best ways to fight poverty by 38 per cent of those sampled, with 25 per cent ranking it number one.
- More help for kids currently in or leaving group homes or the foster care system was supported by 45 per cent of Manitobans, with 12 per cent ranking it number one.
- More job training and education were supported by 60 per cent of those sampled, with 28 per cent ranking it number one.

“Child poverty is strategic, it builds economies in Child Welfare, Justice and Health. The Province of Manitoba establishes institutions on the backs of children and controls inevitable outcomes through impoverishment. Manitoba will make token gestures in attempts to mask the realities, but never reconcile the inequalities. Friendly Manitobans need to hold this government to strict account in doing the right thing by investing in children for the betterment of all our futures.” Cora Morgan, First Nations Family Advocate, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs,



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"Tens of thousands of families in Manitoba suffer from a lack of affordable housing. Unfortunately, in the last five years this government has built almost no social housing affordable to households with low incomes or who rely on income assistance. In this budget Manitoba must commit to substantial investments with target of at least 300 new units of social housing, while boosting the maintenance of existing Manitoba Housing to at least \$100 million per year." Kirsten Bernas, Right to Housing Provincial Working Group

"Poverty costs lives, communities, and government budgets. The results are clear: the majority of Manitobans want the province to do something about it by spending more to end poverty. The 2021 provincial budget should invest in a comprehensive provincial poverty reduction strategy with a key pillar of Community Economic Development, including social enterprise development, meaningful pathways to employment, and investing in fair and local economies." Michael Barkman, Canadian CED Network, Make Poverty History Manitoba

"No one should work full-time but still live in poverty, but that is exactly what is happening to thousands of Manitoba workers because our minimum wage is far too low to pay the bills. The Pallister government has made Manitoba's minimum wage the third lowest in Canada, and that means working families are falling behind. To make sure that working families can afford the rent and pay the grocery bills, we need a minimum wage that is a living wage now." Kevin Rebeck, Manitoba Federation of Labour

"EIA in Manitoba is inadequate and punitive. It does not provide enough financial support for individuals and families who depend on it to meet even their basic necessities. Every step of the way, the EIA system degrades recipients and puts up barriers to their independence. It's no surprise that so many Manitobans view EIA negatively. That's why Make Poverty History Manitoba is calling for the Province to replace it with a livable basic needs benefit that is adequate, portable and dignified." Josh Brandon, Make Poverty History Manitoba, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

"Manitobans have shown that they know that basic income is a practical and affordable means to reduce and prevent poverty without disincentivizing work like welfare does. There is also strong evidence that it improves health and educational outcomes and offers all of us the security that our basic needs will be met even if fortune does not smile on us. Now, the government needs to show that it respects the wisdom of Manitobans." Sid Frankel, Basic Income Manitoba

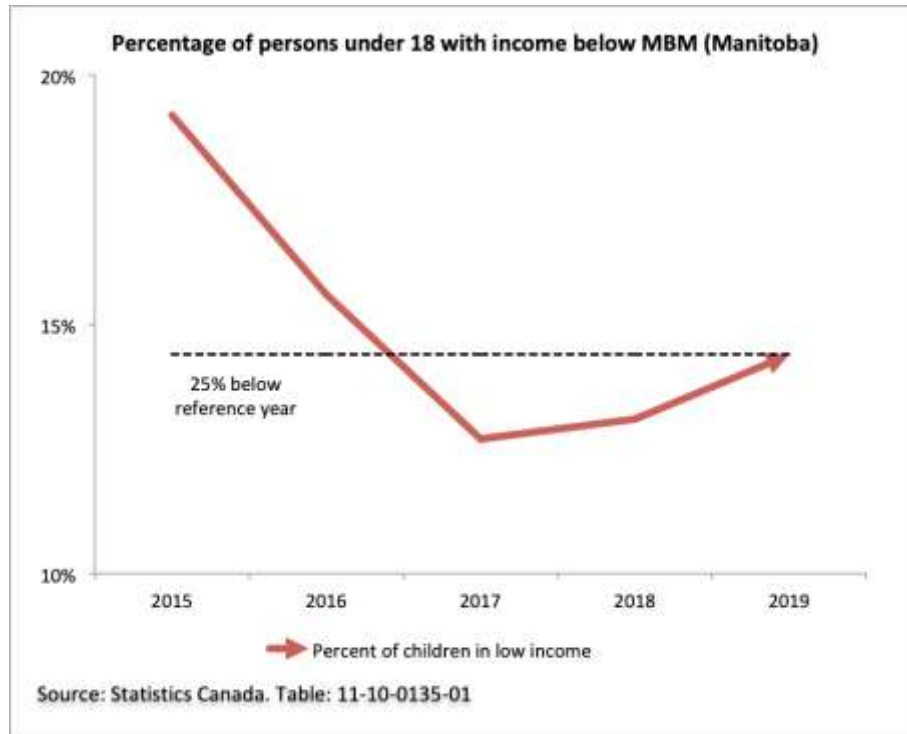
"Fearless R2W believes that we need more culturally safe child care spaces and more social housing in Manitoba to enable parents to further their education and employment and assist those parents working to reunify with their children. We have to address affordability of child care & the long wait lists; we have to seriously consider options like guaranteed basic liveable income and invest in families by supporting solutions as identified by those with lived experience and echoed by research." Michael Redhead Champagne, Fearless R2W



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The poll was conducted by Probe Research between November 24 and December 4, 2020 and surveyed a random and representative sample of 1000 adults residing in Manitoba. It has a margin of error of + or - 3.1 percent.

The entire Probe report can be downloaded at: <https://spcw.mb.ca/2021/04/probe-research-manitobans-views-on-solutions-to-poverty/>

Most recent Campaign 2000 Report Card on Child and Family Poverty in Manitoba: <https://campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Manitoba-Poverty-Central-2020-Report-Update-1.pdf>

Learn more about Campaign 2000 at: <https://campaign2000.ca/about-us/our-story/>

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