

Make Poverty History Manitoba Policy Priorities – 2016 Provincial Election

1. Target and Timeline

Immediately establish a target and timeline for reducing poverty and social exclusion in Manitoba.

2. Employment

Incrementally increase the minimum wage per hour to \$15.53 per hour (equivalent to the Low Income Cut Off –Before Tax (LICO – BT) for a single parent with one child) and index annually to the LICO—BT.

Family Type	Minimum Wage	Poverty Line Wage (LICO-BT 2013)	Living Wage (2013)
2p2c	\$11.00	\$11.52	\$14.07
1p1c	\$11.00	\$15.53*	\$17.04

*Target wage proposed to be achieved by 2020 in The View from Here. Note that it is still \$1.51 short of what it would take for a 1p1c family to earn a living wage.

3. Housing

Beginning in Budget 2016 invest in building a minimum of 300 net new units of rent-geared to income housing annually for five years.

4. Employment and Income Assistance

Increase EIA rates to reflect the actual costs of purchasing basic needs beginning with a doubling of the basic needs allowance in Budget 2016.

This must be achieved by immediately establishing an EIA Rate Review Committee consisting of government and community representatives with a mandate to create new legislation that will establish a transparent mechanism for:

- i) Redefining basic needs and setting rates to reflect the actual costs of purchasing basic needs.
- ii) Reviewing and annually updating EIA rates in Manitoba to reflect increasing costs.

5. Child Care

Provide the provincial leadership to add 12,000 new licensed, funded non-profit child care spaces by 2021 with priority given to low socio-economic neighbourhoods and immediately provide a full fee subsidy for families living below the poverty line (LICO-AT).

6. Mental Health

Double funding for community-based mental health services that serve low-income Manitobans.