

Message From The Minister



Budget 2009 is a steady, balanced plan to build Manitoba's Future.

Manitoba's economy has been the most stable in Canada over the last decade.

However, the current global economic instability presents difficult challenges for governments across Canada. To deal with these challenges, the

Manitoba government has developed a plan to stimulate the economy today while continuing to build Manitoba's future.

Budget 2009 is our government's tenth consecutive balanced budget. It provides a steady approach that:

- stimulates the economy and improves access to credit for businesses;
- makes key investments for Manitobans and their families for the services they need; and
- identifies practical strategies to reduce costs and modernize government.

Most important, Budget 2009 is a balanced plan that invests in your priorities like infrastructure, health care, skills-training and education. It also maintains the government's commitment to tax relief for Manitoba families and businesses.

We invite you to discover what Budget 2009 means to you.

Greg Selinger
Minister of Finance

Manitoba Budget ^{March 25} 2009

Steady. Balanced. Building Manitoba's Future



What Manitoba's Budget Means to YOU



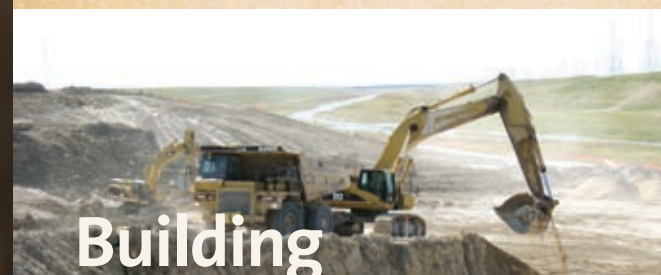
Manitoba

Manitoba's Economy A Steady Plan for Challenging Times

Manitoba's balanced approach to tax relief and strategic investments in important services puts the province in a position to face the challenges ahead while building for our future. With a diversified economy, a large and stable service sector and growing personal incomes, Manitoba is on track to post economic growth in 2009 that outperforms the national average for a fourth consecutive year.

Even with our stable economy, Manitoba is not immune to today's economic uncertainty. That is why Budget 2009 is a steady, balanced financial plan to create and maintain jobs and critical services, and use the advantages of our economic strengths to sustain our quality of life.

"The balance we observe in Manitoba's diversified economy should help it weather the storms ahead and post growth higher than the Canadian average." Canada West Foundation, December 2008



Building

Manitoba's Future

Budget 2009 builds for the future by investing \$1.6 billion in infrastructure projects that will create jobs for Manitobans and help to stimulate our economy.

- More than \$160 million in social and affordable housing.
- Investments to upgrade and build roads and highways increase to a total of \$535 million.
- A new all-purpose road will be developed - in partnership with local communities - on the east side of Lake Winnipeg.
- \$46 million in municipal and wastewater projects.
- Health capital construction projects including:
 - the Westman Regional Laboratory in Brandon;
 - the cardiac science facility at St. Boniface Hospital;
 - redevelopment of the emergency departments at the Portage and District Hospital and the Victoria General Hospital; and
 - a new 80-bed Aboriginal personal care home.



Moving Forward with Education and Training

By investing in our schools, universities and colleges, Budget 2009 provides opportunities for our young people to develop into the skilled professionals our knowledge economy needs to grow and prosper.

- A 6% increase in base operating grants and strategic program investments for universities and colleges.
- A new bursary fund for prospective apprentices has been established and more training seats will be made available for apprentices.
- Public schools receive a 5.25% increase, or \$53 million - the largest investment in public school funding in Manitoba history.
- The number of available scholarships for Aboriginal medical students will double.
- The Tuition Fee Income Tax Rebate will continue to encourage young graduates to build their careers here at home.
- Increased skills training for Manitobans affected by the economic downturn.

Keeping Health Care a Priority



Budget 2009 continues the government's decade-long commitment to providing quality, accessible health care to all Manitobans.

- Increased funding to attract and retain more physicians and specialists, especially in rural and northern Manitoba.
- The Artiste - a first in Canada - will provide high-precision, non-invasive surgery to patients.
- Funding has been increased to hire more emergency room staff and add new ambulances to the provincial fleet.
- The successful Advanced Access program will be expanded to help physician clinics reduce patient wait times.
- Additional funds will be provided for capital investments in addictions and mental health care services.
- Additional investments in hemodialysis treatment are being made in Russell, Gimli and Winnipeg.

“Since 1999, there are more than 1,800 additional nurses and 288 more doctors working today to meet the needs of Manitobans...”

Budget Speech 2009

A Continued Commitment to Families and Communities



This year's budget supports Manitoba's families and communities by balancing their current needs with investments in their long-term well-being.

Families

- Entrance fees at provincial parks will be eliminated for the next two years.
- Funds for additional child care spaces and increased wages.
- Increased supports for children in care.
- Neighbourhoods Alive! will expand across the province.
- Easier access to the Primary Caregiver Tax Credit.

Communities

- Manitoba municipalities will receive \$84 million - \$4 million more than last year - for roads, transit, public safety and other municipal infrastructure and service priorities.
- Grants for rural economic development initiatives will increase by 8.7%.
- Funding for the City of Winnipeg will increase by \$10.5 million to \$213 million to support transit, road maintenance and repair, and public safety.
- The City of Winnipeg will receive \$4 million in new funding for ambulance services.



Promoting a Green Manitoba

Budget 2009 balances the protection of Manitoba's natural resources with the need to promote sustainable development and make Manitoba a leader in the green economy.

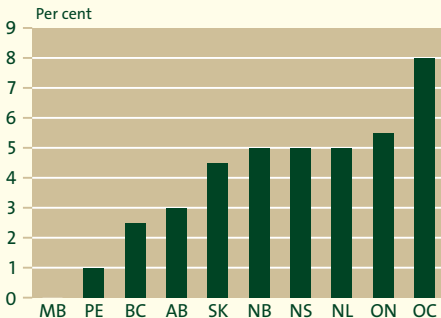
- Funds for more scientific research to support nutrient reductions in Lake Winnipeg.
- Development of a new provincial campground.
- Investments to help restore Manitoba's largest marshes.
- Development of a new wetland protection and restoration program.
- Increased funding for the e-waste initiative.
- Continued investments in wind, geothermal and other alternative energies.
- Interest rates on PowerSmart loans will be reduced to 5%.
- A new PowerSmart Shop program will help small businesses save resources through energy upgrades.

A Steady Commitment to Tax Relief

Manitoba's long-term commitment to reducing taxes for families and businesses will continue. All 2009 tax commitments made in previous budgets will be maintained.

- The basic Education Property Tax Credit will increase to \$650 - saving homeowners and renters an additional \$16 million.
- The basic personal amount, spousal amount and eligible dependent amount will increase by \$100.
- The small business income tax rate will be reduced to zero effective December 1, 2010.
- The general Corporation Income Tax rate will be reduced to 12% on July 1, 2009.
- The Manitoba Mineral Exploration Tax Credit will be extended and increased for three more years and the Mining Tax rate will be reduced.
- Funds for the Community Enterprise Investment Tax Credit will double to provide \$17 million more in investment capital for small and medium-sized businesses and the loan credit available for businesses will triple.

Provincial Small Business Income Tax Rates, 2011



“Despite tough times... Budget 2009 lowers taxes.”

Budget Speech 2009