Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Raise the Rates Petition Jan 2014

Background

Manitoba has the lowest rates for EIA or welfare in Canada for single and disabled individuals.

The EIA rent allowance is far below the cost of rental housing. And the EIA living allowance is only $195 per month for individuals, has not increased since 1992, and does not include money for transportation, phone, or other essentials.

The income gap is forcing people to rely on food banks, live in over-crowded and substandard housing that does not meet government safety codes. This low income limits job search, education attainment, health and wellbeing.

Therefore we the undersigned *urge the Manitoba Government to:*

1. Ensure people on EIA have enough income to meet their basic needs and funds from EIA be increased over the next three years to the Market Basket Measure of poverty. The MBM is a poverty level that considers the cost of living in 49 Canadian communities by estimating the cost of a specific basket of goods and services including a nutritious diet, clothing and footwear, shelter, transportation, and other necessary goods and services.

2. Increase the amount of money individuals can earn on EIA from $200.00 to $500.00 per month before EIA deducts 70 cents from every dollar earned.

3. Ensure the funds to make these changes to EIA are part of the 2014 budget.

4. Ensure the Manitoba Government creates a new disability benefit separate from EIA for people with long term disabilities unable to work as recommended by the community and the December 2013 EIA Rate Review.

Name Address email

Please complete these petitions by March 14/14 and return to Make Poverty History Manitoba c/o Social Planning Council Winnipeg 300-207 Donald Street Winnipeg, MB R3C 1M5