

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT ELECTION 2023?

MANITOBA VOTES



Quality health care

Poverty reduction

Improving accessibility

Fiscal sustainability

Fighting crime

New infrastructure

Tax and deficit cuts



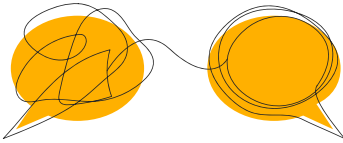
EDUCATION

WHY EDUCATION?

- 1. YOUR VOICE MATTERS.** The past four years have proven that Manitoba's voice on education truly counts. Our students and schools continue to depend on you, as a voter, to share why education must remain a key priority.
- 2. ELECTION OUTCOMES MATTER.** The largest share of investment in students, staff and school programs and buildings, comes from the Manitoba government. Decisions made by the government play a central role in how education is delivered in each school division within Manitoba.
- 3. OUR STUDENTS MATTER.** Educational success depends on addressing poverty; creating safe, healthy, inclusive and caring schools for everyone; moving forward on reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; building strong relationships and communication with families; and providing key community services. Schools alone cannot meet our students' needs. It takes a village, along with sustainable government support, to raise a child.
- 4. OUR STAFF MATTER.** School boards rely upon our teachers and school employees, to provide the very best education to our students. Manitoba's provincial government plays a big role in making sure that our workforce is treated with respect through investments in their well-being: professionally, personally, and financially.
- 5. FUNDING MATTERS.** Two decades of provincial education budget plans have remained below the rate of inflation. Our students deserve better.

FAST FACTS – DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2023, there were over 190,000 students enrolled in over 700 public schools in Manitoba. In the years ahead, it is expected that Manitoba's population will continue to steadily expand. Addressing needs for the present while building capacity for the future, remains vitally important.
- 9 out of 10 students in Manitoba perform at or above the expected performance level in literacy, mathematics and science on both national and international academic assessments. Those same assessments reveal that for the remaining student, issues of poverty and acute need are the single factors that explain why they do not meet or exceed expectations. Schools cannot fill young minds on empty stomachs. Helping students who are new, or are refugees to Canada, to receive a soft landing towards a strong finish – through focused and sustained language and cultural supports—remains prime.
- 1 out of every 4 Manitobans experience mental health challenges during their lifetime, many of these experiences begin during the school-age years. Making investments in early interventions as provided by qualified professionals and specialists can make significant differences. Manitoba must make more significant strides in funding sustainable and appropriate mental health services for youth, beyond the current annual funding of \$120 per student.



- Between 2006/07 and 2021/22, actual growth to Manitoba's education budget was 19.2 per cent, while inflation across this same time grew by 34.6 per cent, resulting in a funding gap of over \$500 million. Regrettably, this gap only continues to grow with each year of budget increases below inflation.
- 96.5 cents out of every dollar invested in public education goes directly to supporting classroom and community education, while the remaining 3.5 cents goes to governance and administration—one of the highest levels of direct-to-frontline investments and one of the lowest overhead margins of any sector (public or private) in Manitoba.



- Since 1999, Manitoba teachers are required to complete five years of higher education in order to enter our classrooms. Senior school leaders such as principals and superintendents on average contribute over 25 years of experience when fulfilling their responsibilities. For Manitoba's 16,000 teachers and 34,000 support staff, providing positive and nurturing educational opportunities remains a personal and professional investment—one that is well deserving of compensation. To date, no funding has been identified or



committed by any political party to address future compensation increases for the next four years. Making do with nothing is not an option.



- The average age of a school building in Manitoba is 56 years, meaning that investing in aging capital infrastructure remains key to the success of providing quality and healthy spaces for our children. For many years, Manitoba experienced the second lowest growth in school capital spending across Canada.¹ If education is to be fixed, it begins by fixing our schools.

TOP FIVE QUESTIONS FOR LOCAL, MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

Education must be a key priority during the 2023 election. You know the facts on the current situation faced in our schools. Asking local candidates about their own, as well as their party's future plans for public education, will certainly help you to best evaluate who deserves your vote. Here are our suggestions for five powerful questions you can ask, to help inform your vote:

"If elected to office...

1. What are your own, as well as your party's plans to support education in the years ahead and does this plan speak to the next four years only, or to the next generation too?
2. Does your party recognize that schools alone cannot address the complex needs of all students and if so, how will you and your party come alongside of schools to respond to poverty reduction, as well as to promote greater accessibility, inclusion and well-being for our students?
3. Based on a recent survey², are you aware that a clear majority of Manitobans support increased "teacher salaries and benefits", "providing more funding for schools", and "added resources and supports for children and families" as their top priority for improving our schools, and does this also reflect your own, as well as your party's priorities for improving our schools?
4. Does your party have plans to address the current investment gap when it comes to school programs and services, with funding for maintaining school buildings?
5. Which features of Manitoba's education system will stay the same, which aspects will change, and why?

¹ Fraser Institute. (Fall, 2021). Education Spending in Public Schools in Canada.

² 51 per cent. Cited from Probe Research, December, 2021 Omnibus Survey. "Views on Manitoba's Education System."

NOW IT'S TIME TO VOTE!

During every election, your participation as a voter remains important to democracy. By discovering why education matters, finding out the facts, and asking the right questions, you can make informed decisions concerning the future of education in Manitoba.



Where do your local candidates stand on the future of our children's education?

On this coming election day, October 3, 2023, please mark your calendar and cast your vote, knowing that our students are depending on you to help make a way for their future!



Please note that, in order to vote during the advanced polls or on election day, you will first need to be registered to vote.

If you are not registered already and to find out how you can register, please visit the Elections Manitoba website at:

https://www.electionsmanitoba.ca/en/Voting/Register_of_Voters



To find out more and to access additional election and information resources, please visit:

www.election2023.ca



Because schools belong to communities

