

Budget Paper E

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF
MANITOBA YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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■ EDUCATION AND TRAINING

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF MANITOBA YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Education and training are a cornerstone of the province's approach to successful long-term economic development. Prosperity for the future lies in providing the skills and supports Manitoba youth need to seize the opportunities offered by the province's diversified economy. A skilled work force helps businesses grow and provides young families the opportunity to build their future around rewarding jobs. Life-long success for youth begins in pre-school and continues with post-secondary education, apprenticeship and other high-tech opportunities, and ultimately drives the innovation needed to grow the economy and future successes.

Education and training programs help youth connect to the community and succeed as individuals who contribute back to the province. Successful programs benefit individuals and the provinces as a whole because they lead to rewarding jobs, provide a skilled workforce for a global economy and reduce inequality and crime. The focus on quality education, connecting youth to exciting jobs and keeping education affordable, leads to success for youth and the province as a whole.

This commitment to education is showing results. The high school graduation rate has increased by 14 per cent to 82.7 per cent in 2010, up from 72.4 per cent in 2001. A Red River College survey of 2007/08 graduates showed that 97 per cent found jobs within six months of graduation and 95 per cent of the students chose to stay in Manitoba. The number of active apprentices has more than doubled since 1999, and as of March 2010, there were 7,682 active apprentices. Currently, the youth unemployment rate in Manitoba is the second lowest in the country.

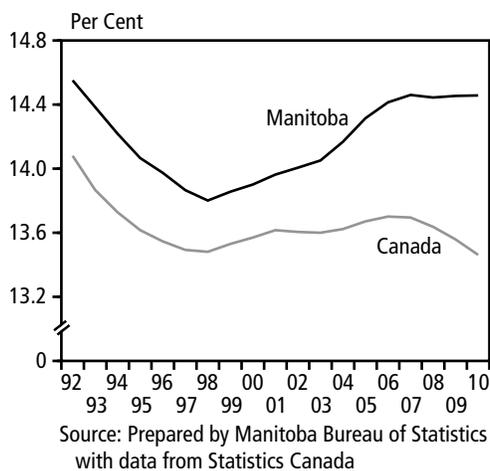
The commitment to education is part of Manitoba's five-year economic plan: *Manitoba Moves Forward*. It includes investing in vital front-line services and stimulating economic growth, both areas where education and training play a pivotal role. In addition, the Premier's Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) recently reinforced the importance of youth in growing opportunities for individuals and communities to sustain economic growth.

The commitment to education is shared by the community. PEAC hosted the "Imagine Manitoba" Economic Summit last April and laid out a number of ideas for economic growth. The Speech from the Throne in November 2010 followed up on some of those ideas. One was the announcement of Manitoba Mentors, a \$6.7 million youth mentorship program. Beginning September 2011, the program will match approximately 500 high school students with employers from business, non-profit organizations and labour who will volunteer their time to act as mentors and help make the transition from learning to work. The program is expected to reach 2,500 youth over the next three years. Manitoba Mentors is part of the Manitoba government's overall approach to youth education and training.

Youth Demographics

Manitoba is getting younger, while Canada's population is aging. As of July 1, 2010 the median age in Manitoba was 37.7 years, down slightly from the previous year. The Canadian median age rose from 39.5 to 39.7 during the same timeframe. Manitoba's population growth of 100,035¹ since October 1999 has been supported mainly by the arrival of new immigrants, declining outflows to other provinces and an increase in the number of births. The province's key youth demographics break down in the following way:

Population Aged 15 to 24 Percent Share of Total Manitoba and Canada 1992 to 2010



- The proportion of Manitobans aged 0 to 14 stood at 18.8 per cent as of July 1, 2010, well above the national share of 16.5 per cent and compared to the other provinces, Manitoba has the second highest share of children living within its borders.
- The share of the population aged 15 to 24 has increased considerably from 1998 when it reached an all-time low of 13.8 per cent. As of July 1, 2010, it now stands at 14.5 per cent, a full percentage point higher than the Canadian share of 13.5 per cent and second highest among the provinces.
- Overall Manitoba is the third-youngest province in the nation, while Alberta is ranked first with a median age of 35.8 years and Saskatchewan is second at 37.5 years.

Success Starts Early

The foundations for success are set early. The Manitoba government supports a range of programs for families, infants and children as they grow into successful students and adults in exciting careers. The Healthy

Child Manitoba strategy invests \$28 million in programs that help children grow and develop, particularly during the crucial early years from pregnancy to age five. The Manitoba Prenatal Benefit supports healthy diets for low-income moms during pregnancy. A range of programs with proven results provide children and their families with supports through community-based approaches such as Healthy Baby, Families First, the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program and Roots of Empathy. Manitoba's unique approach to child-centred policies involving nine departments and 26 parent-child coalitions has been recognized nationally as a leader in child-centred policy development that delivers results.

Family Choices: Manitoba's Five-Year Agenda for Early Learning and Child Care, was launched in April 2008 and has made \$27 million in investments in child care. To date, funding for 3,500 spaces and 29 sites has been announced. There are approximately 6,500 child-care workers employed in centres and nursery schools, plus another 481 workers offering child-care services in homes. Wages for child-care workers have increased and Manitoba is one of only two provinces providing a pension plan for child-care workers. Front-line early childhood educator salaries have increased by nearly 50 per cent since 1999, above the rate of inflation of 23 per cent over the same time period. This is part of the overall strategy to recruit and retain trained workers who provide care and early learning for children.

¹ Based on a January 1, 2011 population figure of 1,243,653 as estimated by Statistics Canada.

Investing in Public Schools

The Manitoba government's education commitments reflect the belief that investing in the education and training of youth will strengthen the province and grow the economy. Funding for the public school system will increase by 2.7 per cent this year, bringing the overall budget for schools to \$1.135 billion. Education funding has increased by \$363.7 million since 1999, a 47.2 per cent increase in overall support.

Over the past 12 years, more than \$737 million has been invested in public school capital projects. These projects include 18 new schools, 13 replacement schools and over 77 renovations and additions to existing schools. Recent projects include a \$3.2 million renovation at the Dauphin Regional Comprehensive Secondary School, renovations at Margaret Barbour Collegiate in The Pas and the \$19 million construction of the Prairie Dale School near Winkler.

The province is also providing \$690,000 for stay-in-school initiatives such as improving attendance, a reading apprenticeship program, an inner city science centre and developing new ways to help more students be successful. This builds on programs to increase school attendance for at-risk youth, including \$4 million for Bright Futures and continued funding of \$600,000 for the Student Success Initiative pilot project in the Winnipeg, Lakeshore and Kelsey school divisions.

Other building blocks for youth success include legislation aimed at ensuring youth stay in school, or a training or education program until they are 18. This approach recognizes that a traditional classroom setting doesn't always work for everyone and reflects a commitment to supporting students in finding success in their education path. The Manitoba government is also updating the provincial assessment process to ensure report cards and other assessments are clear and useful for educators, students and parents, and that there are clear expectations for academic honesty and consequences for late or missing work.

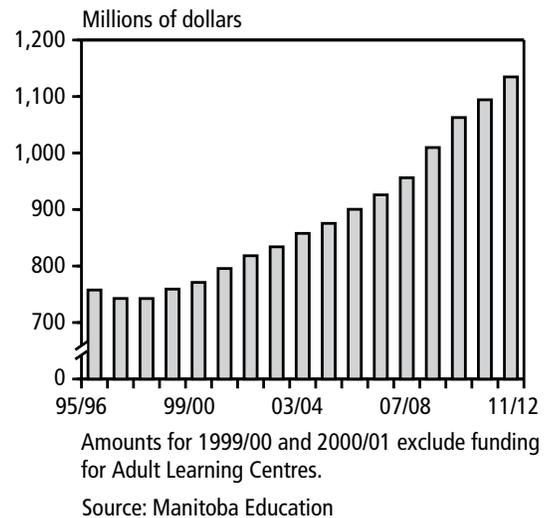
Post-Secondary

Between 1999 and 2010/11, total provincial operating funding for Manitoba's colleges and universities, including funding through the College Expansion Initiative, increased by 80.4 per cent, while inflation rose 22 per cent. More students are accessing post-secondary education. Enrolment in universities and colleges increased by 3.9 per cent or 2,195 students in 2010 over 2009.

Operating funding for universities has risen substantially since 1999:

- University of Manitoba is up by \$105.3 million or 59.3 per cent.
- University of Winnipeg has increased by \$22.4 million or 78.5 per cent.
- Brandon University is up by \$13.1 million or 64.6 per cent.
- University College of the North is up by \$15.8 million or 126 per cent.
- College universitaire de Saint-Boniface has increased by \$4.9 million or 87.4 per cent.

Funding Announcements to Public Schools, 1995/96 to 2011/12



College operational funding has also steadily increased:

- Red River College has increased by \$50.6 million or 118.1 per cent.
- Assiniboine Community College has increased by \$12 million or 95.3 per cent.
- École Technique et Professionnelle has increased by \$2.2 million or 221.8 per cent.

In the past 12 years, over \$800 million has been invested in capital support to build, renovate and improve colleges and universities, including:

- Assiniboine Community College: \$46 million for the Len Evans Centre for Trades and Technology to double apprenticeship opportunities.
- University of Manitoba: \$47 million for Project Domino to support the re-development of the Fort Garry Campus.
- University of Winnipeg: \$31 million for the Richardson Science Complex to build an environmentally-sustainable laboratory, classroom and office space.
- University College of the North: \$75.2 million towards construction of a new 8175 square metre (88,000 square-foot) Thompson campus and \$17.1 million for The Pas, including renovations to the existing campus and a new library, Student Services Centre and child-care facility.
- Brandon University: \$3.9 million for the physical plant.
- Red River College: \$11.7 million to build the Heavy Equipment Transportation Centre.
- A partnership with the federal government, under the Knowledge Infrastructure Program (KIP), will invest \$8 million in new facility construction and renovations for the 12 regional centres through University College of the North; \$19 million to build the Paterson Global Foods Institute in the Union Bank Tower; \$562,520 for upgrades to the Information Technology Server Room at Brandon University; and a \$3.5 million expansion at the Assiniboine Community College's campus in Dauphin.
- Collège universitaire St. Boniface (CUSB): Up to \$7.7 million in provincial funding—this includes \$3 million to match \$3 million from the federal government through KIP. In addition the province will provide up to \$4.7 million through a matching program (\$2 for every \$1 raised by CUSB), for the expansion of the Health Sciences and Social Services building.
- Brandon University: \$5.3 million for the new Healthy Living Centre, through a federal-provincial partnership.

There have been substantial investments in post-secondary operating and capital budgets. In the future, PEAC and the Manitoba government, in partnership with post-secondary institutions will look at ways to enhance research and development opportunities; forge better links with the business and labour communities; and improve collaboration among provincial institutions. Developing new approaches to transfer credits and programs between institutions will also be examined to make it easier for students to focus on completing their educational paths.

Careers in Technology and Trades

A university education is not the only route to a successful career. Manitoba's growing economy requires people trained in the skilled trades and other technical vocations. There is demand for these types of skills, and additional training can lead to a rewarding and exciting career. According to recent studies, it is predicted that over the next 10 years, 75 per cent of jobs will require technical post-secondary education other than a university degree. In the next two decades, 40 per cent of new jobs are expected to be in skilled trades and technology. In 1998, that number was less than 20 per cent.

Apprenticeship

There are more than 50 designated trades in four sectors: industrial, transportation, construction and service. More importantly, this is an area of rapid growth in training to meet the demand for skilled employees. Between 2007 and 2010/11, there have been 1,999 seats added, bringing the total number to 5,050 and the Manitoba government is on track to add several hundred additional seats.

The High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP) encourages high school students to start early in the trades, through practical, paid and on-the-job work experience for high school youth. Students are also able to apply their hours of on-the-job training towards their Level 1 apprenticeship training program credits in any designated trade in Manitoba. The number of participants in HSAP has increased 236 per cent since 2004/05, with 556 apprentices in the program in 2009/10.

Technical Vocational Initiative

Last month the Manitoba government announced an additional investment of \$6.4 million in the Technical Vocational Initiative (TVI), which connects high school students with cutting-edge technology and future successes in the high-tech sector. Studies range from aeronautic design and robotics to video-game design and green technologies. TVI works with business, industry and trade-sector councils to develop and maintain relevant training. It also provides the equipment and expertise needed to teach these high-tech skills.

TVI also supports innovative approaches to program delivery, particularly in rural and northern areas. The initiative also actively supports programs that develop an understanding of emerging, renewable-energy technology and related skills training.

Students from Brandon's Crocus Plains Regional High School will compete in Malaysia in September of this year. They will represent Canada in the "F1 in Schools" world championships. TVI provided Computer-Aided Three-Dimensional Interactive Application (CATIA) design engineering software for the "F1 in Schools" projects. Crocus students won at the "F1 in Schools" competitions, which are held annually at the University of Manitoba, Faculty of Engineering.

Supporting Successful Youth

Youth also develop skills and experiences outside the classroom that lead to long-term individual success and ongoing positive contributions to the economy and the community. In 2010/11 the Manitoba government invested \$13.6 million in 25 employment, career development, mentorships, leadership and engagement programs for youth aged 10 to 29.

These programs develop leadership and teamwork skills, confidence, self-esteem and greater community participation. These additional supports can help youth succeed in the classroom and the community, and go on to enjoy thriving careers.

Last year over 26,000 students tapped into these programs, including 6,872 who got jobs and 2,291 who received pre-employment assistance and training. These programs include:

- Youth Employment Support Programs give at-risk youth aged 16-25 who face various barriers, the opportunity to gain life skills, training and employment.
- Bright Futures co-ordinates early intervention efforts for disadvantaged, under-represented and low-income youth. It also helps improve high school graduation rates and support students who go on to post-secondary education.
- Northern Aboriginal Internship Program provides students north of the 53° Parallel career awareness information, internships and employment opportunities.
- Partners with Youth works with rural youth who receive income assistance or who have multiple barriers to employment and connects them with non-profit, community-based organizations and training agencies to gain the skills needed for future employment.
- Manitoba Grants for Innovation in Citizenship Education provides 20 grants of \$1,000 to schools to support innovative, youth-citizenship education projects in their communities and schools.

The Student Aid program provides loans and assistance to help make post-secondary education more affordable and accessible. Based on financial need, federal and provincial loans, grants and bursaries are available to students. In 2009/10, 9,460 students received loans and bursaries worth \$75.1 million; \$10.9 million was provided for other provincial awards such as the Scholarship and Bursary Initiative and the Aboriginal Education Awards; and \$11.4 million went towards debt reduction for students.

Manitoba also has a unique income tax rebate, targeted to students who stay and work in Manitoba following their graduation from any post-secondary institution in the world. The Tuition Fee Income Tax Rebate provides post-secondary graduates with a 60 per cent tax rebate on eligible tuition fees, helping graduates pay for their education while living and working in Manitoba. A program enhancement made in last year's provincial budget gives college and university students earlier access to a portion of the rebate while they are still in school, providing additional financial assistance when they need it most. Almost \$80 million in refunds and tax savings will have been provided to students and graduates by 2011.

Employment

Strong education and training programs provide students the skills they need to thrive in Manitoba's growing economy. They also provide the talent employers need to continue to attract investment and grow their businesses. The opportunities offered by the growth of green technologies are an evolving field where knowledge is needed in areas such as geothermal heating and hybrid cars. Mentorships and career experience programs also help connect youth with future jobs.

There are also programs that help youth to gain work experience during their education and to help pay for their education. For example, the Urban and Hometown Green Teams help organizations such as not-for-profit groups, universities, colleges, hospitals and rural municipal governments hire up to four youth between May and August. The organizations receive a grant to help with wages and the youth receive experience in areas such as recreation, housing rehabilitation, neighbourhood safety, park and riverbank clean-ups and providing public education on community development projects. Since 2000, nearly 12,000 jobs have been supported by the Green Team programs.

Other employment-related programs include:

- CareerFocus connects students with career-related work experience to aid the transition from school to work and provides employers with a wage incentive.
- CareerOptions for Students with Disabilities provides students and youth who have disabilities an opportunity to gain new skills through full-time summer employment and part-time employment opportunities in various provincial government departments.
- Manitoba Youth Job Centres, with 40 offices located throughout the province, provides summer employment opportunities to local students and youth by helping to match youth to local jobs, develop job search skills and promote work experience.
- Young Entrepreneurs Programming:
 - Young Entrepreneurs Business Grant provides grants of up to \$4,000 to encourage youth to start their own business.
 - Skill Development for Young Entrepreneurs provides grants of up to \$1,500 to support participation in accredited business related training courses.
 - Aboriginal Youth Mean Business! is a web-based directory of business support services for Aboriginal youth.
 - The Co-op Education and Apprenticeship Tax Credits provide a range of incentives to employers, including a co-op student and graduate hiring incentive, apprentice hiring incentive and journeyperson hiring incentive.

Conclusion

Education and training provides youth with the tools to build a positive future and connect and contribute to their communities. Ultimately, when young people can participate in the economy and in their community, there is less poverty and less crime. The economic benefits of education and training grow the economy, provide successful futures for individuals and families, and contribute to a vibrant and healthy province offering a high quality of life.