

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY MANITOBA

Make Poverty History Manitoba Priorities for the City of Winnipeg's Poverty Reduction Strategy

We anticipate that the Mayor of Winnipeg will lead the City's poverty reduction strategy and be a public champion for poverty reduction. This includes, but is not limited to, recognizing the role that other levels of government need to play and calling on them to act in areas they are primarily responsible for. Make Poverty History Manitoba prioritizes advocacy for the following actions:

- New construction of housing where rents are no more than 30% of household income
- A livable basic needs benefit for people on provincial income assistance
- A minimum wage that lifts full time workers above the poverty line
- New childcare spaces
- Increased investments in mental health and addictions services

We also anticipate that the City of Winnipeg's poverty reduction strategy will demonstrate leadership by outlining specific actions that the City will take to reduce poverty using its own resources and governance tools. Make Poverty History Manitoba will be watching for the following priority actions when the strategy is released:

1. TRANSPORTATION

- a. A *sliding scale* low income bus pass program fully integrated with the Transit Plus program developed in consultation with community-based organizations.
- b. Study the cost of implementing fare free transit in Winnipeg

2. HOUSING

- a. Hiring 7 staff dedicated to the development of new social and affordable rental housing and committing to contribute to the development of 150 units of social housing annually over ten years.

3. RECONCILIATION AND ANTI-OPPRESSION

- a. Ongoing anti-racism and anti-oppression training to all City employees as well as targeted training for first responders around non-violent crisis intervention, de-escalation, mental health first aid, trauma-informed care, and harm reduction.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY MANITOBA

4. JOBS

- a. Targets for internal training & hiring and a city social procurement policy that creates opportunities for low-income people facing barriers to employment

5. COMMUNITY-BASED POVERTY REDUCTION

- a. Support for community-based poverty reduction efforts by reinstating the funding to community organizations that was cut in the 2020-2024 budget process.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY

- a. A redirection of at least 10% of police funding to community-based organizations that address the root causes of crime and expands support for 24-hour safe spaces.
- b. The establishment of a representative community led Task Force to co-create policies to address long standing concerns about police accountability, violence, and systemic discrimination against Indigenous and Black communities.

7. RECREATION

- a. The elimination of financial barriers to recreation programs and a 10% grant increase to community organizations delivering free recreation programs in low-income areas.

8. IMPLEMENTATION

- a. The structure responsible for implementation of the strategy has the authority to direct departmental activities to fulfill the goals of the strategy.
- b. Adequate resources to implement the strategy in the city's four-year budget cycle, focusing immediately on enacting the recommendations above as well as listed actions within the initial 18 month implementation plan.

These eight recommendations will inform Make Poverty History Manitoba's submission to the 2021 City of Winnipeg multi-year budgeting process. More information and further discussion is welcomed on each recommendation.