



Vote Prosperity outlines the MCC's 2023 provincial election priorities that best position our province to continued sustainable economic growth and increased prosperity for the business community and all Manitobans. Organized into four public policy pillars, MCC's 2023 provincial election priorities focus on:

- PILLAR 1: Strengthening Economic Competitiveness and Business Confidence

Manitoba Liberals have proposed a series of measures in our platform aimed at small businesses.

We are committed to improving access to capital and equity for Independent Manitoba Businesses with the creation of politically independent **Manitoba Business Development Bank (MBDB)**. Both North Dakota and Alberta have their own financial institutions which help their province's businesses start and scale up. The goal of the MBDB would be to provide "patient capital" in the form of equity investments for Manitoba businesses and farmers who need capital investment, but not debt. We want government to focus on investing in Manitoba. Our focus is on growing businesses based on increasing access to capital – the lack of which often is a major obstacle to business growth in Manitoba.

Manitoba Liberals are supportive of phasing out the payroll tax, which we see as unnecessarily burdensome on employers.

- PILLAR 2: Attracting and Retaining Manitoba's Talent

Manitoba Liberals will immediately work in partnership with our regulators to make sure that we have a modern, efficient and effective credentials recognitions process. The other is that if people arrive here, we have to make sure they can afford to pay their bills while getting certified. So we want to ensure we're providing income supports, or allowing for people to work as they are being credentialed. And that's the third issue - lots of people are already here in Manitoba. So we need to look within and make sure we are training up those people who have foreign credentials who are already living here. We have been losing quality workers from a number of sectors including desperately needed healthcare and education professionals to other provinces and in many cases, credential recognition has been an overly difficult barriers to certification.

Our post-secondary institutions are 'factories' of learning that will supply the workers of tomorrow that our industries desperately need. We can't recruit new workers to key industries if poor wages disincentivize them from entering certain jobs and we can't retain them if we aren't putting up competitive wages and better benefits exist elsewhere. We will look to improve wages and benefits in key sectors that have been neglected by successive NDP and PC governments.

- PILLAR 3: Facilitating Global Trade and Reducing Barriers

Part of expanding global trade opportunities for Manitoba means improving our trade corridor and transportation infrastructure - the Port of Churchill, Centreport, Emerson. We are committed to investments in those.

Manitoba also needs to expanding its industrial and export capacity. It's not enough just to be a waystation for trade. We need value-added processing and manufacturing in Manitoba, that is Manitoba-owned, so that we are adding value and exporting it. The PC's funding freeze left many municipalities unable to put together multi-year budgets and plan ahead for their own economic development.

In consultation with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities we will determine 'shovel-worthy' projects that will give Manitoba a maximum return on investment - value added processing / investing in improving our own trade corridor infrastructure to grow our economy. We will also support Centreport as North America's largest inland intermodal trade hub by investing in better servicing to be available including water, wastewater, and energy services. We will also support Centreport in its efforts to diversify its revenue streams.

Manitoba Liberals recognize that in order to grow trade, we need to have a diverse and inclusive economy that works for everyone. We are committed to working with our Indigenous partners to expand economic opportunities to facilitate equitable participation in the spirit of reconciliation. We have committed to creating a Manitoba Indigenous Secretariat to be an independent voice directing government on how best to offer programs/services, but also economic inclusion and participation to Indigenous peoples.

- PILLAR 4: Building Strong, Resilient and Healthy Communities

Economic development is all about sustaining healthy communities. First, we need to recognize the damage that the PC government's municipal funding freeze had a devastating impact on municipalities across the province. Many were unable to plan for long term growth or develop multi-year budgets because of unstable funding levels.

Our post-secondary institutions are 'factories' of learning that will provide our industries with the workers of tomorrow. These 'factories' need investment to expand their capacity. We are at a critical juncture for many of our industries where successive NDP and PC governments did not train enough workers like in healthcare, despite being warned that labour shortages are coming. We have announced targeted investment in faculties that have pressing labour shortages like nursing, medicine, psychology, and education/childcare to increase seats and educators to provide for a seamless transition from

school to the workforce. We have also announced comprehensive retention strategies so that workers working in communities across the province will prosper.

Our first priority is ensuring adequate and stable funding to make sure the system has resources to support all students. Education is fundamentally about students. We want to see a K-12 system that ensures students are prepared for life and learning to the best of their capacity – literacy, numeracy, and skills for work.

We want a rich and varied educational experience for students, and to make sure that every student is accommodated. For staff, we want a school system that is responsive and can adapt to address problems and challenges.

Manitoba Liberals recognize that a successful public education system means ensuring that all students, no matter where they live and go to school, have the same high-quality learning available to them, right across the province. That every student in Manitoba grows up to reach their full potential. This includes students with learning disabilities.

We have a roadmap for what works in our province. We know that equity matters and that education funding is not a 'cost' but a needed investment.