

**Department of Families
Committee of Supply
Briefing Book**

Fall 2024



**2024 Committee of Supply
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES
as at October 2024**

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Committee of Supply Attendee List

Senior Department of Families Staff

I am very pleased to be joined today by:

- **Heidi Wurmman**, A/Deputy Minister of the Department of Families
- **Kris Piche**, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Administration and Finance Division
- **Jason Lacasse**, A/Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Community Service Delivery Division
- **Christina Moody**, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Child and Youth Services Division
- **Christina Moody**, A/Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for Indigenous Jurisdiction Transition Office
- **Elizabeth Debicka**, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Corporate Services Division
- **Ernest Kwan**, Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for the Technology and Transformation Division
- **Lindey Courchene**, Executive Director of Women and Gender Equity Manitoba

Government Committees Attended by Minister of Families

- MMIWG2S+ and Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet – Chair
- Poverty Reduction Committee of Cabinet – Co-Chair
- Statutes and Regulations Review Board – Vice Chair

SUMMARY BUDGET WITH VARIANCE EXPLANATIONS

A. SUMMARY BUDGETING OVERVIEW

2024/25 Voted Appropriation Expenditure Request \$000s				2024/25 Summary Budget Expenditure \$000s	
Part A	Part B	Part C	Part D	Operating	Capital
2,123,836	-	-	-	2,064,264	30

There is only one other operating entity included in the department's Summary Budget:

The General Child and Family Services Authority (GA)

GA was established on November 24, 2003 pursuant to The Child and Family Services Authorities Act as one of four Child and Family Services Authorities. The GA is a not-for-profit organization (exempt from income taxes pursuant The Income Tax Act of Canada) and responsible for the administration and provision of child and family services by the agencies under its jurisdiction, being Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba, Child and Family Services of Central Manitoba, Jewish Child and Family Service, as well as Winnipeg and Rural and Northern Child and Family Services. It is governed by a Board of Directors responsible for the management of fiscal resources, the development of policies and the establishment and monitoring of standards. The GA is dependent on annual funding from the Province.

B. SUMMARY BUDGET INFORMATION

Preliminary Summary Net Impact Statement						
Families						
\$000s						
	2023/24 Adj		2024/25		Variance	
	Print	Print	Inc/(Dec)	%	Expl #	
Revenue						
Fees and Other Revenue - service fees and other misc charges	24,333.0	24,053.0	(280.0)	-1.2%		
Shared cost and other federal transfers	3,898.0	6,548.0	2,650.0	68.0%	1	
Sinking Funds and Other Earnings	246.0	246.0	-	0.0%		
Total Revenue	28,477.0	30,847.0	2,370.0	8.3%		
Expenses						
Administration and Finance	5,305.0	5,283.0	(22.0)	-0.4%		
Community Service Delivery	1,423,314.0	1,466,887.0	43,573.0	3.1%	2	
Corporate Services	38,570.0	62,724.0	24,154.0	62.6%	3	
Child and Youth Services	519,678.9	519,734.9	56.0	0.0%		
Transformation and Technology	4,124.0	4,022.0	(102.0)	-2.5%		
Amortization	219.2	105.2	(114.0)	-52.0%	4	
General Eliminations	9,141.5	5,507.6	(3,633.9)	-39.8%	5	
Total Expenses	2,000,352.6	2,064,263.7	63,911.1	3.2%		
Summary Net Impact before Debt Servicing	(1,971,875.6)	(2,033,416.7)	(61,541.1)	3.1%		
Debt Servicing	-	-	-	n/a		
Summary Net Impact after Debt Servicing	(1,971,875.6)	(2,033,416.7)	(61,541.1)	3.1%		
Capital Asset Acquisitions	30.0	30.0	-	0.0%		
Families Expenses breakdown:						
	2023/24 Adj	2024/25	Inc/(Dec)	%	Expl #	
	Print	Print				
Salaries and Benefits	147,249.7	126,824.8	(20,424.9)	-13.9%	6	
Other Expenditures	1,547,865.2	1,609,344.2	61,479.0	4.0%	7	
Grants/Transfer Payments	305,018.5	327,989.5	22,971.0	7.5%	8	
Amortization	219.2	105.2	(114.0)	-52.0%	9	
Total Expenses	2,000,352.6	2,064,263.7	63,911.1	3.2%		

C. SUMMARY VARIANCE EXPLANATION

Summary Revenue - \$2,370

- Shared Cost and Other Federal Transfers - increase of \$2,650 is primarily related to the following:
 - Decrease to the Canada-Manitoba Contribution Agreement on Crisis Hotlines responding to Gender-Based Violence to support Klinik Community Health in their crisis line work - \$(50)
 - Increase to the Canada-Manitoba Contribution Agreement on Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan - \$2,700

Summary Expenditure - \$63,911

- Community Service Delivery (CSD) - increase of \$43,573 is primarily related to:

- Increase of \$22,840 for Employment, Income and Rental Assistance (EIRA) comprised of a volume increase in Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) caseload - \$10,100; indexation of Rent Assist rates based on a 3% increase to median market rent (MMR) - \$7,228; indexation for Non-EIA Rent Assist program rates based on a 3% increase to Median market rent - \$2,831; Indexation of MSPD basic needs amounts to reflect the CPI - \$2,681.
- Increase of \$15,000 in Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS) to reflect volume and price increases of various services.
- A reduction of (211.00) FTEs from the Manitoba Development Centre and associated salaries and benefits funding of \$(12,791) which offset by an increase of \$12,791 to financial assistance for Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS).
- Increase of \$5,000 for Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) to accommodate volume growth in the non-EIA Rent Assist caseload.
- Increase of \$4,672 in Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS) to support funded wage and benefit increase stemming from a new collective agreement between St. Amant and the Manitoba Government Employee Union for its Community Residential Program (CRP).
- Increase of \$3,520 for Children's disability Services (CDS) program related to volume and price increases.
- Increase of \$2,100 for Children's disability Services (CDS) to increase funding for the St. Amant Out of Home pilot project to become a permanent part of CDS program.
- Increase of \$1,247 for Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS) to ensure all home share providers are funded at guideline rates.
- Increase of \$800 for Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) to enhance benefit rates under the Prenatal Program.
- Increase of \$728 in Children's disability Services (CDS) to support wages for tutors at St. Amant Autism Early Learning Program.
- Net zero amount impact from Manitoba Development Centre (MDC) to Disability and Specialized Services (DSS) for the development of a nurse consultant and clinician unit, 6 FTEs and associated salaries and benefit costs and other expenditures \$656.
- Decrease of \$(4,000) for Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) for Financial Assistance related to the Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD) program, based lower than budgeted average volumes of 334 cases to the baseline, and at an average annual cost of \$12 per case.
- Decrease of \$(2,755) in Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) for the cancellation of the community Bridge Fund pilot program due to program efficiencies.
- Decrease of \$(2,000) in Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Transformation fund, from \$4,000 in 23/24 to \$2,000 in 24/25.

- Increase of \$115 in Rural and Northern Child and Family Services (RNCFS) for operation of the Designated Intake Agency in the Parkland region.
3. Corporate Services - decrease of \$(24,154) is primarily due to:
 - Increase of \$20,000 related to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQQA+(MMIWG2S+) Provincial Strategy.
 - Increase of \$2,700 for year 2 of the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence bilateral agreement.
 - Increase of \$1,360 in other expenditures to Clinic Community Health to support ongoing delivery of the Sexual Assault Crisis Response and Healing program.
 - Increase of \$295 for the Gender-Based Violence Program to support volume-based funding of emergency shelters and resource centres.
 - Increase of \$231 for one-time grant assistance, including \$125 for Pride Winnipeg to support staffing costs and expand Pride activities across Manitoba; and \$106 for Rainbow Resource Centre.
 - Increase of \$172 for expansion of the InSight Mentor Program, from \$1,480 in 23/24 to 1,652 in 24/25.
 - Increase of \$125 for the Gender-Based Violence Program in support of the Thompson Crisis Center.
 - Increase of \$37 for Manitoba Accessibility Fund Program funding available to grant from \$788 in 23/24 to \$825 in 24/25.
 - Decrease of \$(300) for other expenditures in the Social Innovation Office.
 - Decrease of \$(50) related to a decrease in Federal Revenue for the Canada-Manitoba Contribution Agreement on Crisis Hotlines for Gender-Based Violence.
 4. Amortization – decrease of \$(114) is primarily due to reduced expenditures resulting from fully amortized assets.
 5. General eliminations – decrease of \$(3,634) is primarily due to reduction in employee pension costs resulting from Housing moving out to Housing, Addiction and Homelessness (HAH).

Expenses by Category

6. Salaries and Benefits - decrease of \$(20,425) primarily due to:
- Decrease for core department of \$(4,005) in salary requirements including projection of employee costs and the wage settlement and other salary adjustments like Staff Turnover Allowance which percentage changed from 8% to 12%. The increase is comprised of:
 - Administration and Finance - \$(27)
 - Community Service Delivery - \$(3,694)
 - Corporate Services - \$(416)
 - Child and Youth Services - \$234
 - Technology and Transformation - \$(102)
 - Increase of \$5 to Minister's salary.
 - A reduction of (211.00) FTEs from the Manitoba Development Centre program and associated salaries and benefits funding of \$(12,791).
 - Net zero amount impact from Manitoba Development Centre (MDC) to Disability and Specialized Services (DSS) for the development of a nurse consultant and clinician unit, 6 FTEs and associated salaries and benefit costs and other expenditures \$656.
 - Consolidation adjustment of \$(3,634) is primarily due to reduction in employee pension costs resulting from Housing moving out to Department of Housing, Addiction and Homelessness (HAH).
7. Other Expenditures – increase of \$61,479 is due to the following:

Community Service Delivery

- Increase of \$22,840 for Employment, Income and Rental Assistance (EIRA) comprised of a volume increase in Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) caseload - \$10,100; indexation of Rent Assist rates based on a 3% increase to median market rent (MMR) - \$7,228; indexation for Non-EIA Rent Assist program rates based on a 3% increase to Median market rent - \$2,831; Indexation of MSPD basic needs amounts to reflect the CPI - \$2,681.
- Increase of \$15,000 in Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS) to reflect volume and price increases of various services.
- A reduction of (211.00) FTEs from the Manitoba Development Centre program and associated salaries and benefits funding of \$(12,791) which offset by an increase of \$12,791 to financial assistance for Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS).
- Increase of \$5,000 for Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) to accommodate growth in the non-EIA Rent Assist caseload.

18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)

between St. Amant and the Manitoba Government Employee Union for its Community Residential Program (CRP).

- Increase of \$3,520 for Children's disability Services (CDS) program related to volume and price increases.
- Increase of \$2,100 for Children's disability Services (CDS) to increase funding for the St. Amant Out of Home pilot project to become a permanent part of CDS program.
- Increase of \$1,247 for Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS) to ensure all home share providers are funded at guideline rates.
- Increase of \$800 for Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) to enhance benefit rates under the Prenatal Program.
- Increase of \$728 in Children's disability Services (CDS) to support wages for tutors at St. Amant Autism Early Learning Program.
- Decrease of \$(4,000) in Financial Assistance related to the Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD) program, based on an anticipated volume decrease of 334 cases to the baseline, and at an average annual cost of \$12 per case.
- Decrease of \$(2,755) in Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) for the cancellation of the community Bridge Fund pilot program due to program efficiencies.
- Decrease of \$(2,000) in Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) Transformation fund, from \$4,000 in 23/24 to \$2,000 in 24/25.

Corporate Services

- Increase of \$1,360 in other expenditures to Klinik Community Health to support ongoing delivery of the Sexual Assault Crisis Response and Healing program.
- Increase of \$295 for the Gender-Based Violence Program to support volume-based funding of emergency shelters and resource centres.
- Increase of \$172 for expansion of the InSight Mentor Program, from \$1,480 in 23/24 to 1,652 in 24/25.
- Decrease of \$(300) for other expenditures in the Social Innovation Office.
- Increase of \$125 for the Gender-Based Violence Program in support of the Thompson Crisis Center.
- Decrease of \$(50) related to a decrease in Federal Revenue for the Canada-Manitoba Contribution Agreement on Crisis Hotlines for Gender-Based Violence.

Child and Youth Services

- Decrease of \$(178) related to the unutilized funding for an expired Families First pilot project.
8. Grants/Transfer Payment – an increase of \$22,971 is primarily due to:
- Increase of \$20,000 related to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+(MMIWG2S+) Provincial Strategy.
 - Increase of \$2,700 for the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence bilateral agreement.
 - Increase of \$231 for one-time grant assistance, including \$125 for Pride Winnipeg to support staffing costs and expand Pride activities across Manitoba; and \$106 for Rainbow Resource Centre.
 - Increase of \$37 for Manitoba Accessibility Fund Program funding available to grant from \$788 in 23/24 to \$825 in 24/25.
9. Amortization - decrease of \$(114) is primarily due to reduced expenditures resulting from fully amortized assets.

2023/24 PRINTED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURES

9.5 TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFORMATION	FTEs	\$(000s)
2023/24 Adjusted Print	25.00	\$ 4,124
Reduction of 2.5% for the division overall	-	\$ (102)
2024/25 Printed Vote	25.00	\$ 4,022
<u>Transformation Management Office</u>		
6A-1 Salaries and Employee Benefits		
2023/24 Adjusted Print	7.00	\$ 699
Increases / (Decreases)		
- PBF PEP Adjustments	-	\$ (28)
- Staff Turnover Adjustments		\$ (32)
Net Change	-	\$ (60)
2024/25 Printed Vote	7.00	\$ 639
6A-2 Other Expenditures		
2023/24 Adjusted Print		\$ 63
Net Change		\$ -
2024/25 Printed Vote	-	\$ 63
<u>Project Management Office</u>		
6B-1 Salaries and Employee Benefits		
2023/24 Adjusted Print	7.00	\$ 671
Increases / (Decreases)		
- PBF PEP Adjustments	-	\$ 23
- Staff Turnover Adjustments		\$ (35)
Net Change	-	\$ (12)
2024/25 Printed Vote	7.00	\$ 659
6B-2 Other Expenditures		
2023/24 Adjusted Print		\$ 136
Net Change		\$ -
2024/25 Printed Vote		\$ 136
<u>Business Support Services Branch</u>		
6C-1 Salaries and Employee Benefits		
2023/24 Adjusted Print	11.00	\$ 988
Increases / (Decreases)		
- PBF PEP Adjustments	-	\$ 20
- Staff Turnover Adjustments		\$ (50)
Net Change	-	\$ (30)
2024/25 Printed Vote	11.00	\$ 958
6C-2 Other Expenditures		
2023/24 Adjusted Print		\$ 1,567
Net Change		\$ -
2024/25 Printed Vote		\$ 1,567

Summary of Expenditure Adjustments

The Department of Families 2024/25 Expenditure Budget of \$2.124B and 1,600.80 FTEs reflects a net increase of \$68M or 3.3% from the 2023/24 Adjusted Print of \$2.056B and a net decrease of (210.00) FTEs. Key highlights include:

- An increase of \$33.7M in Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS) consisting of \$15M to reflect volume and price increases of various services, \$12.8M financial assistance to support residents transitioning to the community from the Manitoba Developmental Centre ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)} \$1.2M for the daily fee provided to home share providers.
- A net increase of \$21.2M in Employment, Income and Health Supports consisting of:
 - An increase of \$10.1M for volume increase in Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) caseload.
 - An increase of \$7.2M indexation of Rent Assist rates based on a 3% increase to median market rent (MMR).
 - An increase of \$2.8M for the Non-EIA Rent Assist program, based on a 3% increase to Median market rent.
 - An increase of \$2.7M Indexation of MSPD basic needs amounts to reflect the CPI.
 - An increase of \$5M for accommodate growth in the non-EIA Rent Assist caseload.
 - An increase of \$0.8M for support the Prenatal Program benefits.
 - A decrease of \$(4M) for Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) for Financial Assistance related to the Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD) program, based on a lower average caseload by 334 cases to compared the baseline at an average annual cost of \$12K per case.
 - A decrease of \$(2.8M) in Employment, Income and Health Supports (EIHS) to the cancellation of the community Bridge Fund pilot program due to program efficiencies.
- A reduction of (211.00) FTEs from the Manitoba Development Centre program and associated salaries and benefits funding of \$(12.8M) which is offset by an increase of \$12.8M to financial assistance for Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLdS).
- Net zero amount impact from Manitoba Development Centre (MDC) to Disability and Specialized Services (DSS) for the development of a nurse consultant unit, 6 FTEs and associated salaries and benefit costs and other expenditures \$0.7M.

- An increase of \$6.3M in Children's disability Services (CDS) consisting of Increase of \$3.5M related to volume and price increases and increase of \$2.1M to increase funding for the St. Amant Out of Home pilot project to become a permanent part of CDS program and increase of \$0.7M for wages for tutors at St. Amant Autism Early Learning Program.
- A reduction of \$2M to Employment and Income Assistance Transformation programming.
- An increase of \$24.5M in Women and Gender Equity Manitoba (WAGE) consisting of Increase of \$20M related to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+(MMIWG2S+) Provincial Strategy and Increase of \$2.7M for the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence bilateral agreement and Increase of \$1.4M in other expenditures to Klinik Community Health to support ongoing delivery of the Sexual Assault Crisis Response and Healing program.

List of Major Grants and Continuing Service Agreements**Grants (in \$000s)**

<u>DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES TOTAL</u>	388,178.0
Community Service Delivery Division	4,843.0
Employment, Income and Health Supports	3,543.0
Adolescent Parent Interagency Network	34.8
Growing Healthy Together Inc.	58.9
Healthy Start for Mom and Me Inc.	440.5
Heritage Park Children's Centre Inc.	77.1
Interlake - Eastern Regional Health Authority	132
Northern Regional Health Authority	69.3
Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre Inc.	30.8
Prairie Mountain Health	274.6
River East Transcona School Division	25.9
Southern Regional Health Authority	239.9
Villa Rosa Inc.	60.5
1JustCity - West Broadway Comm. Srvs Inc.	31.3
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Inc.	130
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Inc.	384.9
Clinique Youville Centre	37.9
Cranberry Portage Child/Family Resource Centre	72.7
Women's Health Clinic	269.4
Adolescent Parent Centre	5.0
Governing Council of the Salvation Army	32.6
Dauphin Friendship Centre Inc.	42.5
Federation des Parents de la Francophonie Manitobaine	67.7
Minister of Finance	45.6
EIA Employment and Training	979.0
Rounding	0.1
Community Living disABILITY Services	<u>1,290.0</u>
Community Respite Service Inc.	312.3
Deaf Centre Manitoba	68.6
E-Quality Communication Centre of Excellence Inc.	152.7
Independent Living Resource Centre	410.8
Open Access Resource Centre Inc.	34.5
Vision Impaired Resource Network Inc.	10.4

Recipient/Program – Grants & Continuing Service Agreements	2024/25 Print
Resource Centre for Manitobans who are Deaf/Blind	198.1
Career Connections	103
Rounding	- 0.4
Children's disABILITY Services	<u>10.0</u>
Optimal Health Early Years Sports Club - Middle Childhood Financial Assistance	10.0
Corporate Services	<u>28,093.0</u>
Corporate Support	149.0
Conseil Communautaire en Sante / Centre de ressources/Resource	42.2
Volunteer Manitoba	106.4
Rounding	0.4
Legislation and Strategic Policy	<u>560.0</u>
First Nation Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba	50.0
United Way of Winnipeg	510.0
Manitoba Accessibility Office	<u>825.0</u>
Manitoba Accessibility Fund	825.0
Women and Gender Equity Manitoba	<u>26,559.0</u>
Community Grants Program	30.0
GBV National Action Plan	6,248.0
Women in Under-Represented Sectors	50.0
Rainbow Resource Centre Inc.	106.0
Pride Winnipeg Festival Inc.	125.0
MMIWG2S+ Provincial Strategy	20,000.0
Child and Youth Services Division	<u>355,242.0</u>
Child Protection	<u>7,538.0</u>
Canadian Centre for Child Protection (C3P)	195.6
Health Sciences Centre	1,578.5
Voices - Manitoba's Youth in Care	189.0
Toba Centre for Children & Youth	73.0
Rounding	0.4

Recipient/Program – Grants & Continuing Service Agreements	2024/25 Print
Adult Learning Centres	7.5
Bookmates Inc.	117.8
Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba	59.4
Communities That Care	140.0
Division scolaire franco-manitobaine	201.0
Elsbeth Reid Family Resource Centre	51.1
Heritage Park Children's Centre Inc.	76.5
Interlake - Eastern Regional Health Authority	89.3
Klinic Community Health Centre	138.5
Louis Riel School Division (St. Vital)	86.4
Louis Riel School Division (St. Vital)	61.2
Ma-Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata Centre Inc.	67.3
Mrs. Lucci's Resource Centre Inc.	76.5
Network 4 Change	71.2
Northern Regional Health Authority	94.2
Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre Inc.	98.8
Prairie Mountain Health	72.8
Rainbow Resource Centre Inc.	5.0
Rossbrook House Inc.	286.0
Selkirk Adult Learning Program	15.0
Seven Oaks School Division	81.3
Shilo Military Family Resource Centre	14.3
Southern Regional Health Authority	102.3
The Pas Action Centre Inc.	100.0
Thompson Boys and Girls Club Inc.	153.0
Western School Division (Central)	183.6
Wings of Power	66.3
Clinique Youville Centre	62.3
Mount Carmel - Strengthening Families in Canada	83.1
Early Childhood Development Innovation Fund	1,530.0
Frontier School Division	40.0
Pembina Trails School Division	64.4
River East Transcona School Division	135.7
South Winnipeg Family Information Centre	71.2
The Concordia Foundation Inc. - Parent Child Coalitions (Winnipeg)	51.2
St. James 55+ Centre - Parent Child Coalitions (Winnipeg)	57.7
Federation des parents du Manitoba	80.7
Mountain View School Division	61.1
Southwest Horizon School Division	72.5
Swan Valley School Division	33.7
Woleseley Family Place	126.5
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Brandon	61.4

Recipient/Program – Grants & Continuing Service Agreements	2024/25 Print
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Morden	17.0
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Portage La Prairie	13.7
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Winnipeg	90.3
Lifelong Education for Adults	9.0
Luxton Adult Learning Program	7.2
South Eastman English and Literacy Services	3.8
Louis Riel School Division (St.Boniface)	72.0
South Winnipeg Family Information Centre (Fort Garry)	86.7
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Winnipeg(Mentoring Programs)	144.0
Child Protection Branch	10.0
Child and Family Services Authorities	<u>347,704.0</u>
Authorities, Agencies and IGBs	347,704.6
Rounding	-0.6

Continuing Service Agreements (in \$000s)

<u>DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES TOTAL</u>	<u>87,136.0</u>
Community Service Delivery	<u>34,848.0</u>
Employment, Income and Health Supports	<u>6,058.0</u>
Centre Flavie-Laurent	86.70
Community Bridge Fund	
Community Unemployed Help Centre	140.80
Community Unemployed Help Centre-Store Front Advocacy	110.00
Deer Lodge Centre	600.00
Ka Ni Kanichihk – Sexual Assault & Medicine Bear Programs	229.00
Momentum Centre	291.00
Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.	293.00
Opportunities for Employment	1,024.00
Opportunities for Employment-Community Home Services Program	849.90
Opportunities for Employment-Maximum Opportunities	499.00
Opportunities for Employment-Stages of Change Pilot Project	284.60
SEED Winnipeg Inc.	800.00
Taking Charge!	850.00
Community Living disABILITY Services	<u>1,735.0</u>
Rounding	0.2
St. Amant	1,734.8
Children's disABILITY Services	<u>27,055.0</u>
Central Speech and Hearing	306.60
Rehabilitation Centre for Children	1,283.85
St. Amant	14,428.82
YMCA/YWCA (Winnipeg)	96.00
Division scolaire franco-manitobaine	173.74
Interlake - Eastern Regional Health Authority	650.71

Recipient/Program – Grants & Continuing Service Agreements	2024/25 Print
Manitoba Possible (formerly SMD)	4,657.18
Northern Regional Health Authority	637.73
Open Access Resource Centre Inc.	313.90
Prairie Mountain Health	1,356.19
Rehabilitation Centre for Children	1,569.24
Southern Regional Health Authority	1,274.03
Vision Loss Rehabilitation Manitoba	305.60
Rounding	1.43
Corporate Services Division	<u>25,333.0</u>
Corporate Support	<u>3,005.0</u>
Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre	414.70
Canada Northwest FASD Partnership (Manitoba Contribution)	100.30
Dauphin Friendship Centre Inc.	172.00
Initiatives for Just Communities	30.00
Interlake - Eastern Regional Health Authority	150.00
Klinik Community Health Centre	100.60
MB FASD Coalition Inc.	55.40
Mount Carmel - Strengthening Families in Canada	420.00
New Directions	99.00
Northern Regional Health Authority	603.60
NorWest Co-op Community Health (InSight)	291.30
NorWest Co-op Community Health (Project Choices)	100.60
Portage La Prairie Friendship Centre	172.00
Rehab Centre for Children (Building Circles)	12.40
Rehab Centre for Children (Family Support)	35.20
Rehabilitation Centre for Children	191.50
Winnipeg School Division	55.30
Rounding	1.10
Women and Gender Equity Manitoba	<u>22,328.0</u>

Recipient/Program – Grants & Continuing Service Agreements	2024/25 Print
Alpha House Inc.	397.7
BravestoneCentreInc.	491.4
Canada-MB Contribution Agreement on Crisis Hotlines	300.0
Eastman Crisis Centre Inc.	791.2
End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW)	85.4
Fort Garry Women's Resource Centre Inc.	501.7
FVPP Shelter Funding Model	6.3
Ikwe-Widdjiitiwin Inc.	1,291.0
Interlake Women's Resource Centre Inc.	396.0
Ka Ni Kanichihk – Sexual Assault & Medicine Bear Programs	1,534.2
Klinic Community Health Centre	1,360.0
Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre Inc.	396.0
L'Entre Temps des Franco-Manitobaines Inc.	298.5
Ma-Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata Centre Inc. (Solvent Abuse Prevention)	477.4
MAPS - Men are Part of the Solution	161.8
North End Women's Centre Inc.	216.1
North End Women's Centre Inc.	501.7
Nor'West Co-op Community Health Centre Inc.	954.7
Nova House Inc.	1,051.8
Parkland Crisis Centre Inc.	788.7
Pluri-elles (Manitoba) Inc.	501.7
Prairie Harbour Inc.	752.9
Samaritan House Ministries Inc.	274.0
South Central Committee on Family Violence Inc.	772.1
Survivor's Hope Crisis Centre	54.7
Swan Valley Crisis Centre Inc.	449.1
The Counselling Centre	8.3
The Pas Committee for Women in Crisis Inc.	882.4
Thompson Crisis Centre Inc.	1,670.3
University of Manitoba	69.5
Wahbung Abinoojiiag Inc.	323.6
West Central Women's Resource Centre Inc.	394.9
West Central Women's Resource Centre Inc.	501.7

Recipient/Program – Grants & Continuing Service Agreements	2024/25 Print
Western Manitoba Women's Regional Resource Centre	396.0
Willow Place	1,634.8
Women's Safe Haven & Resource Services Inc	490.0
YWCA of Brandon Westman	1,092.1
YWCA of Brandon Westman	58.3
Child and Youth Services Division	<u>26,955.0</u>
Child Protection	<u>26,955.0</u>
Andrews Street Family Centre	183.0
Aurora Family Therapy Centre	15.2
Blue Thunderbird Family Centre Inc	481.2
Child and Family Services of Western Manitoba	311.1
FamilyCentreofWinnipeg	3,574.0
Indigenous Women's Healing Centre	884.6
Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. - Turnabout Mentorship	454.5
Kinship & Foster Network of Manitoba	558.5
Knowles Centre Inc.	785.0
Ma-Mawi-Wi-Chi-Itata Centre Inc.	4,653.2
Manitoba Association of Residential Treatment Resources Inc.	206.0
Marymound Inc.	1,715.7
Mount Carmel - Strengthening Families in Canada	48.0
Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.	615.0
New Directions	3,645.0
Project Neechewam Inc	753.2
Resource Assistance for Youth Inc. (RaY)	321.0
The Link Youth and Family Supports	4,437.2
Thrive Community Support Circle	76.4
Toba Centre for Children & Youth	690.1
Villa Rosa Inc.	985.3
Wahbung Abinoojjiag Inc.	250.0
Youth Mentorship Hubs	1,310.0
Rounding	1.8

LIST OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

Major Contracts (in \$000s) April 01, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Vendor Name	Contract Value
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES TENDERED	<u>90,789.77</u>
ACME VISIBLE	17.01
CANADIAN RED CROSS	1,544.19
DAVE'S QUICK PRINT	16.19
SARA RIEL INC	698.00
EPIC A BELL MTS COMPANY	42.59
SUPREMEX INC	81.14
TERRA IMPACT MANAGEMENT SASKATOON	184.97
NORTHERN MEAT SERVICE	11.18
LIFE'S JOURNEY INC	50.00
NIMBLE INFORMATION STRATEGIES INC	13.15
FOUNDATION FILM AND MEDIA INC	13.06
RELISH NEW BRAND EXPERIENCE INC	17.43
TOTAL TENDERED	2,688.91
SOLE SOURCE	
PORTAGE CLINIC INC	101.99
ARJO CANADA INC	47.87
HOBART FOOD EQUIPMENT GROUP CANADA	16.78
ST AMANT	182.45
TOTAL SOLE SOURCE	349.09
DIRECT AWARD	
SVX	49.00
TWIN RIVER CAPITAL GROUP INC	49.00
INDIGENOUS MARKETING COMPANY	20.00

LIST OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

THOMPSON DORFMAN SWEATMAN LLP	11.49
SOUTHERN HEALTH- SANTE SUD	1,090.00
SCHIBLER BILLIE	34.00
THOMPSON DORFMAN SWEATMAN LLP	27.26
CHALET POINT CONSULTING AND	230.00
MNP LLP	1,000.00
ST AMANT	55.00
DELOITTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LP	210.00
PERSONS COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS LTD	76.32
KULCSYCKI SHELLEY	50.00
FREDRICKSON RHONDA	18.00
MNP LLP	101.00
THOMPSON DORFMAN SWEATMAN LLP	288.58
COMPUCOM CANADA CO	20.02
FILLMORE RILEY	36.49
TOTAL DIRECT AWARD	3,366.16
CONTINUING SERVICE AGREEMENT	
ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS	275.20
ACCESS NORWEST	1,055.30
ALPHA HOUSE	397.70
ANDREWS STREET FAMILY CENTRE	183.00
AURORA FAMILY THERAPY CENTRE	15.20
BLUE THUNDERBIRD FAMILY CARE INC	481.20
BRANDON FRIENDSHIP CENTRE INC	195.00
BRAVESTONE CENTRE INC	491.40

LIST OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

BUILD INC	900.00
C A H R D- ADMINISTRATION	361.85
CENTRAL SPEECH & HEARING CLINIC INC	400.00
CENTRE FLAVIE- LAURENT INC	86.70
CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF WESTERN	311.10
COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED HELP CENTRE	250.80
DAUPHIN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE INC	167.00
DEER LODGE CENTRE INC	600.00
DELOITTE LLP	150.00
DIVISION SCOLAIRE FRANCO-	170.00
EASTMAN CRISIS CENTRE INC	791.20
ELMWOOD COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE	142.63
FORT GARRY WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE	501.70
IKWE- WIDDJIITWIN INC	1,291.00
INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S HEALING CENTRE	884.60
INITIATIVES FOR JUST COMMUNITIES	30.00
INTERLAKE- EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH	786.70
INTERLAKE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE	396.00
KA NI KANICHIHK INC	2,217.70
KINSHIP & FOSTER FAMILY NETWORK OF	558.50
KLINIC COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE	450.60
KNOWLES CENTRE INC	785.00
LAKESHORE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE	396.00
L'ENTRE- TEMPS DES	298.50

LIST OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

LINK YOUTH AND FAMILY SUPPORTS	5,225.30
MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE	6,506.80
MANITOBA ASSOC. OF RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT RESOURCES INC.	206.00
MANITOBA FASD COALITION INC	55.40
MANITOBA POSSIBLE SERVICES INC	4,556.88
MARYMOUND INC	2,371.90
MEN ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION	161.80
MOMENTUM CENTRE	291.00
MOUNT CARMEL CLINIC INC	468.00
NDINAWEMAAGANAG ENDAAWAAD INC	1,181.00
NEECHEEWAM INC	753.20
NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CHILDREN YOUTH	4,903.70
NORTH END WOMEN'S CENTRE INC	717.80
NORTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY	624.00
NORWEST CO- OP COMMUNITY HEALTH	1,339.10
NOVA HOUSE	1,051.80
OPEN ACCESS RESOURCE CENTRE	307.10
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT INC	2,773.97
PARKLAND CRISIS CENTRE	788.70
PLURI- ELLES (MANITOBA) INC	501.70
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE COMMUNITY	170.00
PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE FRIENDSHIP	167.00
PRAIRIE HARBOUR	752.90
PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH	1,327.00

LIST OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

PURPOSE CONSTRUCTION INC	292.97
READY SET GO WORK READY PROGRAM INC	208.80
REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR CHILDREN	2,839.31
RESOURCE ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH	321.00
SAMARITAN HOUSE MINISTRIES INC	274.00
SEED WINNIPEG INC	800.00
SOUTH CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON FAMILY	772.10
SOUTHERN HEALTH- SANTE SUD	1,246.60
SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION	85.00
ST AMANT	13,185.92
SURVIVORS HOPE CRISIS CENTRE	54.70
SWAN VALLEY CRISIS CENTRE	449.10
TAKING CHARGE INC	850.00
THE PAS COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN IN	882.40
THOMPSON CRISIS CENTRE	1,545.00
THRIVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT CIRCLE INC	76.40
TOBA CENTRE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH	690.10
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA	69.50
VILLA ROSA INC	985.30
VISION LOSS REHABILITATION CANADA	299.00
WAHBUNG ABINOONJIIAG INC	687.30
WEST CENTRAL WOMEN'S RESOURCE	896.60
WESTERN MANITOBA WOMEN'S REGIONAL	396.00
WILLOW PLACE INC	1,559.20

LIST OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION	55.30
WOMEN'S SAFE HAVEN & RESOURCE	490.00
YWCA BRANDON	58.30
YWCA OF BRANDON WESTMAN WOMEN'S	1,092.10
TOTAL CONTINUING SERVICE AGREEMENT	84,385.62

Minister's Out of Province Travel Expenses

2023/24 Fiscal Year

Quarter 1 – April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023

Item Number	Date(s)	Propose	Total Cost
			NIL

Quarter 2 – July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023

Item Number	Date(s)	Propose	Total Cost
1	Jul 30-Aug 03 2023	Attend Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women Meeting	\$ 1,275.25

Quarter 3 – October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Item Number	Date(s)	Propose	Total Cost
			NIL

CONTACT

Kris Piche, Acting EFO/ADM Administration and Finance, 204- 945-4520

Department Revenue Summary with Variance Explanations

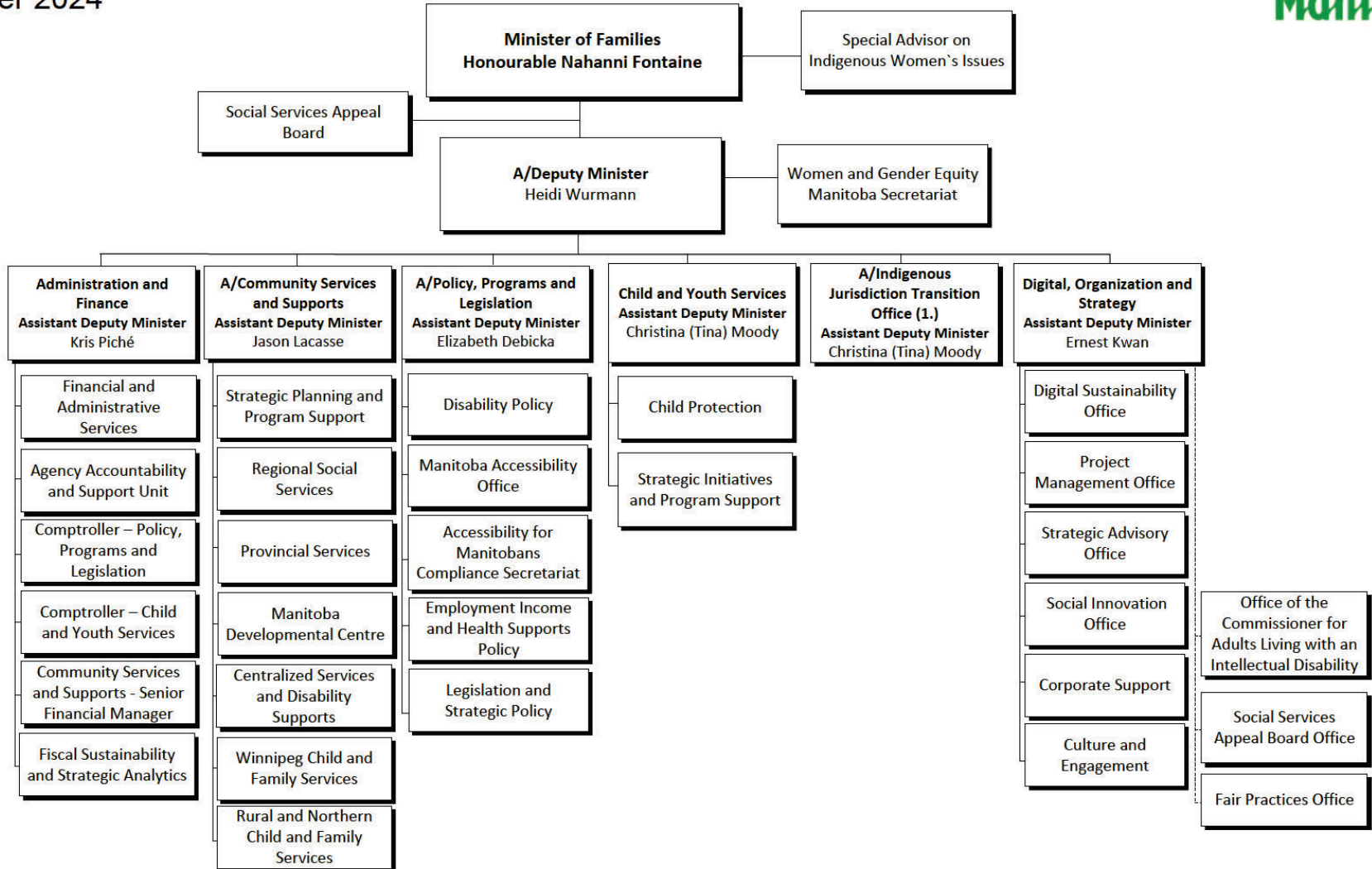
The following table outlines the department's 2024/25 Estimates of Revenue in comparison to the 2023/24 Estimates of Revenue:

Revenue Source	Estimates of Revenue \$(000s)		Increase/ (Decrease)	Expl
	2024/25	2023/24		
Government of Canada:				
Canada–Manitoba Agreement on Crisis Hotlines - Gender-Based Violence	300	350	(50)	1
Canada–Manitoba Contribution Agreement on National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence	6,248	3,548	2,700	2
Subtotal	6,548	3,898	2,650	
Other Revenue:				
Children's Special Allowance	6,216	6,216	-	
Cost Recovery from Municipalities	1,378	1,378	-	
Income Assistance Recoveries	12,245	12,245	-	
Levy for Local Government Welfare Purposes in Unorganized Territory	210	210	-	
Sundry	3,806	4,086	(280)	3
Subtotal	23,855	24,135	(280)	
TOTAL REVENUE	30,403	28,033	2,370	

Explanations:

1. The decrease is due to the Canada-Manitoba Contribution Agreement on Crisis Hotlines Responding to Gender-Based Violence, which supports Klinic Community Health in their crisis line work. The amount of federal revenue for the year 2024/25 is \$300K, compared to \$350K for the year 2023/24.
2. The increase is due to the establishment of the Canada-Manitoba Contribution Agreement on Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan, and \$2.7M is the increase in federal revenue related 2024/25 under the agreement.

3. The Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) is expected to close before the end of 2024–2025, which will result in a decrease in revenue from staff meal ticket sales \$(10) and residential daily fee charges \$(270).



(1.) The Indigenous Governing Bodies Support Branch is currently under the same appropriation as Child and Youth Services (9.4)

Staffing Overview

Main Appropriation	2023/24 Adj Print	Inc/ (Dec)	2024/25 Print	Expl. #
09-1 Administration and Finance	60.00	-	60.00	
09-2 Community Service Delivery	1,495.30	(210.00)	1,285.30	1
09-3 Corporate Services	89.50	-	89.50	
09-4 Child and Youth Services	141.00	-	141.00	
09-5 Technology and Transformation	25.00	-	25.00	
Total	1,810.80	(210.00)	1,600.80	

Explanations:

1. The decrease reflects a reduction of (210.00) consisting of:
 - A reduction of (211.00) FTEs from the Manitoba Development Centre program and associated and benefits funding of \$(12,790) related to the 2024 permanent closure of the facility, and increase of \$12,790 to financial assistance for the Community Living disABILITY Services program to support residents of the Manitoba Development Centre transitioning into community through the Residential Service program.
 - An increase of 1 FTE to support the administration of the Canada Manitoba Housing Benefit.
 - A net zero impact within Community Service Delivery, a decrease of (6.00) FTEs from Manitoba Development Centre program related to the closure of the facility in 2024, and an increase of 6.00 FTEs to Disability and Specialized Services related to a new nurse consultant and clinician unity.

Minister's and Deputy Minister's Staff (M/DM)*^a

Employee Sub Group	Full-Time Equivalent
Regular	8
Technical	3
Total	11

M/DM Staff	Count
M Staff	7
DM Staff	4
Total	11

Branch	Title	Name of Employee
Minister's Office	Correspondence Secretary	Gbemisola Kehinde
Minister's Office	Admin Assistant to the Minister	Miriam Jezik
Minister's Office	Correspondence Secretary	Kelly Davidson
Minister's Office	Correspondence Secretary	Jaimie Kuhn
Minister's Office	Executive Assistant to the Minister	Temiloluwa Olatunde
Minister's Office	Director Of Ministerial Affairs	Alexandra Krosney
Minister's Office	Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issue, Secretary to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Peoples and Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet	Cora Morgan
Deputy Minister's Office	Deputy Minister	Michelle Dubik
Deputy Minister's Office	Senior Advisor to Deputy Minister	Amber Johnson
Deputy Minister's Office	Administrative Assistant	Shanan Miller
Deputy Minister's Office	Assistant to Deputy Minister	Andrea Watts
Total	11	

* As of February 29, 2024

*^a List of Minister's and Deputy Minister's staff is based on employee's position title, cost center and fund center.

Political Officers and OIC Appointments

Political Officers*	Count
Political (G1/G2)	3
Total	3

OIC Appointments**	Count
OIC - Political	4
Total	4

List of Political Officers and OIC Appointments ^b

List of Political Officers*	
Name	Title
Temiloluwa Olatunde Alexandra Krosney Cora Morgan	Executive Assistant to the Minister Director Of Ministerial Affairs Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issue, Secretary to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Peoples and Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet
Total	3

List of OIC Appointments**	
Name	Title
Brivan Hesso Alexandra Krosney Temiloluwa Olatunde Cora Morgan	Executive Assistant to the Minister Director Of Ministerial Affairs Executive Assistant to the Minister Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issue, Secretary to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Peoples and Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet
Total	4

* As of February 29, 2024

** From April 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024

***a certain employees may have multiple OIC appointments

Appointments*

Competitive Appointments	Count
Competition – Closed	1
Competition - Internal	17
Competition - Open	326
Total	344

Event Type	Count
Acting Status	93
In-Service Appointment	168
New Appointment	215
Total	476

Direct Appointments	Count
Acting Status	93
Acting Status to Reg	9
Diff. to Recruit Pos	5
Former Employee Return	6
OIC - Political	4
Reasonable Accommodation (Medical)	4
Reassignment	2
Temporary Placement	9
Term to Regular	18
Total	150

* From April 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024

Vacancies*

Total Value of Vacant FTEs	349.59
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***As of February 29, 2024**

Terminations**

Type	Count
Total Terminations	251
Total Retirements	67

26.7%
Proportion Retirement(s) to Terminations

***From April 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024**

Note: Total terminations of 251 includes retirements of 67.

Department of Families FALL 2024 – COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

ISSUE TITLE: Not-for-profit Service Purchase Agreement (SPA)

ISSUE

The department is in continual collaboration with service providers to complete the SPA renewal process with those whose agreements expire March 31st of each term and those that are currently under extension provisions.

Effective April 1, 2021, a revised service purchase agreement (SPA) was finalized, which included three administrative updates: provisions related to French language services; a revised provision to require an SPA to be renewed within six-months upon expiration; and a counterparts clause to allow for alternate signing options. There are still a number of agencies that have not signed the updated agreement.

SPEAKING POINTS

1. How many SPAs does the department have?

- The department currently has approximately 237 not-for-profit SPAs.

2. Have there been any changes made to update the SPA template since the 2021 version?

- There has not been any change to the template since 2021.

3. Does the department have a plan to revise the template again?

- There is no immediate plan to revise the template.

BACKGROUND

- In recent years, the department has updated the SPA template to align with other existing government funding contracts and further ended the practice of the “open ended / no end date” extension provision, to follow best business practice of contract management.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

Jon Wang, A/ADM/Executive Financial Officer, 204-430-9971

Edith Smolders, Director, Agency Accountability and Support Unit, 204-945-3451

Department of Families FALL 2024 – COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

ISSUE TITLE: For-profit Service Purchase Agreement

ISSUE

The department engages with three (3) for-profit service providers in Service Purchase Agreements (SPAs).

SPEAKING POINTS

1. How many for-profit service providers are engaged by the department and why does the department continue to use them?

- The department is currently engaged with three for-profit service providers. These service providers deal with extremely high needs clientele, which in some cases, can be difficult to place in a not-for-profit agency.

2. Who are these three service providers?

- The following agency provides services for the Community Living Disability Services sector: Brandon Support Services Ltd.
- For the Child and Youth Services sector, the following agencies provide services: REACH Youth Services Inc. and ROOTS Youth Care Inc.

BACKGROUND

- The department engages three (3) for-profit service providers who provide services for extremely high needs clientele.
- The most current main body of the for-profit agreement was revised in collaboration with Legal Services, incorporating the same language as the not-for-profit SPA, and was finalized in March 2021.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

Jon Wang, A/ADM/Executive Financial Officer, 204-430-9971

Edith Smolders, Director, Agency Accountability and Support Unit, 204-945-3451

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Manitoba Developmental Centre Cost of Care

ISSUE

- Located in Portage la Prairie, the Manitoba Developmental Centre is an accredited residential care facility providing specialized services for individuals with an intellectual disability who have complex medical and behavioural support needs.

SPEAKING POINTS


How many individuals currently reside at Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC)?

- 2 (as of August 20, 2024)

What is the MDC's current operating budget?

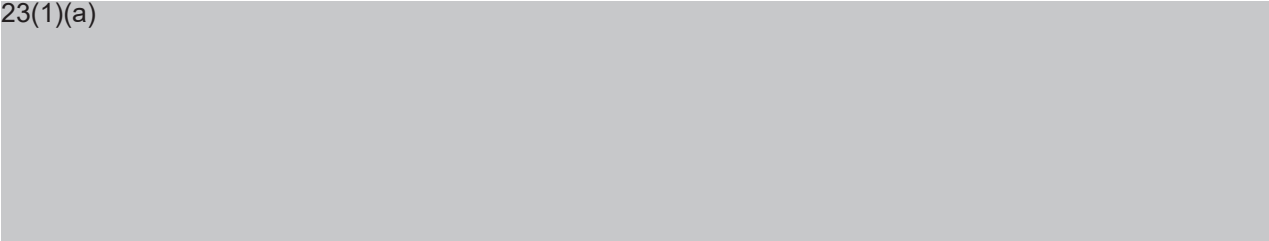
- The total salary and operating budget for 2024/25 is \$8.8M, a decrease of \$13.6M from the previous year.
- The decrease is due to funding in the equivalent amount being transferred to Community Living disABILITY Services (CLdS) to support the transition of residents to community living.

What is the current cost of care at the MDC?

- 23(1)(a)
- 

How does this compare with cost of care in the community?

- It is difficult to compare the overall cost of community-based care with care provided by the MDC as the MDC provides on-site clinical services to a high percentage of individuals with a diagnosis of severe or profound intellectual disability, high-risk behaviour and/or complex medical conditions.

- 23(1)(a)
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BACKGROUND

- MDC is an accredited residential facility providing specialized services for individuals with an intellectual disability who have complex medical or high risk behavioural support needs.
- As of August 20, 2024, MDC has 56 active full-time, part-time and casual staff which will continue to reduce in direct correlation to resident transition to community and upon full closure and records archiving.

- On January 29, 2021, the government announced that all 134 residents at the MDC would transition to community living by March 31, 2024.
- Delays relating to renovations and construction by the CLDS agency sector have resulted in challenges in transitioning individuals into community homes. As a result, it was formally communicated on December 8, 2023, that the completion of resident transition to community may be delayed until the end of summer 2024 with full closure of MDC by fall 2024.
- Since the announcement, the department has established a Resident Transition Team, a Workforce Adjustment Team and External Advisory Committee to oversee the transition project.
- As of August 20, 2024, 106 residents have transitioned to the community and 2 residents remain at the MDC.
- Transition and support plans have been developed for all individuals that continue to resident at MDC. The department continues to work closely with community service providers to transition the remaining residents to new homes in the community over the next month.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Jason Lacasse, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Service Delivery, 204-889-4084

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Manitoba Developmental Centre Transition to Community Living

ISSUE

- The Manitoba government approved a three-year plan to transition all residents from the Manitoba Developmental Centre by March 31, 2024 to alternative supported living arrangements in the community. The transition planning is person centered and includes the resident, their family, their substitute decision maker, care team, community service workers and community resources. While residents continue to receive a high standard of care from the dedicated and skilled staff at Manitoba Developmental Centre, both provincial legislation and best practices support the shift towards community living for individuals living with an intellectual disability.
- Delays relating to renovations and construction by the CLDS agency sector have resulted in challenges in transitioning individuals into community homes. As a result, it was formally communicated on December 8, 2023, that the completion of resident transition to community may be delayed until the end of summer 2024 with full closure of MDC by fall 2024.

SPEAKING POINTS

Why was the decision made?

- The number of people living at the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) has been declining significantly over time due to an aging resident population, transitions to alternative supported living arrangements in the community and legislation that prevents long-term admissions to facilities like the MDC and international best practices that support community alternatives over institutional care.
- Community agencies and service providers have demonstrated that have the capacity and willingness to support and meet the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and more community agencies are taking on new endeavors to help adults with intellectual disabilities and challenging support needs transition to living in the community.

How many participants currently live at the MDC?

- There are currently 2 (as of August 20, 2024) people living at the MDC.

How much does it cost to operate the MDC?

- The 2024/25 MDC budget is \$8.8M a reduction of \$13.6M from the previous year's budget of \$22.4M. A transfer of an equal amount has been made to the CLDS program in 2024/25 to support individuals living in community.

How many people currently work at the MDC? Generally speaking, what kind of jobs are they?

- As of August 20, 2024, MDC has 56 active fulltime, part-time and casual staff. Examples of positions include: psychiatric nursing assistants, nurses, service workers (housekeeping, nutrition and food services) and transport drivers.

What are your plans to transition residents out of the MDC and into other homes/ alternative supported living arrangements in the community?

- Residents continue to live and receive support at MDC while community options are explored and identified.
- The transition process is person-centred and includes the resident, their families, substitute decision maker, their care team, community service workers and community resources working together to find a safe and supportive environment that is suited to the needs of each resident and ensures a continuation of care and support.

Where will the residents at the MDC live?

- There are a variety of options for alternative supported living arrangements in the community, including:
 - Shift-Staffed Homes. Homes that are operated by a licensed agency with agency staff who are available to provide 24-hour support to adults with an intellectual disability.
 - Home Shares. Living situations in which an adult with an intellectual disability shares a home with a licensed provider who provides support and assistance.
 - Purpose Built Homes. Customized homes typically built to support individuals with challenging behaviours that present a risk to themselves, others or their environment.

What about residents at the MDC with complex medical conditions?

- There are a variety of people who live in the community with a range of support needs, including complex medical needs. Clinical and medical needs, like speech-language pathology, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, and other specialized medical care are all considerations that are planned for during the transition process.
- During the planning process, we work together to identify the services that residents will require in the community and ensure that these are in place prior to a move occurring.

How are staff, residents, families/substitute decision makers updated on the transition process?

- The Manitoba Government is committed to keeping staff, residents, families/substitute decision makers informed and providing them with regular updates during this period of transition. Transition update letters and bulletins have been circulated on a monthly and/or quarterly basis to various stakeholders.

BACKGROUND

- Manitoba Developmental Centre is an accredited residential facility providing specialized services for individuals with an intellectual disability who have complex medical and behavioural needs. Services are targeted to individuals who require extensive medical supports, are at risk in the community, are a risk to themselves or others, or require behavioural and medication stabilization.
- On January 29, 21 the Manitoba government announced that it would be closing MDC by March 31, 2024. As a result of the impending closure, 134 residents would

be transitioned from MDC to alternative supported living arrangements in the community.

- The two residents remaining at MDC have transition plans in place and are awaiting completion of renovations/building of their new home within the community.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Jason Lacasse, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Service Delivery, 204-889-4084

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Manitoba Developmental Centre Class Action Lawsuit

ISSUE

- Located in Portage la Prairie, the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) is an accredited residential care facility providing specialized services for individuals with an intellectual disability who have complex medical and behavioural support needs.
- A class action lawsuit (Weremy v. Manitoba) was filed in 2018 and a settlement agreement reached in 2023, on behalf of all former and current residents of MDC spanning the period 1951 to 2020. The claim alleges that MDC was administered and operated in a substandard manner that resulted in residents receiving inadequate care and treatment, and being subjected to mental, physical and sexual abuse and other wrongful acts by staff and other residents. Manitoba denied the allegations.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is the current status of the lawsuit?

- On May 5, 2023, the Court of Kings Bench approved a class action lawsuit settlement agreement between Plaintiff David Weremy (former resident of MDC) and the Manitoba government to settle a lawsuit alleging that the Manitoba government was negligent and breached its fiduciary duty which allegedly led to harm to residents of MDC between 1951 and 2020.
- Claim members were eligible to submit claims for compensation to a third party claims administration (Ricepoint). The period to file a claim commenced on June 26, 2023, and closed on June 27, 2024
- The Claims Administrator is processing claims and will issue its decisions in due course.
- The department and MDC continue to work collaboratively with class council and the Administrator to support the processing of claims.

Does the closure of the Manitoba Developmental Centre have anything to do with the Class Action Lawsuit?

- The legal matters related to the Manitoba Developmental Centre are completely separate from the announcement made January 29, 2021 to transition the 134 residents to community placements by fall 2024.

BACKGROUND

- David Weremy was admitted to the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) in 1958, after which he was discharged and readmitted three times before his final discharge in 1977. Mr. Weremy, age 78, currently receives services from Community Living disABILITY Services.
- On October 31, 2018, Mr. Weremy filed a statement of claim against the Government of Manitoba under The Class Proceedings Act. Allegations include negligence, breach of fiduciary duty and various intentional torts, such as sexual and physical abuse.
- Regarding his personal experience, Mr. Weremy alleges he was repeatedly sexually assaulted by other residents, he regularly witnessed sexual and physical abuse of other residents by residents that staff took no action to stop, he witnessed assaults of residents by staff and he was placed in a form of solitary confinement after attempts to escape.
- More generally, the suit alleges that residents were not appropriately cared for or supervised, that the institution was seriously short-staffed and overcrowded, that residents were forced to continue living with assailants after reporting abuse and that dangerous and vulnerable residents were placed in shared rooms, among other concerns.
- Manitoba filed its statement of defence on February 8, 2019, in which the plaintiff's allegations were generally denied. Among other things, Manitoba has pled that certain claims and class members are barred by *The Limitations of Actions Act*.

- The motion for the certification of the lawsuit against the Government of Manitoba as a class action lawsuit was heard on November 26, 2019 before Madam Justice Grammond. The decision to certify the claim as a class proceeding was received on May 29, 2020.
- Manitoba sought leave to appeal the certification decision, but the application was denied by the Court of Appeal in April 2021.
- The parties exchanged a voluminous amount of documents and a representative of MDC was examined by the plaintiffs' lawyer in February 2022. The examination of the plaintiff by Manitoba's lawyers occurred in November 2022.
- Senior departmental officials participated in judicially assisted dispute resolution (JADR) mediation with Justice Bock on December 14 to 16, 2022 and reached agreement with Plaintiff David Weremy on the terms of a settlement for the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) class action.
- A settlement approval hearing with Judge Grammond occurred on May 5, 2023.
- Terms of the settlement included:
 - A settlement fund of \$17M, which will be used to pay class members compensation for various harms that occurred while residing at MDC, in accordance with a pre-determined compensation grid. Payments will range from \$3,000 to \$60,000 per class member.
 - Any unspent settlement funds will revert to Manitoba.
 - Manitoba will also engage in a number of reconciliation initiatives to provide ongoing supports to persons with disabilities, and to archive the history of the MDC.
- As part of the reconciliation initiatives, class members can register to attend a guided tour of MDC grounds and buildings on September 20 or September 23, 2024
- A plaque commemorating the closure of MDC will be unveiled at a ceremony (tentatively slated for October 2024) for class members, their family, support networks, advocates, and other stakeholders. The plaque will later be placed as a memorial at the MDC Cemetery.
- The final class list identified a possible 1364 class members ^{23(1)(a)}

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

^{23(1)(a)}

CONTACT

- Jason Lacasse, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Service Delivery, 204-889-4084

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) Budget

ISSUE

- The CLDS program funds a range of support services for adults living with an intellectual disability, including residential services, day services, respite and related support services to support individuals to live and fully participate in the community.

SPEAKING POINTS

How much has the Community Living disABILITY Services budget increased in recent years?

- Over the past 10 years, there has been a significant increase in the costs associated with Community Living disABILITY Services. The program's budget for 2024/25 is approximately \$635.5M, an increase of \$33.7M over the 2023/24 budget.

How many Manitobans are currently supported through the program?

- As of July 31, 2024, approximately 8,333 individuals are supported through the program.

How many Manitobans were supported through the program in 2023/24?

- A total of 8,189 individuals were supported through the program in 2023/24, an increase of 241 from the prior year.

How much did the Community Living disABILITY Services budget increase over the previous year?

- The Community Living disABILITY Services budget for 2024/25 increased by \$33.7M or 5.6 per cent over 2023/24.

Why have costs in Community Living disABILITY Services increased?

- In 2023/24, the Community Living disABILITY Services program budget increased by \$101.4M, including \$79.7M to increase funded wages and benefit rates for staff supporting adults living with an intellectual disability in the community. As a result, funded wages were increased to \$19 per hour for front line Direct Service Workers, and \$20.90 for supervisors and program support staff.
- Significant cost drivers over the past several years include:
 - a) the number of adults needing residential care who are:
 - aging out of the child welfare system;
 - transitioning from the Manitoba Developmental Centre, St. Amant Health and Transition Services, mental health facilities or correctional facilities; and
 - coming into residential care due to a crisis, such as family breakdown
 - b) the number of individuals requiring significant specialized or individualized care due to significant medical or behavioural needs
- Since the end of the 2013/14 fiscal year, the number of individuals accessing

residential services increased by 1,916 or 50.9 per cent, with an average annual increase of 4.2 per cent.

What is Community Living disABILITY Services doing to manage the escalating costs of the program?

- The Community Living disABILITY Services program relies on an assessment-informed approach to allocate funding based on an individual's level of support needs. This approach improves equity and transparency of funding decisions, supporting long-term sustainability of the program.
- The Community Living disABILITY Services program also supports the expansion of residential service models that promote greater independence and community inclusion for individuals, reducing reliance on costly group home care placements.

How does Community Living disABILITY Services plan to implement the \$1.2M increase for home share providers?

- The \$1.2M increase for home share in Budget 2024 will be used to bring existing private home share providers to within funding guideline rates. The department estimates that 94 home share providers will be eligible for a rate increase.

Will the \$20M capital grant program for the development of social housing units in 2024/25 benefit adults who access Community Living disABILITY Services?

- The \$20M capital grant program is a Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness budget item that some adults who access Community Living disABILITY Services may benefit from. However, the capital grant program is intended to benefit Manitobans who may experience homelessness from all walks of life, not specifically those with disabilities.

23(1)(a)

- Other Community Living disABILITY Services-funded service providers received a
- \$10M increase in 2022/23 and a \$79.7M increase in 2023/24 for the purpose of increasing wages and benefits for front line service delivery staff.


BACKGROUND

- CLDS provides residential, day and related support services to adults living with an intellectual disability. Residential services include shift-staffed homes, home share (agency managed and private), as well as supported independent living arrangements.
- The department is in the process of implementing standardized funding models for several CLDS-funded services, including home share, supported independent living and day services.

- Funding to CLDS agencies operating shift-staffed homes is largely individualized and per-diem based. Agencies submit individualized proposals, which are reviewed by department staff. Funding covers expenses such as shelter, care, general operations, administration and basic staffing.
- Individuals who are unable to use public transportation safely can receive transportation services by private companies or non-profit agencies. Rates are set according to urban or rural travel. Fees are negotiated for remote communities, taking into consideration distance travelled and economies of scale.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Policy, Programs and Legislation, 204-945-0811

COMMUNITY LIVING disABILITY SERVICES - FACT SHEET

FISCAL YEAR	PRINTED VOTE (\$000s)	PREVIOUS YEAR'S ADJUSTED PRINT (\$000s)	ANNUAL INCREASE	
			(\$000s)	%
2013/14	306,674			
2014/15	331,304	306,142	25,162	8.2
2015/16	344,965	327,836 ¹	17,129	5.2
2016/17	394,661	344,965	49,696	14.4
2017/18	412,268	394,661	17,607	4.5
2018/19	425,864	412,268	13,596	3.3
2019/20	439,501	425,864	13,637	3.2
2020/21	461,416	440,420	20,996	4.8
2021/22	473,986	461,416	12,570	2.7
2022/23	500,421	473,987	26,434	5.6
2023/24	601,832	500,421	101,411	20.3
2024/25	635,542	601,832	33,710	5.6

¹ Grants for United Way and other community agencies transferred out.

- Over a ten year period (March 31, 2014), the CLDS caseload has increased by 2,454 or 43.3 per cent, with an average annual increase of 3.7 per cent.

CASELOAD	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	% INCREASE
2013/14	5,672		
2014/15	5,857	185	3.3
2015/16	6,125	268	4.6
2016/17	6,401	276	4.5
2017/18	6,616	215	3.4
2018/19	6,879	263	4.0
2019/20	7,139	260	3.8
2020/21	7,299	160	2.2
2021/22	7,692	393	5.4
2022/23	7,948	256	3.3
2023/24 ¹	8,126	178	2.2

¹ As of January 31, 2024

- Since March 31, 2014, the number of individuals receiving Residential Services increased by 1,787 or 47.5 per cent, with an average annual increase of 4.0 per cent.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	ANNUAL % CHANGE
2013/14	3,763		
2014/15	4,017	254	6.7
2015/16	4,161	144	3.6
2016/17	4,429	268	6.4
2017/18	4,629	200	4.5
2018/19	4,778	149	3.2
2019/20	4,966	188	3.9
2020/21	5,156	190	3.8
2021/22	5,376	220	4.3
2022/23	5,498	122	2.3
2023/24 ¹	5,550	52	0.9

¹ As of January 31, 2024

- Since March 31, 2014, the number of individuals receiving Day Services increased by 1,007 or 29.9 per cent, with an average annual increase of 2.7 per cent.

DAY SERVICES	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	ANNUAL % CHANGE
2013/14	3,370		
2014/15	3,504	134	4.0
2015/16	3,623	119	3.4
2016/17	3,708	85	2.3
2017/18	3,771	63	1.7
2018/19	3,865	94	2.5
2019/20	4,302	437	11.3
2020/21	4,289	-13 ¹	-0.3
2021/22	4,405	116	2.7
2022/23	4,583	178	4.0
2024/23 ²	4,377	-206 ³	-4.5

¹ Can be attributed to the suspension of non-critical day services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

² As of January 31, 2024

³ Can be attributed to the removal of day service plans that were not being utilized.

- Since March 31, 2014, the number of individuals receiving Respite Services increased by 9 or 0.7 per cent, with an average annual increase of 0.2 per cent.

RESPITE SERVICES	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	ANNUAL % CHANGE
2013/14	1,244		
2014/15	1,285	41	3.3
2015/16	1,328	43	3.3
2016/17	1,322	-6	-0.5
2017/18	1,391	69	5.2
2018/19	1,419	28	2.0
2019/20	1,428	9	0.6
2020/21	1,216	-212 ¹	-14.8
2021/22	1,205	-11	-0.9
2022/23	1,232	27	2.2
2023/24 ²	1,253	21	1.7

¹ Partly attributed to the reduction in non-critical, in-home services provided as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

² As of January 31, 2024

- Since March 31, 2014, the number of individuals served through “In the Company of Friends” has not increased.

IN THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	ANNUAL % CHANGE
2013/14	65		
2014/15	66	1	1.5
2015/16	65	-1	-1.5
2016/17	65	0	0.0
2017/18	67	2	3.1
2018/19	64	-3	-4.5
2019/20	65	1	1.6
2020/21	65	0	0.0
2021/22	63	-2	-3.1
2022/23	66	3	4.8
2023/24 ¹	65	-1	-1.5

¹ As of January 31, 2024

- As of February 22, 2024, the department has licensed or approved 1,570 facilities across Manitoba.

NUMBER OF LICENSED & APPROVED FACILITIES/BEDS – ALL PROGRAMS						
As of March 31 in Each Fiscal Year						
	Facilities			Beds		
	Licensed	Approved	Total	Licensed	Approved	Total
2013/14	216	1,080	1,296	1,341	2,054	3,395
2014/15	218	1,134	1,352	1,355	2,172	3,527
2015/16 ¹	119	1,280	1,399	955	2,652	3,607
2016/17	119	1,294	1,413	875	2,699	3,574
2017/18	120	1,347	1,467	875	2,818	3,693
2018/19	109	1,395	1,504	793	2,942	3,735
2019/20	105	1,436	1,541	766	3,011	3,777
2020/21	105	1,455	1,560	755	3,057	3,812
2021/22	101	1,431	1,532	680	3,066	3,746
2022/23	95	1,403	1,498	645	2,998	3,643
2023/24 ²	94	1,476	1,570	643	3,143	3,786

¹Effective April 1, 2016, the designation for facilities operating under a Letter of Approval changed from a maximum of three adults to a maximum of four adults. The designation for facilities operating under a License changed from four or more adults to five or more adults. Reporting as of March 31, 2016, reflects this change, resulting in a reduced number of licensed facilities and an increased number of approved facilities.

² As of February 22, 2024

- As of February 22, 2024, the department has licensed or approved 1,513 facilities in Manitoba for adults with an intellectual disability.

NUMBER OF LICENSED & APPROVED FACILITIES & BEDS – CLDS ONLY						
As of March 31 in Each Fiscal Year						
	Facilities			Beds		
	Licensed	Approved	Total	Licensed	Approved	Total
2013/14	178	1,016	1,194	868	1,929	2,797
2014/15	180	1,073	1,253	876	2,053	2,929
2015/16 ¹	83	1,209	1,292	485	2,516	3,001
2016/17	82	1,221	1,303	475	2,552	3,027
2017/18	81	1,273	1,354	464	2,669	3,133
2018/19	73	1,326	1,399	429	2,796	3,225
2019/20	70	1,366	1,436	407	2,862	3,269
2020/21	69	1,391	1,460	397	2,918	3,315
2021/22	68	1,375	1,443	390	2,940	3,330
2022/23	68	1,371	1,439	377	2,930	3,307
2023/24 ²	66	1,447	1,513	380	3,081	3,461

¹Effective April 1, 2016, the designation for facilities operating under a Letter of Approval changed from a maximum of three adults to a maximum of four adults. The designation for

facilities operating under a License changed from four or more adults, to five or more adults.

² As of February 22, 2024

COMMUNITY LIVING disABILITY SERVICES - FACT SHEET

FISCAL YEAR	PRINTED VOTE (\$000s)	PREVIOUS YEAR'S ADJUSTED PRINT (\$000s)	ANNUAL INCREASE	
			(\$000s)	%
2014/15	331,304			
2015/16	344,965	327,836 ¹	17,129	5.2
2016/17	394,661	344,965	49,696	14.4
2017/18	412,268	394,661	17,607	4.5
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2021/22	473,986	461,416	12,570	2.7
2022/23	500,421	473,987	26,434	5.6
2023/24	601,832	500,421	101,411	20.3
2024/25	635,542	601,832	33,710	5.6

¹ Grants for United Way and other community agencies transferred out.

- Over a ten-year period (March 31, 2014), the CLDS caseload has increased by 2,517 or 44.4 per cent, with an average annual increase of 3.8 per cent.

CASELOAD	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	% INCREASE
2013/14	5,672		
2014/15	5,857	185	3.3
2015/16	6,125	268	4.6
2016/17	6,401	276	4.5
2017/18	6,616	215	3.4
2018/19	6,879	263	4.0
2019/20	7,139	260	3.8
2020/21	7,299	160	2.2
2021/22	7,692	393	5.4
2022/23	7,948	256	3.3
2023/24	8,189	241	3.0

- Since March 31, 2014, the number of individuals receiving Residential Services increased by 1,916 or 50.9 per cent, with an average annual increase of 4.2 per cent.

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	ANNUAL % CHANGE
2013/14	3,763		
2014/15	4,017	254	6.7
2015/16	4,161	144	3.6
2016/17	4,429	268	6.4
2017/18	4,629	200	4.5
2018/19	4,778	149	3.2
2019/20	4,966	188	3.9
2020/21	5,156	190	3.8
2021/22	5,376	220	4.3
2022/23	5,498	122	2.3
2023/24	5,679	181	3.3

- Since March 31, 2014, the number of individuals receiving Day Services increased by 1,059 or 31.4 per cent, with an average annual increase of 2.8 per cent.

DAY SERVICES	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	ANNUAL % CHANGE
2013/14	3,370		
2014/15	3,504	134	4.0
2015/16	3,623	119	3.4
2016/17	3,708	85	2.3
2017/18	3,771	63	1.7
2018/19	3,865	94	2.5
2019/20	4,302	437	11.3
2020/21	4,289	-13 ¹	-0.3
2021/22	4,405	116	2.7
2022/23	4,583	178	4.0
2024/23	4,429	-154 ²	-3.4

¹ Can be attributed to the suspension of non-critical day services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

² Can be attributed to the removal of day service plans that were not being utilized.

- Since March 31, 2014, the number of individuals receiving Respite Services increased by 40 or 0.7 per cent, with an average annual increase of 0.5 per cent.

RESPITE SERVICES	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	ANNUAL % CHANGE
2013/14	1,244		
2014/15	1,285	41	3.3
2015/16	1,328	43	3.3
2016/17	1,322	-6	-0.5
2017/18	1,391	69	5.2
2018/19	1,419	28	2.0
2019/20	1,428	9	0.6
2020/21	1,216	-212 ¹	-14.8
2021/22	1,205	-11	-0.9
2022/23	1,232	27	2.2
2023/24	1,284	52	4.2

¹ Partly attributed to the reduction in non-critical, in-home services provided as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

23(1)(a)

- As of March 31, 2024, the department has licensed or approved 1,522 facilities across Manitoba.

NUMBER OF LICENSED & APPROVED FACILITIES/BEDS – ALL PROGRAMS						
As of March 31 in Each Fiscal Year						
	Facilities			Beds		
	Licensed	Approved	Total	Licensed	Approved	Total
2013/14	216	1,080	1,296	1,341	2,054	3,395
2014/15	218	1,134	1,352	1,355	2,172	3,527
2015/16 ¹	119	1,280	1,399	955	2,652	3,607
2016/17	119	1,294	1,413	875	2,699	3,574
2017/18	120	1,347	1,467	875	2,818	3,693
2018/19	109	1,395	1,504	793	2,942	3,735
2019/20	105	1,436	1,541	766	3,011	3,777
2020/21	105	1,455	1,560	755	3,057	3,812
2021/22	101	1,431	1,532	680	3,066	3,746
2022/23	95	1,403	1,498	645	2,998	3,643
2023/24	91	1,431	1,522	592	3,070	3,662

¹Effective April 1, 2016, the designation for facilities operating under a Letter of Approval changed from three to a maximum of four adults. The designation for facilities operating under a License changed from four or more to five or more adults.

- As of March 31, 2024, the department has licensed or approved 1,440 facilities in Manitoba for adults with an intellectual disability.

NUMBER OF LICENSED & APPROVED FACILITIES & BEDS – CLDS ONLY						
As of March 31 in Each Fiscal Year						
	Facilities			Beds		
	Licensed	Approved	Total	Licensed	Approved	Total
2013/14	178	1,016	1,194	868	1,929	2,797
2014/15	180	1,073	1,253	876	2,053	2,929
2015/16 ¹	83	1,209	1,292	485	2,516	3,001
2016/17	82	1,221	1,303	475	2,552	3,027
2017/18	81	1,273	1,354	464	2,669	3,133
2018/19	73	1,326	1,399	429	2,796	3,225
2019/20	70	1,366	1,436	407	2,862	3,269
2020/21	69	1,391	1,460	397	2,918	3,315
2021/22	68	1,375	1,443	390	2,940	3,330
2022/23	68	1,371	1,439	377	2,930	3,307
2023/24	62	1,378	1,440	360	2,946	3,306

¹Effective April 1, 2016, the designation for facilities operating under a Letter of Approval changed from three to a maximum of four adults. The designation for facilities operating under a License changed from four or more to five or more adults.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Residential Care Licensing –
Building and Fire Code Compliance Plan

ISSUE

- Effective January 1, 2024, Manitoba adopted the 2020 editions of the national fire and building codes, affecting licensed and approved facilities providing shift-staffed residential services to adults supported by the Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) and Community Mental Health (CMH) programs.

SPEAKING POINTS

How do recent changes to Manitoba Fire and Building Codes affect residential care facilities?

- The Manitoba Fire and Building Codes were amended to include a new “home-type care occupancy” classification, replacing Manitoba’s former “residential care occupancy” classification.
- The Manitoba Building Code requires all newly developed shift-staffed home-type care occupancies to be in detached buildings. Previously, residential care occupancies could be in attached buildings, such as apartments, side-by-sides and row housing.
- The Manitoba Building Code changes no longer automatically require brand new shift-staffed home-type care occupancies with four or fewer beds to have a fire sprinkler system, provided the facility meets other prescribed fire safety requirements.

Are there other new fire and building code requirements that residential care facilities are expected to comply with?

- All existing shift-staffed residential care facilities with five or more beds are required to have a fire sprinkler system by January 1, 2026. This existing requirement is being carried over from the previous version of the Manitoba Fire Code.

- 23(1)(a)

How is the Department of Families assisting residential care facilities comply with fire and building code requirements?

- Not-for-profit Community Living disABILITY Services-funded service providers are eligible for the Life Safety Initiative, a fund that allocates approximately \$600K annually to assist shift-staffed residential care facilities to comply with fire and building Code requirements, including fire sprinkler systems.
- Department staff continue to support the Department of Health, Seniors and Long-Term Care to inform the development of a compliance plan for shift-staffed


residential care facilities that are operated by regional Community Mental Health programs.

BACKGROUND

- The Department of Families licenses residential care facilities for adults living with an intellectual disability who are supported by the CLDS program and adults with a mental health disorder who are supported by CMH programs.
- The CLDS program budget allocates approximately \$600K annually through the Life Safety Initiative (LSI) fund to assist residential care facilities to comply with code requirements.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Policy, Programs and Legislation, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES – SUBJECT ISSUE

ISSUE TITLE: Developmental Centre Transitions

ISSUE

- The Community Living disABILITY Services program is working collaboratively with its service partners, stakeholders and community organizations to support the transition of individuals residing at developmental centres into the community.

SPEAKING POINTS

How many adults currently reside at the Manitoba Developmental Centre and St.Amant Health and Transition Services?

- As of August 20, 2024, there were 2 adults residing at the Manitoba Developmental Centre, and as of July 1, 2024, there were 82 adults residing at St.Amant Health and Transition Services.

How many adults transitioned out of the Manitoba Developmental Centre and St.Amant Health and Transition Services in 2023/24?

- A total of 45 adults transitioned from the Manitoba Developmental Centre and into the community in 2023/24.
- A total of 13 adults transitioned from St.Amant Health and Transition Services into the community in 2023/24.

Will the Manitoba government be able to meet the goal to transition all residents at the Manitoba Development Centre into the community by March 31, 2024?

- It is not uncommon for large institutions that support individuals with complex needs to have their closure date extended to accommodate community service provider capacity building. This was the case for the Valley View Centre in Saskatchewan that closed in 2019 after receiving two extensions.
- Despite best efforts, not all homes were ready to accept residents transitioning from the Manitoba Developmental Centre by March 31, 2024. Challenges, such as licensing, permitting, and supply chain disruptions created by the pandemic, have delayed builders' and service partners' ability to develop resources, however positive progress continues in this area.
- The Department of Families is committed to continuing to work with its community partners to ensure that all remaining residents of the Manitoba Developmental Centre transition to the community as soon as their homes are ready and their support needs can be met in the community. It is anticipated that this can reasonably occur by the end of summer 2024 with full closure by the fall of 2024.

What are the plans for developmental centres in the future?

- While residents continue to receive a high standard of care from the dedicated and skilled staff at the Manitoba Developmental Centre, both provincial legislation and best practices support the shift towards community living for individuals with an intellectual disability.

• 23(1)(a)



What residential options are available for individuals transitioning out of the Manitoba Developmental Centre?


- Shift-Staffed Homes, Home Shares, and Purpose Built Homes are licensed residential options available for individuals transitioning from the Manitoba Developmental Centre into the community and placement type is determined based on the needs of the individuals.

BACKGROUND

- See Adult Disability Services Fact Sheet #2, Developmental Centres.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Policy, Programs and Legislation, 204-945-0811.

ADULT DISABILITY SERVICES FACT SHEET #2 DEVELOPMENTAL CENTRES

MANITOBA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTRE

The Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) is an accredited residential care facility dedicated to providing specialized services to adults with an intellectual disability who typically have complex medical and/or behavioural needs. Services are designed to meet the needs of individuals who are aging, at risk in the community and/or present a risk to themselves or others.

- The MDC is owned by the province, operated by the Department of Families and was opened in 1890 as The Home for Incurables.
- Numerous name changes and shifts in orientation occurred between the 1890s and early 1980s.
- In 1984, the facility became the MDC and began placing greater emphasis on preparing residents to live in a variety of independent living options in the community.
- In 2011, a Human Rights settlement agreement stipulated that 49 residents would be transitioned into the community over a three year period. In addition, it committed to the development of an information sharing process to ensure the MDC residents, families and substitute decision makers could make informed choices about opportunities to live in the community, as well as committing to discharge others who indicated a wish to live in the community.
- In January 2021, the Manitoba government announced that it would transition all residents from the MDC to supported living arrangements in the community by March 31, 2024. This was later delayed to the end of summer 2024.
- On January 1, 2022, the Vulnerable Persons Living with a Mental Disability Regulation (now the Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability Regulation) was amended to remove the designation of St. Amant Health and Transition Services as a “developmental centre,” leaving the MDC as the last one of its kind in Manitoba.
- The following provides a synopsis of the MDC population data since 1979:


Population in December 1979	– 854
Population in 1993/94	– 548
Population as of March 31, 2016	– 173
Population as of March 31, 2017	– 163
Population as of March 31, 2018	– 156
Population as of March 31, 2019	– 154
Population as of March 31, 2020	– 142
Population as of March 31, 2021	– 133
Population as of March 31, 2022	– 115
Population as of March 31, 2023	– 83
Population as of March 31, 2024	– 34
Population as of August 20, 2024	– 2

ST.AMANT HEALTH AND TRANSITION SERVICES (previously River Road Place)

St.Amant Health and Transition Services (HTS) provides health care services, developmental programming and family support services to adults and children with a mental disability and acquired brain injury. HTS is owned and operated by the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba.

- Children admitted to HTS have complex health needs which require nursing support.
- Children moving into adulthood continue to reside at HTS. However, St.Amant has created a number of community living opportunities for HTS residents in recent years.
- For its developmental programming, HTS employs teachers and instructional assistants to provide early childhood education and a school program.
- In order to provide the health supports needed, HTS employs registered and practical nurses, resident support workers, a pharmacist, a physician and clinical specialists for speech, occupational and physical therapy services, as well as psychologists.
- The department transferred funding responsibility for HTS to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority in the 2003/04 fiscal year.

23(1)(a)



POPULATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL CENTRES BY END OF FISCAL YEAR

FISCAL YEAR	MDC	23(1)(a)	PELICAN LAKE CENTRE ¹	TOTAL
1978/79	854		70	1,200
1993/94	548		70	867
1994/95	539		70	855
1995/96	532		70	852
1996/97	518		70	835
1997/98	496		69	801
1998/99	482		69	777
1999/00	467		53	742
2000/01	454			671
2001/02	445			661
2002/03	422			633
2003/04	409			620
2004/05	395			607
2005/06	374			583
2006/07	356			561
2007/08	333			540
2008/09	314			518
2009/10	287			490
2010/11	266			461
2011/12	258			452
2012/13	226			416
2013/14	206			392
2014/15	191			362
2015/16	173			329
2016/17	163			311
2017/18	156			293
2018/19	154			278
2019/20	142			250
2020/21	133			234
2021/22	115			208
2022/23	83			165
2023/24	34 ²			120

¹ Pelican Lake Training Centre was a developmental centre in Ninette, Manitoba, which closed in 2000.

² MDC: There were 45 transitions into the community and four deaths in 2023/24.

23(1)(a)

ADMISSIONS/SEPARATIONS OF DEVELOPMENTAL CENTRES

FISCAL YEAR	MDC ¹		TOTAL	
	Admissions	Separations ³	Admissions	Separations
1993/94	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1994/95	7	16	15	27
1995/96	8	15	21	24
1996/97	6	20	13	30
1997/98	4	26	6	39
1998/99	0	14	6	30
1999/00	2	17	9	28
2000/01	4	17	10	28
2001/02	2	11	7	17
2002/03	4	27	9	37
2003/04	4	17	9	22
2004/05	4	18	11	24
2005/06	3	24	9	33
2006/07	4	22	13	35
2007/08	3	26	17	38
2008/09	1	20	11	33
2009/10	1	28	11	39
2010/11	2	23	11	40
2011/12	2	10	15	24
2012/13	1	33	13	49
2013/14	0	20	15	39
2014/15	1	16	23	53
2015/16	0	18	5	38
2016/17	3	13	13	31
2017/18	4	11	13	31
2018/19	3	5	21	36
2019/20	5	17	16	44
2020/21	0	9	12	28
2021/22	1	19	21	47
2022/23	0	23	21	53
2023/24	0	49	35	80

¹ MDC data does not include short term crisis stabilization admissions and separations.
23(1)(a)

Separations refer to both deaths and transitions to community placements.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Community Living disABILITY Services
– Supporting Employment for Persons with Disabilities

ISSUE

- The Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) program has launched the Improving Quality of Life Employment Pilot Project to improve access to employment supports for adults living with an intellectual disability.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is the Department of Families doing to improve employment opportunities for adults living with an intellectual disability?

- In February of 2024, the Department of Families launched the two-year Improving Quality of Life Employment Pilot Project.
- This initiative will enable approximately 30 young adults living with an intellectual disability aged 18 to 20, who have traditionally not been eligible for supported employment services as they are still in high school, to explore potential opportunities for job readiness, skill development and competitive employment.
- The Employment Pilot Project will also support an additional yet to be determined number of young adults living with an intellectual disability aged 21 to 25 who are already eligible for, but not currently accessing, supported employment services.
- Young adults living with an intellectual disability who are interested in participating in the Employment Pilot Project will be asked to complete an Employment Discovery Tool, which will enable individuals to provide information about their interest in and experience with training, volunteering, and employment.

How is the Department of Families delivering the Employment Pilot Project?

- The Department of Families is partnering with Community Living disABILITY Services-funded service providers in the communities of Beausejour, Brandon, Selkirk, Steinbach and Winnipeg to deliver the pilot project. These service providers expressed their interest in participating in the pilot project and have the required expertise in providing employment services.
- Once an individual completes the Employment Discovery Tool, the information included in the tool will be shared with their Community Service Worker to inform planning and potential placement in the pilot project.
- Individuals will participate in the pilot project for one year. At the end of the one-year period, individuals will be asked to complete a follow-up to the Employment Discovery Tool regarding their experience participating in the pilot project.
- At the conclusion of the pilot project, the Department of Families will evaluate outcomes, including the effectiveness of supporting adults in early adulthood to achieve employment.

What is the Department of Families doing to improve employment opportunities for other adults living with an intellectual disability?

- The Department of Families encourages all adult living with an intellectual disability who are eligible for Community Living disABILITY Services and are interested in employment to discuss service options with their community service worker.
- The Department of Families continues to review employment services that are available to adults living with an intellectual disability in other jurisdictions to inform future service planning.

BACKGROUND

- Adults with an intellectual disability are under-represented in the labour market. In 2022/23, five percent of the 7,962 individuals on the CLDS caseload were employed.
- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, CLDS undertook preliminary strategic redevelopment work to explore the expansion of its service menu to include more employment service options.
- This work was paused as a result of the pandemic. However, the department recently developed a multi-phased Improving Quality of Life initiative, beginning with a renewed focus on employment.
- The Employment Pilot Project and Employment Discovery Tool were developed in consultation with Abilities Manitoba and CLDS-funded service provider agencies SCE LifeWorks, Connect Employment and Pulford Community Living Services.
- Many adults with an intellectual disability in high school have an “individual education plan” and often remain in high school until the calendar year in which they turn 21 years old.
- The Employment Pilot Project aims to provide young adults living with an intellectual disability aged 18 to 20 with the opportunity to access employment services earlier than is typically the case.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

- None.

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Policy, Programs and Legislation 204-945-0811.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Provincial Alternative Support Services (PASS)

ISSUE

- The Provincial Alternative Support Services (PASS) program provides services to individuals with an intellectual disability who are involved with the justice system, and considered a high risk to the public and are ineligible for other programs.

SPEAKING POINTS

How many Manitobans are currently receiving supports through the Provincial Alternative Support Services program?

- As of July 31, 2024, approximately 91 individuals are supported through the Provincial Alternative Support Services program.

How many Manitobans were supported through the Provincial Alternative Support Services program in 2023/24?

- A total of 109 individuals were supported through the program in 2023/24.

What is the budget for Provincial Alternative Support Services?

- The 2024/25 Provincial Alternative Support Services program budget is \$5.77M. The program is cost shared with Manitoba Health and Manitoba Justice, which enables the department to recover a portion of the costs and reduce the recorded budget.

What supports are provided to individuals participating in the Provincial Alternative Support Services program?

- Provincial Alternative Support Services supports individuals to live successfully in the community while ensuring that public and personal safety are maintained.
- Provincial Alternative Support Services offers case management and coordination of a wide range of support services and programming. This includes residential, education and employment support, as well as rehabilitation, therapy and/or counseling. A personalized plan is developed on a case-by-case basis that is tailored to each person's specific needs.

Are Provincial Alternative Support Services receiving services from other Department of Families programs?

- No. Individuals that receive the wrap around supports from Provincial Alternative Support Services are those who are ineligible for services from Community Living disABILITY Services other community living or mental health supports.

BACKGROUND

- The PASS program was established in 2001/02 as a multi-department initiative to provide treatment and support services for individuals with an intellectual disability who have a history of violent criminal offenses. The partnering departments include Health, Justice, and the Department of Families.

- PASS strives to reduce rates of recidivism and to increase community safety in a manner that maximizes independence and supports meaningful community participation. The program provides supports based on the level of need, risk and participant amenability to receiving services, using a service delivery model that promotes inter-departmental cooperation.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

- None.

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Policy, Programs and Legislation, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Children's disABILITY Services Budget

ISSUE

- The Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) program provides a range of support services to children with disabilities and their families, including case management, respite, early intervention, equipment, supplies, after-school care and other supports.

SPEAKING POINTS

How much has the Children's disABILITY Services budget increased in recent years, and how does this compare to increases in caseloads?

- With the investments being made in Budget 2024, the Children's disABILITY Services program budget will increase to \$44.9M, an increase of \$6.3M or 16.5 per cent over last year.

- 23(1)(a)

Why are costs in Children's disABILITY Services increasing?

- An increasing number of children are eligible for Children's disABILITY Services. Caseloads have increased by over 50 per cent in the last 10 years – including nearly seven per cent each year in just the past two years.
- Wages in the sector have increased, including a 26 per cent increase in funded wage rates for respite workers. This has resulted in families experiencing increased success in finding skilled respite workers and being able to fully utilize the much needed break from the extraordinary caregiving demands.
- Also, children and families are presenting with more complex needs over time. As a result, these families need more intensive supports and coordination of services across multiple systems.

What can be done to ensure program sustainability, and ensuring that families and children are supported in the long term?

- Early intervention is key. Research demonstrates that investments in early childhood produce cost savings down the road. This is especially true for children with disabilities and/or those at risk of placement in Child and Family Services.
- Supporting families with adequate respite services early helps avoid more costly supports later on, like overnight respite supports or out-of-home placement in the child welfare system.

What else is the department doing to support children with disabilities and their families?

- In recent years, the department implemented two pilot projects to provide overnight respite homes to families caring for children with disabilities who are struggling and who are at risk placing their children into CFS care.
- Budget 2024/25 provides an ongoing funding commitment of \$2.1M towards the operations of out-of-home respite resources located in Winnipeg and Brandon.

Why is the department providing \$3.1M in new funding for children's services to St.Amant specifically?

- Budget 2024/25 provides an ongoing funding commitment of \$2.1 million to make St.Amant out-of-home respite services a permanent part of the CDS budget.
- In addition, Budget 2024/25 provides \$728K in ongoing annual funding to increase wages for staff delivering St.Amant's Early Learning Program for children with autism who were excluded from funded wage increases across the disability sector in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 fiscal years.
- Finally, Budget 2024/25 also includes a 2.2% price increase for a variety of services provided by St.Amant that are highly specialized and critical to meeting the needs of children with disabilities and their families, for a total of \$250K.
- Note that other organizations that provide specialized services for children with disabilities and their families are also receiving the 2.2% price increase.

BACKGROUND

- CDS funds and delivers a variety of family support services like case management, respite, supplies and equipment, as well as child development supports, autism services and children's therapy services. Supports are funded on a discretionary basis according to a family's individually assessed need and available program resources.
- The number of children supported by CDS is growing faster than in previous years, leading to increased demand for all CDS-funded services and supports. In 2023/24, CDS served 7,609 children – 459 more children than in the year prior (+6.0 per cent).
- Budget 2024 further invests in Children's disABILITY Services by providing an additional \$6.3M towards the program, including \$3.0M for price and volume increases, \$2.1M for out-of-home respite services and \$728K for funded wage and benefit increases for staff who support children with autism, ensuring families can continue to access services they need.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

- None.

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Program, Policy and Legislation Division, 204-899-4084

CHILDREN'S disABILITY SERVICES - FACT SHEET

FISCAL YEAR	PRINTED VOTE (\$000S)	PREVIOUS YEAR'S ADJUSTED PRINT (\$000S) ¹	ANNUAL INCREASE	
			\$000S	%
2014/15	28,987			
2015/16	29,606	28,987	619	2.1
2016/17	30,467	29,606	861	2.9
2017/18	30,498	30,467	31	0.1
2018/19	31,492	30,648	844	2.8
2019/20	31,492	31,492	0	0
2020/21	31,492	31,492	0	0
2021/22	31,502	31,502	0	0
2022/23	36,502	31,502	5,000	15.9
2023/24	38,548	36,502	2,046	5.6
2024/25	44,896	38,548	6,348	16.5

¹ \$150K transferred from Health in 2017/18 and \$10K transferred from Healthy Child Manitoba in 2020/21

- Since March 31, 2014, the CDS caseload has increased by 2,556 or 50.9 per cent, with an average annual increase of 4.2 per cent.

CASELOAD	TOTAL SERVED	ADDITIONAL SERVED	% INCREASE
2013/14	5,043		
2014/15	5,163	120	2.4
2015/16	5,331	168	3.3
2016/17	5,505	174	3.3
2017/18	5,811	306	5.6
2018/19	5,998	187	3.2
2019/20	6,157	159	2.7
2020/21	6,389	232	3.8
2021/22	6,687	298	4.7
2022/23	7,150	463	6.9
2023/24	7,609	459	6.0

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2024/25, \$17,831K (40 per cent) of the CDS budget is dedicated towards Family Support Services, representing a 20 per cent increase over 2023/24. Services include:

- **Respite** – provides families a temporary break from the unique demands of caring for a child with disabilities
- **Child Development Services** – teaches parents and child care providers to help preschool children develop and learn new skills
- **Autism Outreach** – teaches parents and caregivers developmental-based autism intervention methods that are personalized and flexible
- **Behavioural Services** – behavioural specialists help families develop an intervention plan to address their children's challenging behaviours
- **Summer Skills Programming** – helps school-age children maintain their skills

through programs and activities that promote what they have learned during the school year

- **Adolescent Care (Employment Support)** – provided to families with adolescents who require disability-related care supervision outside of school hours while parents are at work
- **Supplies, Equipment and Home/Vehicle Modifications** – funds supplies, equipment and home or vehicle modifications at a basic level, with supports administered by the Disability and Health Supports Unit
- **Transportation Assistance** – for families in rural and northern Manitoba to help them with some of the costs to bring their child to specialized services that are not available in their communities
- **Assistive Technology Clinics** – outreach clinics in rural communities for children with developmental and physical disabilities who require assistive technology devices like specialized seating and mobility aids
- **Diagnostic Clinics** – support for the Child Development Clinic to operate diagnostic clinics in rural and northern Manitoba for children with developmental concerns who are unable to travel to Winnipeg

EXTERNAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

In 2024/25, \$27,065K (60 per cent) of the CDS budget will fund external agencies to offer specialized services for children with disabilities, representing a 14 per cent increase over 2024/25.

The following services and figures reflect the 2024/25 fiscal year:

St. Amant – 18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)

- **Autism Services** – 18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)
 - *Early Learning Program (ELP)*: provides up to 20 hours per week of behavioural intervention for preschool children
 - *Enhanced Consultative Service*: for families and school teams that support children who have participated in ELP
 - *Parent Support Model*: assessment, workshops and clinical consultation to families waitlisted for ELP
- **Case Management** – 18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)
 - Individualized case management support for families with children diagnosed with autism
- **Out of Home Respite** – 18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)
 - Supports families struggling with the demands of raising children with complex disabilities and behavior who are at risk of placing their children in care and have exhausted other alternatives for a short-term respite break.
- **Outreach Therapy for Children** – 18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)
 - Consultative occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech-language pathology services for preschool children
- **Clinical Outreach Service** – 18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)
 - Clinical and psychological support for families whose children with disabilities have behavioural challenges

- **Family Care Program** – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}
 - Supports for families struggling with the demands of raising children with disabilities who are at risk of placing their children in care with a child welfare agency

Children’s Therapy Network of Manitoba (CTNM) – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}

- Coordination and funding of regional therapy services for children and youth like occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech-language therapy and audiology

Manitoba Possible – up to \$4,657.2K

- **Outreach Therapy for Children** – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}
 - Consultative occupational therapy and speech-language pathology services to preschool children across Manitoba
- **Children’s Service Coordination** – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}
 - Individualized case management services for families raising children with lifelong physical disabilities
- **Communication Centre for Children** – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}
 - Individualized verbal communication skills training or American Sign Language for children who are deaf and hard of hearing, including up to an additional \$12K for training for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- **Accommodations** – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}
 - Funding to rent office space in Dauphin and Brandon.

Rehabilitation Centre for Children (RCC) – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}

- Consultative occupational therapy and physiotherapy outreach services for preschool children delivered at home and in licensed child care or preschool programs

Central Speech and Hearing Clinic (CSHC) – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}

- Auditory verbal therapy (AVT) for children with hearing loss to learn how to listen and speak without any visual cues

Open Access Resource Centre (OARC) – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}

- Provides assistive communication devices, as well as training and follow up consultation, to individuals with communication difficulties and their support network

Vision Loss Rehabilitation Canada (VLRC) – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}

- Occupational therapy for pre-school children who are blind or partially sighted to develop the skills navigating their world

YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg – ^{18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a)}

- Provides administrative functions and coordinates the provision of after-school supports and summer programming for youth

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Autism Services for Children

ISSUE

- Demand continues to increase for early intervention and other support services for children with autism and their families, as the number of children diagnosed with autism grows each year.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is government doing about waitlists for services for children diagnosed with autism?

- Budget 2024 invests over \$6.3M to increase capacity in the Children's disABILITY Services program. This investment represents a 16.4 percent increase from the prior year, for a total commitment of \$44.9M.
- Of this funding, \$3M is set aside to enhance services for families raising a child with autism, including \$2.1M for out-of-home respite services and \$900K in price increases for autism services. An additional \$3.3M is dedicated towards increasing family support services, including respite, child development services, autism outreach, behavioural services, supplies and equipment, therapies and other support services.
- Through these investments, more families raising a child with autism will have access to the supports and services they require.
- The Department of Families continues to work with St.Amant to provide case management services for families with children diagnosed with autism, ensuring that all families who want case management can access this important service.
- Children's disABILITY Services has trained more department staff to be equipped to deliver the developmental-based Autism Outreach service, to ensure more pre-school age children with autism can access this critical support.

What is the department doing to address the needs of children diagnosed with autism?


- The Department of Families invests more than \$10M annually for two autism intervention services: applied behaviour analysis (ABA) provided by St.Amant; and Autism Outreach, delivered by Department of Families staff.
- The Department of Families provides funding to the Children's Therapy Network of Manitoba (CTNM) to coordinate the delivery of therapy services, like speech-language pathology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and audiology, for children who need help with speech, movement, learning, social development and hearing, including children with autism.

How many are served in the department's autism programs?

- In 2023/24, 195 preschool age children received applied behaviour analysis-based early intervention autism services from St.Amant and 219 preschool children were supported by the department's early intervention Autism Outreach service. St.Amant also provided enhanced consultative services for 89 school aged children at their school or home.
- In 2023/24, 4,352 children diagnosed with autism were enrolled in Children's disABILITY Services. Families are provided with services like case management (system navigation), respite, after-school care for adolescents, summer skills maintenance, transportation assistance to attend professional appointments, brief counselling, equipment, and medical supplies.

BACKGROUND

- The prevalence rate for children with autism continues to rise. Currently, 58 per cent of children in Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) have a diagnosis of autism, up from 48 per cent in just five years. In 2023/24, 62 per cent of children referred to CDS were diagnosed with autism.
- Budget 2024 includes \$728K to increase funded wage and benefit rates for St.Amant staff who provide behaviour analysis-based early intervention services to children with autism.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER23(1)(a)
**CONTACT**

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Program and Legislation Division, 204-945-0811

APPENDIX

AUTISM SERVICE DESCRIPTIONS AND STATISTICS

CDS FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

All children with a confirmed diagnosis of autism are eligible for Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) Family Support Services such as respite, after school care, summer skills programming, equipment, consumables and home and vehicle modifications. The following table provides the number of children on the CDS caseload with autism who are receiving Family Support Services, and the total and average expenditure for these children (not including St.Amant autism programs or Autism Outreach):

Children with Autism Receiving Family Support Services

Year	Number of Children	Expenditures ¹	Average Expenditures
2013/14	1,108	\$4,128K	\$3,726
2014/15	1,072	\$4,119K	\$3,842
2015/16	1,272	\$4,447K	\$3,496
2016/17	1,289	\$4,380K	\$3,398
2017/18	1,359	\$4,393K	\$3,232
2018/19	1,426	\$4,557K	\$3,196
2019/20	1,444	\$4,433K	\$3,070
2020/21	1,267	\$3,713K	\$2,931
2021/22	1,379	\$4,064K	\$2,947
2022/23	1,673	\$5,150K	\$3,078
2023/24	1,862	\$7,803K	\$4,191

¹ Expenditures do not include funding for autism programs delivered by St.Amant or Autism Outreach services.

ST.AMANT AUTISM PROGRAMS

Government has been providing funding to St.Amant for the delivery of applied behaviour analysis (ABA) programming since 2002/03. ABA is a clinically proven, intensive behavioural intervention that produces beneficial outcomes for some children with autism. Research demonstrates that early intervention as soon as possible after diagnosis is most effective in promoting the development of young children with autism.

St.Amant provides the following services:

- **Early Learning Program** provides preschool-age children with up to 20 hours per week of site-based intensive early behavioural intervention (annual cost of 18(1)(c)(i), 23(1)(a) /space). Services are provided for a maximum of two years up to the age of r until school entry. St.Amant staff deliver programming at one of four St.Amant classrooms or in the child's childcare facility.

- **Enhanced Consultative Services (ECS)** provides consultative ABA supports to school teams and families by referral, for children who have previously participated in the Early Learning Program. ECS is available for children/youth up to high school graduation or age 21 and is based on the child's needs and the school or family's request for support. The service is focused on addressing priority needs related to self-care, challenging behaviours and social skills, and supporting transitions.
- **Parent Support Model (PSM)** was introduced in 2014 so that families could work with their children while waiting for the Early Learning Program. Services include access to the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) and educational autism workshops for all families on the waitlist, as well as needs-based individualized assessment, goal planning and consultative supports prioritized for a limited number of families.

St.Amant Autism Programs Budget Overview

Budget for St.Amant Autism Programs

Year	Early Learning Program	ECS / School Age Program	TOTAL
2014/15	\$5,854K	\$1,733K	\$7,587K
2015/16	\$5,854K	\$1,733K	\$7,587K
2016/17	\$5,972K	\$1,762K	\$7,734K
2017/18	\$5,972K	\$1,762K	\$7,734K
2018/19	\$5,972K	\$1,762K	\$7,734K
2019/20	\$7,734K ²		\$7,734K
2020/21	\$7,734K		\$7,734K
2021/22	\$7,884K		\$7,884K
2022/23	\$7,884K		\$7,884K
2023/24	\$7,884K		\$7,884K
2024/25	\$8,786K		\$8,786K

¹ The Early Learning Program and former School Age Program grants were combined to allow the agency the flexibility to prioritize resources toward serving more preschool age children.

Children Served

In 2023/24, the St.Amant Early Learning Program supported 195 children, which is an additional 77 children, or 65.3 per cent more children than in 2013/14.

Children Served in St.Amant Autism Programs

Year	Early Learning Program ¹	Enhanced Consultative Services	Parent Support Model ²
2013/14	118	45	-
2014/15	116	39	70
2015/16	131	39	100
2016/17	165	69	54 ²
2017/18	176	96	30
2018/19	174	91	24
2019/20	193	138	31
2020/21	198	127	5
2021/22	211	124	31
2022/23	200	90	33
2023/24	195	92	9

¹ Between 2015/16 and 2017/18, the Early Learning Program included children receiving service from the Pre-Kindergarten Program (no longer offered): 20, 40 and 37 children, respectively.

² In 2016/17, funding for Parent Support Model partially redirected toward Early Learning Program spaces, resulting in lower service numbers. In 2020/21, fewer families engaged in the Parent Support Model and Triple P Parenting sessions due to COVID-19. In 2023/24, brief individual consultations were replaced with group-based learning opportunities for families.

Waitlist for St.Amant Autism Programs

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AUTISM OUTREACH

Autism Outreach (AO) is a consultative service that provides families and caregivers of preschool children with proactive strategies, training and consultation, based on a developmental approach to autism intervention called DIR/Floortime:

- Delivered by department staff, AO provides 10 to 12 visits per child, with additional monthly follow-up visits as required until school entry.
- AO is also available to provide consultative support to school teams during the child's kindergarten year.
- AO staff develop programs that create an ideal learning environment, engage the child, and address behaviours that may be a barrier to participation.
- Parents receive training and consultation in autism intervention methods and can implement these strategies during daily routines.

Autism Outreach Services Expenditures Overview

Since 2014/25, expenditures for Autism Outreach services have increased by \$638K or 70.6 per cent (projected for 2024/25).

Expenditures for Autism Outreach Services

Year	Expenditure
2014/15	\$ 904K
2015/16	\$ 982K
2016/17	\$1,013K
2017/18	\$1,024K
2018/19 ¹	\$ 966K
2019/20	\$1,020K
2020/21 ²	\$ 921K
2021/22	\$1,010K
2022/23	\$1,175K
2023/24	\$1,622K
2024/25 ³	\$1,542K

¹ Expenditures in 2018/19 were reduced primarily due to the removal of an Autism Early Intervention Specialist Position from the Parkland region.

² Expenditures in 2020/21 were lower due to a vacancy in the Interlake region.

³ Projected based on current staffing levels.

Children Served

Changes to the Autism Outreach service delivery model in the Winnipeg region, which allow Child Development Specialists to deliver these services, were implemented in 22/23.

Autism Outreach Services Children Served

Year	Children Served
2013/14	176
2014/15	196
2015/16	219
2016/17	246
2017/18	266
2018/19	247
2019/20	266
2020/21 ¹	162
2021/22	198
2022/23	200
2023/24 ²	219

¹ The decrease in number of children served in 2020/21 is attributed to staff vacancies, fewer children referred to the service and the number of children who exited the service during the year.

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)

ISSUE

- Accessibility Standard Implementation and Awareness

SPEAKING POINTS

- None

QUESTIONS**1. How is the department assisting organizations to comply with the accessibility Standards?**

- In spring 2021, the Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) launched the Online Learning Portal on AccessibilityMB.ca.
- The portal features training modules that assist affected organizations with meeting the requirements of the accessibility standards for customer service and employment. The information and communication standard module will be launched in spring 2024.
- These training modules are available for organizations to download and include as part of their internal online training systems.
- The MAO provides regular updates about standard development, new tools, and Manitoba-specific accessibility information to almost 1,800 subscribers through its electronic newsletter, Accessibility News.
- The Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) is enhancing community collaboration to promote accessibility and is assisting in eliminating barriers to customer service, employment, and Information and Communications. MAF issues approximately \$800k in grants each year.

2. What public awareness activities are taking place to promote The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its standards?

- The Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) and the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat launched a social media campaign promoting the awareness of the Information and Communication Standard and the compliance with that standard in 2023. Ongoing information has been made public through MAO's Accessibility Newsletter and presentations to government, private and public sectors.
- Several events are planned for the year including the Manitoba Access Awareness Week in June, Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, Indigenous Disability Awareness Month in November, and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, celebrated in December. As in previous years, the MAO will celebrate each of these events and raise awareness with social media campaigns.
- The Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) is enhancing community collaboration to promote accessibility and is assisting in eliminating barriers to customer service,

employment, and Information and Communications. The MAO hosts webinars to encourage applications.

3. What is the focus and budget for the department's accessibility public awareness initiatives in 2024/25?

- MAO is planning a mix of activities to celebrate key disability related dates such as International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, in addition to paid advertising campaigns and delivering presentations and webinars.
- The MAO is developing tools and training (including plain language documents and American Sign Language videos) for the newly established Accessible Information and Communication Standard.
- The MAO estimates that it will spend between \$100-200k on public awareness initiatives in 2024/25. This includes awareness events, print ads, social media campaigns, direct mail, and website updates. The department uses corporate social media channels to share information through organic and paid campaigns.
- The MAO designs and produces most resources in-house. This includes new resources, tools, public awareness content, including the monthly electronic newsletter - Accessibility News, and social media campaigns.

4. When was the Accessible Information and Communication Standard established, and what are its compliance deadlines?

- The Accessible Information and Communication Standard became law on May 1, 2022, and has the following compliance deadlines:
 - The Manitoba government will demonstrate leadership with a deadline of May 1, 2023.
 - Public sector organizations and large municipalities must comply by May 1, 2024.
 - Private sector organizations (including businesses and non-profits) and small municipalities must meet requirements by May 1, 2025.
- The Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) is developing a module for the AMA Online Learning Portal on AccessibilityMB.ca for the Information and Communication Standard. The module will assist affected organizations with meeting the requirements of the accessibility standards for information and communication.


BACKGROUND

- Standards under the AMA establish clear requirements for organizations that have a responsibility to eliminate barriers. The AMA commits government to significant progress in ten years following its enactment in 2023.
- Four of five accessibility standards (customer service, employment, information and communication, and transportation) have been enacted.

- The Design of Outdoor Public Spaces Standard is currently under development and will address barriers found in community spaces, such as accessible paths of travel, pedestrian crossings, and other areas of the exterior environment.

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CONTACTS

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Corporate Services Division, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES

ISSUE TITLE: Compliance with Accessibility Requirements

Issue

- Over 41,275 organizations are subject to The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its regulated standards. [Manitoba's Accessibility Compliance Secretariat](#) is operationalizing the [provincial accessibility compliance framework](#). This framework is based on best practices for regulatory governance. The framework mirrors the approach of other jurisdictions and emphasizes a continuum of activities ranging from awareness raising to more traditional enforcement activities, such as audits, orders, and monetary penalties.
- The accessibility compliance secretariat has been working closely with obligated organizations to bring awareness of accessibility requirements and provide direct support to achieve compliance.
- More recently, audits of organizations' accessibility documents have taken place. In addition, since September 2021, 201 formal notices to comply, also called Achieving Compliance Plans, have been issued to organizations.

SPEAKING POINTS

What compliance and enforcement measures will you take when organizations fail to comply with accessibility legislation?

- Manitoba has developed an accessibility compliance framework that includes a continuum of compliance activities, ranging from the practice of awareness raising and education through to more traditional monitoring and enforcement activities, such as audits, inspectors' orders, and monetary penalties.
- As a government, we are providing support to organizations in ways that best encourage and promote compliance. This includes targeted outreach, free training and awareness raising of accessibility requirements, and the development of practical tools and resources.
- Some organizations may be unaware that they are failing to comply with accessibility requirements. The first action is to support them to achieve or return to compliance. If this approach is ineffective, activities can be escalated to include orders to comply, as well as monetary penalties. This graduated approach to compliance is in line with other jurisdictions, as well as the federal government, which oversees The Accessible Canada Act.

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- The accessibility compliance framework is a guiding document that outlines general compliance activities. The framework follows best practices for regulatory

governance published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

- As noted on the front page of Manitoba's accessibility compliance framework document, we welcome continuous feedback from members of the public, particularly on ways in which we can put the framework into practice.

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- A director is responsible for the general administration of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act, including provisions associated with compliance and enforcement. In addition, an Assistant Director continues to monitor, oversee, and implement compliance activities throughout the province. Two permanent, full time Accessibility Compliance Officers have been hired to work in the secretariat and undertake numerous functions, such as dedicated audits, and another accessibility compliance officer is expected to join the office in fall 2025.

What compliance data can you share?

- Manitoba has 127 towns and small rural municipalities. As of March 31, 2024, 105 of them (or 83%) have developed a written accessibility plan outlining the barriers identified in their communities and the concrete actions and initiatives that are planned to remove them. However, 29 out of 127 (or 23%) had updated their plans for the 2024 and 2025 cycle. Through the second independent review of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act, we learned that municipalities and other public sector organizations find the two-year time frame for updating their accessibility plans challenging. Our government is considering implementing the review's recommendation, which called for increasing the time frame by which updates are required from two to four years.
- Large public sector organizations in Manitoba include the provincial government, post-secondary institutions, crown corporations, school divisions, health authorities, and the ten largest municipalities. As of March 31, 2024, 100 per cent of these organizations (n = 69) had accessibility plans in place, and 56 (or 81%) had updated these documents for 2023 and 2024. This is a 12 per cent increase in compliance with the requirement to update plans from last year.
- In fall 2021, the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat began to issue tailored Achieving Compliance Plans to non-compliant organizations. These plans outline the specific areas of the legislation requiring compliance and provide organizations with access to free tools and resources that will assist them to achieve compliance. The plans also include the date by which compliance will be re-assessed by the secretariat. Of the 69 organizations that received Achieving Compliance Plans in the 2023/24 fiscal year, whose deadline had passed as of March 31, 2024, 60 (or 87%) had achieved compliance.

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- Government has the capacity to review the written policies of over 2,000 large organizations in Manitoba. Currently, we are reviewing policies of large organizations to determine if they meet legislative requirements, but also to help identify trends and accessibility achievements throughout the province. When reviews are conducted, the aim is to provide organizations with constructive feedback and if, applicable, a concrete plan to achieve compliance.
- Audits represent one tool in our compliance toolbox. Per the legislation, any organization in Manitoba can be subject to a site inspection, whether announced or unannounced.

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- Each complaint that comes to the attention of the accessibility compliance secretariat is assessed on its own merits. As is the case in Ontario, the secretariat reviews complaints and gathers information from members of the public regarding alleged non-compliance by an organization. The information gathered from complaints informs the accessibility compliance secretariat's activities, which can include contacting the organization directly to provide information about legal requirements or sending the organization a compliance-related notice.
- We are pleased to be receiving an increasing number of calls and emails from Manitobans in this respect. Similarly, more obligated organizations are reaching out to the secretariat to ask specific questions related to requirements under the legislation. This is a positive development, as it indicates an enhanced commitment to comply with The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its existing and forthcoming standards. For clarity, the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat responds to all complaints received and informs complainants of their rights under The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its regulations.
- Human rights are paramount. If an individual believes they have faced discrimination based on a disability, they are encouraged to phone the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, which is legislated to handle individual situations and complaints.

What is the government doing to increase transparency of the work done by the secretariat?

- In line with a recommendation made in the recent review of The Accessible Customer Service Standard Regulation, the secretariat is meeting with the Accessibility Advisory Council on a regular basis to share information and compliance results.
- The secretariat is also consulting with other government departments and jurisdictions that have accessibility enforcement responsibilities, to develop data metrics on compliance.

- As an example, a recently developed measure is the percentage of organizations that achieve compliance with accessibility requirements after being issued an Achieving Compliance Plan.

What is the government doing to respond to the compliance-related recommendations in The Accessibility for Manitobans Act Five Year Review?

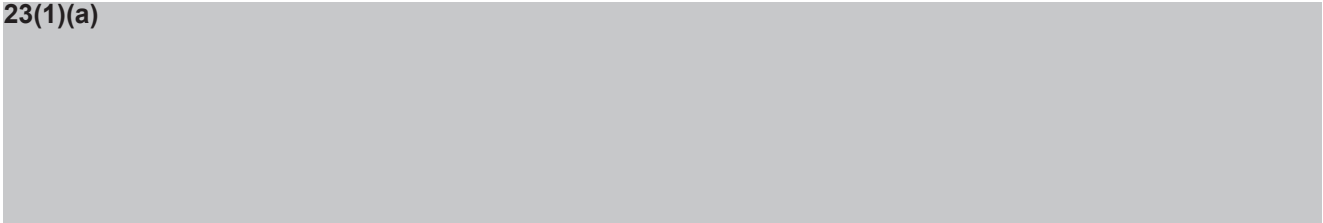
- The Report of the Second Review of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act was tabled on December 5, 2023. The Review resulted in recommendations which are relevant to topics discussed in this Issues note. For example, the review recommended that:
 - The Accessibility Compliance Secretariat engage in research on the effectiveness of the current complaint mechanism and consider mediating communications between individuals who have made complaints and the organizations that were complained about in an attempt to resolve issues, on a pilot basis.
 - The minister propose a regulation amendment returning to the lower threshold of 20 employees for documenting and reporting obligations under the Customer Service Standard.
- Progress has been made to implement some compliance-focused recommendations of the AMA review, such as the acquisition of a compliance-supporting database and related software, and the development of information-sharing arrangements with other areas of government.
- For other recommendations, work is underway to examine their feasibility and chart potential pathways for implementation.

BACKGROUND

- In response to a recommendation made in the 2018 review of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act, the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat was established in 2019 to release and implement an accessibility compliance framework. The secretariat functions independently from the Manitoba Accessibility Office, although close collaboration is required.
- Manitoba is the second province in Canada (after Ontario) to have a dedicated office that is focused on compliance of accessibility requirements.

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CONTACT

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Out-of-Home Respite Services

ISSUE

The department is delivering out-of-home respite services to support parents raising children with disabilities with complex needs.

SPEAKING POINTS

What do out-of-home overnight respite services provide for families?

- Out-of-home respite services provide enhanced services to children ages 10 to 17 open to Children's disABILITY Services.
- Through these respite homes, range of supplemental services are provided, including clinical support services, occupational therapy, psychology services, behavioural supports and counselling that are available for the child, family and/or support staff.
- Families are eligible for out-of-home respite services when they are experiencing unmanageable challenges related to the exceptionally high care needs of their child that cannot be safely managed by other available supports, putting the child at risk of placement in the care of Child and Family Services.

Why did the department implement two out-of-home respite pilots at the same time?

- Both pilots were originally developed to deliver different service models. The first pilot, delivered by St.Amant, now an ongoing service as part of the Children's disABILITY Services budget, was designed to provide short-stay out-of-home overnight respite for children aged 10 to 17, up to 91 nights per year.
- The second pilot, delivered by New Directions, was initially intended to provide only longer stay respite in two streams: the first was for stays of up to 180 nights per year and the second was a transitional model for adolescents who will be supported by Community Living disABILITY Services when they turn 18.
- One New Directions home ended up opening as a short-stay model home for up to 91 nights per year instead of the 180-night model and the other two were developed as transitional homes, as originally planned.

When were out-of-home respite services launched?

- St.Amant out-of-home respite services include two three-bed short-stay homes – one in Winnipeg and one in Brandon. Both homes opened in 2022.
- New Directions out-of-home respite services include one four-bed short-stay home two three-bed transitional homes. All three homes are located in Winnipeg and opened in 2023.

Have out-of-home respite services delayed CFS placements?

- These services have prevented many children from being placed in the care of Child and Family Services, including several families who were actively planning for a placement. Due to some extraordinary care needs, three children still entered CFS care, though placement of those three children was delayed.

Are out-of-home respite services now a permanent part of the CDS program?

- Effective the 2024/25 fiscal year, St.Amant out-of-home respite services are now a permanent part of the Children's disABILITY Services program with a \$2.1M investment annually.

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BACKGROUND

- Children with disabilities sometimes present with challenging behaviours and care needs. Providing ongoing and time-consuming complex care for a child with a disability can be overwhelming, even when considering the natural supports of their families and the formal services available through the Children's disABILITY Services (CDS) program.
- One of the major challenges for caregivers who care for children with high needs is that it is difficult for them to get a break from caregiving responsibilities, which can lead to stress, exhaustion, burnout, and other mental health concerns.
- For some families, caregiving becomes unbearable, and they choose to voluntarily place their child in Child and Family Services (CFS) care.
- With a focus of providing services to children in need of protection, the CFS system does not have extensive expertise in providing services for children with disabilities and does not have dedicated placement resources for children with disabilities.
- The pilot projects have provided immediate and concrete relief from parental care for parents who are chronically exhausted.
- Budget 2024 makes St.Amant out-of-home respite an ongoing service option as part of the CDS program budget with a \$2.1M investment.

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- None

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs and Legislation Division, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities

ISSUE

- The Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD) program provides financial assistance and accessible services to persons with severe and prolonged disabilities.

SPEAKING POINTS

What services and supports does the program provide?

- MSPD provides financial assistance for daily living expenses, such as basic needs, housing, health needs, and other essential needs.
- MSPD also provides optional social supports to recipients who require them, including service navigation, referrals, assistance with documentation and applying for other resources, and crisis supports.

What are the features of MSPD that distinguish it from Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)?

- MSPD supports persons with disabilities who are likely to require income supports until they reach age 65 and become eligible for federal benefits. EIA typically supports Manitobans who face barriers to sustained employment, but with the right supports are likely to achieve financial independence.
- MSPD benefits are about \$150 higher than current EIA Medical Barriers to Full Employment rates, which is the EIA category that assists persons with a medical condition that prevents them from working for one year or more. Benefits are higher in recognition of the unique needs of persons living with severe and prolonged disabilities. MSPD benefits will continue to increase each year, as basic needs amounts are indexed annually to reflect increases to the cost of living.
- MSPD does not require recipients to pursue work but will support them if they choose to. Recipients that work can earn \$12,000 per year or \$18,000 per year for a family, before benefits are impacted.

What is the application process for MSPD?

- Any Manitoban in need of financial assistance can contact their nearest social services office to begin an application.
- Applicants to MSPD and EIA participate in an assessment of their financial eligibility. If they are financially eligible for the program and would like to apply for MSPD they are provided with a Disability Impact Assessment (DIA).
- The DIA is comprised of a self-assessment and a medical assessment. The DIA is used to determine whether a person has a severe and prolonged disability, which

the Disability Support Regulation defines as “a significant condition of the body or mind that is permanently or likely to be permanent”.

- Upon submission of a completed DIA, a qualified health professional adjudicates the documents received.
- EIA recipients with existing medical information on file may be eligible for an expedited DIA process. Recipients can inquire about this with their EIA Case Counsellor.
- If an applicant needs help to complete their DIA, support is available through the Community Helpers pilot project. Applicants can discuss this with their intake worker or EIA Case Counsellor.

Are previous recipients of EIA Disability automatically eligible for MSPD?

- Upon the launch of MSPD the EIA Persons with Disabilities category was renamed Medical Barriers to Full Employment to prevent confusion. Eligibility changed so that individuals with a medical condition that prevents them from engaging in employment for 12 or more months are supported by this category of assistance.
- Not all EIA Medical Barriers to Full Employment recipients will be eligible for MSPD, as they may not have a severe and prolonged disability.
- Some EIA recipients are automatically eligible for MSPD: those eligible for Community Living disABILITY Services, Canada Pension Plan Disability benefits, or who reside in personal care homes.
- If a recipient of EIA Medical Barriers to Full Employment wishes to apply for MSPD, they may be eligible for an expedited Disability Impact Assessment, if recent medical documentation is already on file.

What public consultation was done during the development of the program?

- In 2019 and 2021 the department conducted two rounds of public engagement sessions on the development of a new disability income support program. The results from these sessions have been shared publicly and were used to inform the program’s design.
- From October 2021 to October 2023 the department hosted a Community Advisory Committee, which met regularly to gather feedback on the elements of program design. The committee was comprised of eight Manitobans from across the province, including persons living with disabilities, service providers, and other professionals.
- In August 2022, the Disability Support Regulation and Amendments to the Assistance Regulation were posted for 45 days of public consultation.
- From the fall of 2022 to the spring of 2023, the department conducted additional public consultation sessions to help guide the development of the program, including the content of the regulation, the program’s name, policy features, and a service delivery approach.

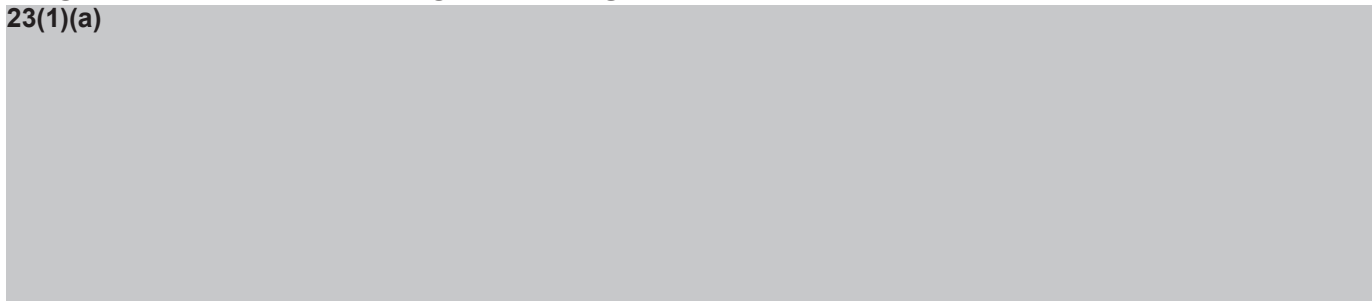
- Since June 2023, the department has held monthly public information sessions, and when requested, provides tailored information sessions to specific groups. These sessions provide Manitobans with the opportunity to learn about the program, ask questions, and provide feedback.
- The department is developing a new public engagement strategy to ensure that Manitobans with disabilities can provide feedback to inform further program design.

BACKGROUND

- MSPD launched to the public on April 1, 2023. MSPD provides financial benefits and supportive services to persons with severe and prolonged disabilities.
- In 2019, Disability Vote Matters called on the Manitoba government to develop a new income support program for Manitobans with severe and prolonged disabilities that is separate and distinct from EIA.
- Throughout the development of the program the department conducted public consultation sessions on program design, policy features, and services provided. Manitobans shared overwhelming support for a new income support program that provides enhanced benefits, contains a service navigation component, is accessible, provides better employment supports, and has less reporting requirements. This feedback informed the development of the program.
- The Disability Support Act (and associated amendments to The Manitoba Assistance Act) received Royal Assent in October 2021, and came into effect on January 1, 2023.
- In January 2023, EIA recipients with automatic eligibility were transferred to MSPD, and in April 2023 the program opened to the public.
- To apply for this program an applicant must complete a financial assessment and disability impact assessment, which determines if an applicant meets the eligibility criteria. EIA recipients applying for MSPD do not need to undergo a financial assessment.
- MSPD provides financial assistance and Community Helpers assist recipients with accessing social supports. Through a procurement process, the department awarded Sara Riel Inc. a contract to implement the Community Helpers pilot project. Through this project, Sara Riel supports recipients who require assistance with securing housing, food, mental health supports, and more. They also assist with the application and assessment process.
- The department is continuing to evaluate and amend the program and its policies to better meet the unique needs of Manitobans with severe and prolonged disabilities.

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CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Program and Legislation 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Income Assistance Basic Needs Budgets

ISSUE

- Advocates regularly call for increases to basic needs amounts for Manitobans receiving income assistance benefits.

SPEAKING POINTS

With the cost of living increasing, what is government doing to address affordability for income assistance recipients?

- Income assistance includes Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) and Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD). Recipients of both programs who have eligible shelter costs receive basic need benefits and Rent Assist, a program unique to Manitoba. Rent Assist is indexed annually to 77 per cent of the median market rent in Winnipeg, ensuring that increases to the cost of renting are reflected in corresponding benefit increases.
- Basic needs benefits for recipients of MSPD are also indexed annually to the Consumer Price Index for Manitoba. All MSPD recipients will receive annual benefit adjustments in July.
- The department regularly reviews EIA and MSPD benefit rates to ensure that appropriate financial assistance is provided to all recipients.


BACKGROUND

- Manitoba delivers income support programs to help Manitobans in financial need based on their personal circumstances.
- Manitoba has two income assistance programs: EIA and MSPD.
- Generally, income assistance budgets consist of basic needs and shelter assistance, and other special needs.
- In 2022, seven provinces increased basic or additional social assistance benefit amounts in response to elevated inflation.
- In November 2022, EIA basic needs were increased in Manitoba for the first time in more than 20 years. Over 18,000 households saw their monthly benefits increase.
 - Families without dependents enrolled in the general assistance category received an added \$50 each month per adult, resulting in increases for over 8,000 households.
 - Additionally, basic needs benefits were increased by \$25 per household for recipients in the Medical Barriers to Full Employment (MBFE) category of EIA, resulting in increases for over 10,000 households. This includes households now enrolled with MSPD.

- Basic needs amounts are intended to cover food, clothing, and personal items (such as toiletries and cleaning supplies) based on the category of eligibility, number of people, and ages of the children in the household. The tables in Appendix A provides examples of current basic needs rates, for those in renting in the private market, for varying household compositions.
- For those in receipt of EIA, Rent Assist benefits changed to reflect 77% of median market rent, rather than 75%, beginning in January 2023. All EIA recipients in private rental accommodations, as well as homeowners, saw a benefit increase as a result.
- In 2023, the Disability Support Regulation was amended to include the annual indexation of basic needs benefits beginning July 2023. The annual indexation of basic needs coincides with the annual indexation of Rent Assist benefits. The portion of the household's basic needs allotted for eligible adults with severe and prolonged disabilities is indexed to the Manitoba CPI for March of the current year, as published by the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics.

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CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs and Legislation, 204-945-0811

Appendix A

Basic Needs Rates – Employment and Income Assistance (EIA)

Household	Monthly Basic Needs prior to the Nov 2022 increase	Current Monthly Basic Needs
Couple, Two Children under 6	\$596.20	\$596.20
Couple, no children, General Assistance Category	\$344.90	\$444.90
Single Adult, General Assistance Category	\$195.00	\$245.00
Single Adult, Medical Barriers to Full Employment Category*	\$331.40	\$356.40
Couple (one of the couple with Medical Barriers to Full Employment eligibility)*, Two Children under 6	\$763.60	\$788.60

*Plus additional Persons with a Disability allowance of \$105.00

Basic Needs Rates – Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD)

Household Composition	Monthly Basic Needs prior to the July 2023 increase*	Monthly Basic Needs prior to the July 2024 increase*	Current Monthly Basic Needs*
Single adult, no children	\$580.84	\$608.34	\$612.82
Couple (one adult with MSPD eligibility)	\$806.24	\$833.44	\$838.22
Couple (one adult with MSPD eligibility), two children under 6	\$1025.04	\$1,052.54	\$1,057.02

*Includes telephone and laundry allowance.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Income Assistance Caseload and Expenditures

ISSUE

- Trends in caseloads and expenditures in Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) and Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD).

SPEAKING POINTS

What are current income assistance caseload trends?

- Average income assistance monthly caseloads have seen a general increase each year since 2010/11, except for 2020/21 and 2021/22 which showed a significant reduction, due to the availability of federal pandemic benefits.
- As of June 2024, there are 43,393 income assistance households (31,919 EIA cases and 11,474 MSPD cases). See **Appendix A** for historical income assistance caseloads.
- The significant caseload reduction in 2020/21 and 2021/22 coincided with the pandemic and is in part attributable to the introduction of federal pandemic relief benefits such as the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB). Receiving these benefits made the majority of EIA households ineligible for provincial income assistance.
- Income assistance caseloads grew from 35,950 in October 2021 to 43,393 cases in June 2024. The overall income assistance caseload now exceeds its pre-pandemic level.
- See **Appendix B** for historical EIA monthly caseloads by category.

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What factors influence trends in EIA caseload?

- A variety of factors contribute to and influence EIA caseload size such as:
 - Eligibility criteria of federal income benefit programs.
 - Population growth and demographic shifts, including changing trends in immigration.
 - The number and types of jobs created in relation to the available labour force.

- High inflation and rising cost of living
- Total monthly benefits available to participants and income levels to enter and exit EIA.

What are the trends in income assistance expenditures?

- Currently, income assistance programs (EIA and MSPD) are expected to be within budget for 2024/25.
- The indexation of Rent Assist and MSPD basic needs amounts are tied to inflation, and therefore rising costs of rent and other goods lead to increased expenditures.
- Income assistance programs are mandated to provide benefits to assist low-income Manitobans in meeting their basic needs, and therefore if unexpected caseload increases occur, expenditures may exceed budgeted amounts.

What is the department doing to support EIA recipients to address the barriers they face to employment?

- The department recognizes the importance of sustainable employment to assist low-income Manitobans to achieve financial independence.
- EIA recipients often face barriers that may impact their ability to sustain employment, and the department therefore partners with different community organizations who have expertise in addressing specific barriers to employment and offering post-employment services.
- EIA recipients can receive funds for transportation, work clothing and boots, funds for criminal record checks and child/adult abuse registry checks. Additionally, working EIA participants are eligible for an employment incentive in the amount of \$100 or \$50 per month, depending upon their hours worked.
- Recipients who exit EIA for employment are eligible for 24 months of extended health coverage, to help them stabilize their financial situation.
- Additionally, working EIA participants are entitled to earning exemptions up to \$200 of net monthly earnings plus 30% of net monthly earnings over \$200.

What is the department doing to reduce wait times and deliver accessible services to vulnerable Manitobans?

- Transforming the Income Assistance Central intake model to offer same-or next-day application appointments reduced wait times from up to 6 weeks. This change significantly increased successful income assistance enrolments, nearly doubling the enrollment rate from 26% to 49% between January 2022 and January 2024.

BACKGROUND

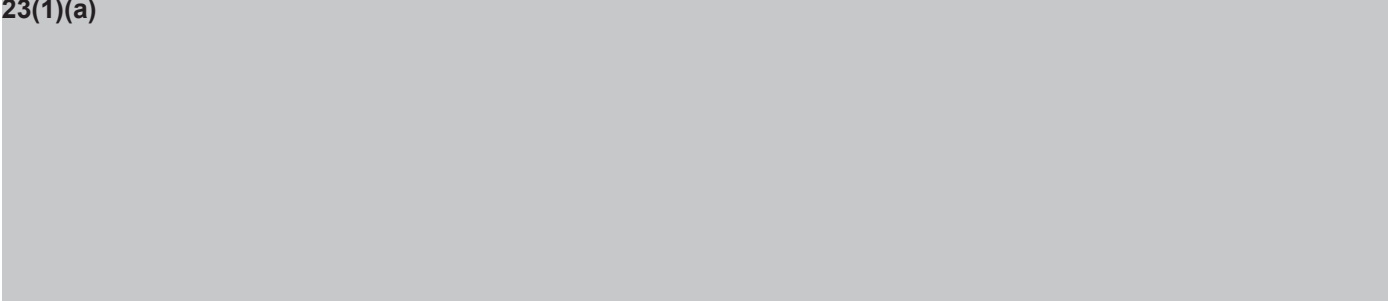
- Manitoba has two income assistance programs: EIA and MSPD.
- EIA is based on categorical eligibility. The largest categories are Medical Barriers to Full Employment, which in June 2024 made up 38.8 per cent of the EIA caseload, the General Assistance (GA) category, which supports adults without disabilities and their families,

represented approximately 38.2 per cent, and the Single Parent category, which represented approximately 22.2 per cent of the caseload.

- Income assistance caseloads increased by 17 per cent between December 2020 and June 2024 and now exceed their pre-pandemic levels.

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CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Programs and Legislation, 204 945-0811

Appendix A: Income Assistance Caseloads

EIA AND MSPD CASELOAD HISTORY				
Year	EIA	MSPD	Total Income Assistance Cases	Year over Year Percent Change
2024/25*	33,359	11,781	45,140	10%
2023/24	32,125	8,986	40,865	5%
2022/23	31,065	7,765	38,830	5%
2021/22	36,825		36,825	-7%
2020/21	39,723		39,723	-8%
2019/20	43,183		43,183	0%
2018/19	43,252		43,252	2%
2017/18	42,424		42,424	4%
2016/17	40,843		40,843	6%
2015/16	38,424		38,424	4%
2014/15	36,853		36,853	3%
2013/14	35,611		35,611	0%
2012/13	35,523		35,523	0%
2011/12	35,427		35,427	4%
2010/11	34,147		34,147	4%
2009/10	32,829		32,829	6%
2008/09	31,096		31,096	1%
2007/08	30,843		30,843	

*Based on June 2024 projections

Appendix B: EIA Average Monthly Caseloads by Category

Year	Persons with Disabilities	Single Parents	General Assistance	Other
2024/25	12,384	7,025	12,187	323
2023/24	12,898	7,062	11,486	429
2022/23	21,980	7,251	9,609	299
2021/22	21,003	7,086	8,459	277
2020/21	21,388	7,811	10,253	271
2019/20	21,729	8,597	12,536	319
2018/19	21,086	8,614	13,237	315
2017/18	20,890	8,446	12,853	235

2016/17	20,616	8,234	11,770	223
2015/16	20,575	7,813	9,821	215
2014/15	20,435	7,813	8,390	215
2013/14	20,168	7,899	7,336	208
2012/13	20,110	8,133	7,081	199

*Averages as of June 2024

Appendix C: Average Monthly Income Assistance Expenditure

Year	EIA	MSPD	Total Average Monthly Expenditures	Percentage Change
2024/25*	\$397,120	\$145,041	\$542,161	7.47%
2023/24	\$392,292	\$112,183	\$504,475	16.40%
2022/23	\$433,562		\$433,562	3.70%
2021/22	\$417,967		\$417,967	-9.60%
2020/21	\$462,213		\$462,213	-2.90%
2019/20	\$476,258		\$476,258	0.90%
2018/19	\$472,002		\$472,002	4.40%
2017/18	\$452,116		\$452,116	6.30%
2016/17	\$425,206		\$425,206	

*Based on June 2024 projections

**There was no budget allocation for MSPD for the 2022-23 fiscal year. Funds were taken from EIA budget lines for financial assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Income Assistance Overpayments and Fraud

ISSUE

- Incidence of overpayments and fraud in Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) and Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD).

SPEAKING POINTS

What is the department doing to address the incidence of overpayments and fraud?

- The department uses a variety of methods to ensure individuals and families are eligible for EIA and MSPD benefits and services. These methods include file reviews, information sharing agreements, and case reviews by staff.
- The department has a formal review and implementation process in place to recover monies when it becomes aware a recipient may have been overpaid and/or received money through fraudulent means.
- For current recipients, money is recovered through deductions from the recipient's monthly income assistance benefits. The standard recovery rates increased on February 1, 2019, for the first time in over five years, in effort to recover as much of the outstanding balance as possible, without creating financial hardship.
- Recovery rates are based on family size and represent less than ten per cent of the budget and can be lowered if recovery rates cause financial hardship. (See table below.)

Family Size	Standard Monthly Overpayment Recovery Rate
1 Person	\$60
2 People	\$85
3 or More People	\$110

- For households no longer receiving income assistance, money is recovered through voluntary repayment plans, formal litigation, or utilizing the Canada Revenue Agency Individual Refund Set-Off Program.
- In cases of fraud, the department can proceed with prosecution under the Criminal Code (Canada), The Manitoba Assistance Act or under The Disability Support Act. As of August 15, 2024, the department has not referred any cases of alleged fraud to Legal Services for potential prosecution. In 2023/24 there was one case referred.

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BACKGROUND

- An overpayment occurs when financial assistance is issued to an income assistance recipient that they were not eligible to receive.
- Fraud occurs when a person provides false information leading to the issuance of financial assistance that they were not eligible to receive. In certain situations, it may be appropriate for the department to initiate court action against persons who have allegedly committed fraud.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

- N/A.

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs and Legislation
Division 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Employment Programming and Community Partnerships

ISSUE

- The Department of Families works to remove barriers to work for Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) recipients through the development of employment programming and community partnerships.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is government doing to enhance employment programming and community partnerships to support EIA recipients?

- The Department of Families works closely with community partners to develop, fund, and monitor programs that support EIA participants in overcoming barriers to employment. For example, some organizations provide assistance with resume development or financial literacy, while others offer assistance with preparing for an interview.
- For several years, the department has funded community agencies to develop pilot projects. These were funded through the EIA Endowment Fund and EIA Transformation Funds. All of the pilot programs have recently concluded or will conclude operations shortly, and are being evaluated (please see Appendix A for a complete list).

How does EIA support recipients to address barriers they face to employment?


- The department recognizes the importance of sustainable employment to assist low-income Manitobans to achieve financial independence.
- EIA recipients experience a multitude of barriers which may impact their ability to sustain employment, and the department therefore partners with different community organizations who have expertise in addressing specific barriers to employment and offering post-employment services.
- EIA remains committed to ensuring that supports and financial benefits are available for participants attending activities that support their progress towards labour market attachment. EIA continues to collaborate with community to enhance the supports that address the unique barriers of EIA participants.
- EIA recipients can receive funds for transportation, work clothing and boots, funds for criminal record checks and child/adult abuse registry checks. Additionally, working EIA participants are eligible for an employment incentive in the amount of \$100 or \$50 per month, depending upon their hours worked.
- Recipients who exit EIA for employment are eligible for 24 months of extended health coverage, in order to help them stabilize their financial situation.
- Additionally, working EIA participants are entitled to earnings exemptions up to \$200 of net monthly earnings plus 30% of net monthly earnings in excess of \$200.

BACKGROUND

- EIA is an income-tested program that provides financial assistance to individuals and families who need help to support themselves for basic, shelter, and medical needs.
- In 2023 income assistance in Manitoba was restructured to better meet the needs of Manitobans. The Department of Families introduced a new and separate income assistance program for people with disabilities called Manitoba Supports for Person with Disabilities (MSPD).
- EIA is structured to promote and encourage individuals to seek and maintain employment. Individuals receive employment supports in their monthly budget (e.g., employment bus pass, employment clothing, rewarding work allowance, and rewarding work health plan that consists of health coverage for two years after exiting the program to employment).
- MSPD recipients are not required to seek employment, but if they choose to, the program will support the development of an employment plan and provides the same employment supports as EIA. Additionally, MSPD exempts up to \$12,000 per year of employment income (\$18,000 for a family).
- Providing pathways to labour market attachment is an important part of the EIA program. In 2016/17, Jobs on Market (JOM) based in Winnipeg and Jobs on 9th (JO9) based in Brandon were established to support and provide case management for EIA participants who are working towards employment. JOM and JO9 work with EIA participants to assess and identify their needs and strengths and refer the participants to programming that helps them to secure paid employment.

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CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs, and Legislation
204-945-0811

Appendix A:

Journey to Independence Fund		
SERVICE PROVIDER	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
West Central Women's Resource Centre	Supports Towards Empowerment Program	Ended as of June 1, 2024
Sara Riel	Employment Development Program	Ended as of June 30, 2024
Abilities Manitoba	Increasing Wellness and Economic Stability	Currently running, set to end on September 30, 2024
Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association	PREP Employment First Program	Ended as of April 30, 2024
Manitoba Possible	Money Management Programming	Currently running, set to end on October 31, 2024
Youth Employment Services (YES Manitoba)	Building Employability Skills for Today's (BEST) Youth Program	Currently running, set to end on September 30, 2024
Canadian Mental Health Association	Employment with Supports for Youth	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024
Taking Charge!	Counselling Services	Ended as of May 17, 2024
The Link Youth and Family Supports	Still Here: Supporting Young People to Successfully Transition into and Maintain Participation in the Labour Market	Currently running, set to end on December 31, 2024
Opportunities for Employment	Demand Led Employment Program	Ended as of March 31, 2024
Indigenous Youth Programming		
SERVICE PROVIDER	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development	Learner Readiness Program	Currently running, set to end on November 30, 2024
Elbert Chartrand Friendship Centre	SUCCEED Connections Path to Employment	Ended as of June 30, 2024
Manitoba Moon Voices	The Next Step in Our Journey Program	Ended as of August 9, 2024
Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre	Ganawenindiwig: They Take Care of Each Other Program	Currently running, set to end on September 30, 2024
Ready, Set, Go!	Work Ready Program	Ended as of February 28, 2024

Shawenim Abinooji	Akoonkeen Oonchiie Kidaawwing (Work from the Heart) Program	Ended as of June 21, 2024
Community Supports Initiative		
SERVICE PROVIDER	PROJECT NAME	
Building Urban Industries for Local Development	BUILD Training Program	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024
Brandon Friendship Centre	GAP Youth Outreach	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024
Elmwood Community Resource Centre	The Kaskihtamasowin Employment Program	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024
New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults and Family	Employment Opportunities Through Property Services and Social Enterprise	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024
Portage Community Revitalization Corporation	Mashkiki Tetibis (Medicine Wheel)	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024
Purpose Construction Inc.	Purpose Homes - Residential New Home Construction Training Program	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024
Supporting Employment and Economic Development	Increasing Access to Financial Empowerment Supports	Currently running, set to end on March 31, 2025
Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc.	New Paths Mentorship Program	Currently running, set to end on August 31, 2024

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Health Services

ISSUE

- The historic trend of rising expenditures for health benefits provided to persons eligible for provincial income assistance programs and children in the care of Child and Youth Services.

SPEAKING POINTS

Why have Health Services expenditure been increasing historically?

- The primary drivers of the health services expenditure are significant increases in prescription and dental service volumes. These increases are caused by increases to the overall volume of EIA participants accessing health benefits. Approved fee schedule increases for health service fees and higher costs to deliver essential health benefits are also expected to contribute to overall health services expenditures increases.

How have Health Services expenditures increased since 2022/23?

- As caseloads increase, health services expenditures continue to rise.
- Appendix A shows the annual Health Services expenditure for Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) and Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD).

How many people use Health Services?

- As of August 2024, an average of 44,289 cases per month were eligible to receive health benefits. Children in care of CFS accounted for 11,176 (25 per cent) of the caseload. The 2023/24 average monthly caseload was 42,952 and included 11,139 (26 per cent) children in care.
- The Rewarding Work Health Plan provides 24 months of extended health services for all EIA recipients who close with employment earnings and were receiving EIA for a maximum of six months. As of August 2024, an average monthly caseload of approximately 1,474 received extended Health Services benefits under the Rewarding Work Health Plan in 2024/25.
- All MSPD recipients are eligible for the 24 months of health benefits upon exiting the program, unless other coverage exists.

Do children in care still have coverage through the province's Health Services program if they have coverage through the federal First Nations and Inuit Health Branch?

- The department has clarified that children in care, much like people receiving income assistance, are expected to access alternative health coverage if its available. Alternative health coverage may include programs offered by private

insurance companies or the federal First Nations and Inuit Health Branch. The Health Services program continues to cover children in care who do not have another source of coverage for health benefits.

What is provided for prescription drugs and over-the-counter products?

- Health Services provides prescription drug benefits according to the Manitoba Pharmacare Program's drug formulary listing, which covers a wide range of essential medications.
- Health Services also covers basic and essential over-the-counter products such as pain relief, cold medicines, incontinence supplies, and crutches.

What is provided for dental and optical services?

- EIA participants may receive dental and optical services after three months of enrollment on the program (six months for General Assistance adults). Waiting periods may be waived for emergency situations. There is no waiting period for children in care or for recipients of MSPD.
- Health Services covers basic dental costs, such as exams, cleanings, and extractions. Basic denturist services are also covered.
- Health Services covers basic eye exam costs every two years, new glasses every two years, and new lenses in the case of a significant prescription change.

Are Health Services different for participants on the Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities program?

- MSPD participants are eligible for the same scope of health services as EIA participants. However, MSPD participants are entitled to health services for 24 months following case closure, regardless of the reason for closure, as long as they do not have alternative coverage. This differs from EIA, where persons are only eligible for health services following closure if their file closes because they have found employment.
- Additionally, once enrolled, there is no waiting period for MSPD participants to receive essential dental and optical supplies.

Why is there a discrepancy between income assistance reported caseloads for children in care and those reported by Child and Family services?

- There has traditionally been a difference between numbers of children in care relative to those registered to EIA health services owing to different reporting and tracking systems.
- The difference in reported health services users is mostly attributed to unreported changes in circumstances when children in care leave Child and Family Services care and no longer require or are eligible for EIA Health Services. These changes

are often not immediately reported to EIA. EIA is aware of the discrepancy and is working with Child and Family Services to get the two reporting systems aligned.

How will the Canadian Dental Care Plan impact the Provincial Health Services program?

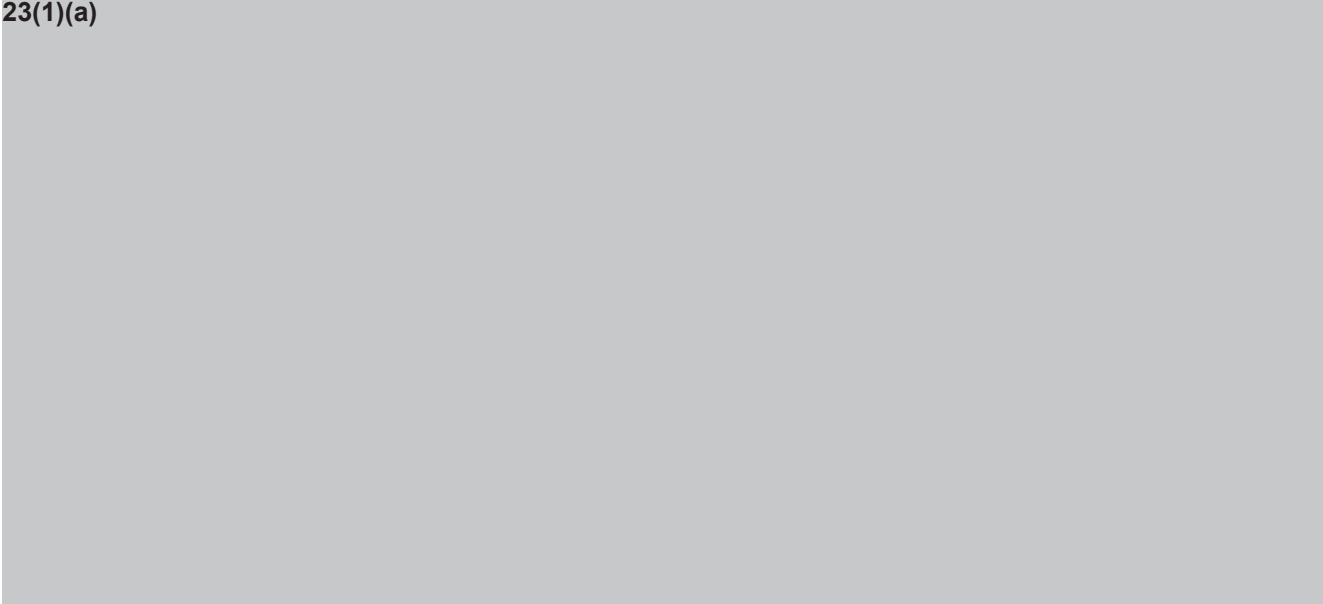
- As of July 19th, Canadians with disabilities and children under 18 are eligible for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). The CDCP is will be open to all eligible Canadians by January 2025.
- To be eligible for CDCP, recipients are required to file their taxes from the previous year and have an adjusted family net income of less than \$90,000.
- Income assistance recipients will be encouraged and supported to apply for coverage under the CDCP, and Health Services will coordinate benefits with the federal program, to ensure that the highest rate of coverage possible is provided.

BACKGROUND

- The Health Services program provides essential prescription drug, dental and optical benefits to eligible recipients of provincial income assistance, which includes EIA and Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD), and to children in care.
- In addition, the Rewarding Work Health Plan provides extended Health Service benefits to eligible persons who move from EIA to work, for up to 24 months.
- MSPD participants are eligible for health benefits immediately after program enrollment and can receive the 24 months of extended Health Services if their file closes for any reason and they meet the existing extended Health Services criteria.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

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CONTACT

Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs and Legislation
Division204-945-0811

Appendix A

Health Services Expenditures (\$000) (EIA)		
Fiscal Year	Budget	Actual
2024/25	\$61,138	\$61,805*
2023/24	\$61,138	\$67,217
2022/23	\$90,020	\$81,567
2021/22	\$89,802	\$82,727
2020/21	\$89,805	\$76,892
2019/20	\$84,521	\$83,321
2018/19	\$82,182	\$84,729
2017/18	\$75,484	\$81,792
2016/17	\$66,523	\$76,434
2015/16	\$66,523	\$74,585
2014/15	\$66,523	\$67,056

*projected as of August 2024

Health Services Expenditures (\$000) (MSPD)		
Fiscal Year	Budget	Actual
2024/25	\$29,632	\$29,886*
2023/24	\$30,315	\$22,112
2022/23**	\$0	\$4,694

*projected as of August 2024

** There was no budget allocation for MSPD for 2022-23 fiscal year. Funds were taken from EIA Disability budget lines for financial assistance and Health Services.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE:

- Manitoba Child Benefit

ISSUE

- Trends in caseload and expenditure for the Manitoba Child Benefit.

SPEAKING POINTS

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What is the trend in the Manitoba Child Benefit caseload?

- The average monthly number of families receiving the benefit has decreased from 1,793 in 2023/24 to 1,782 as of June 2024.

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- The table in **Appendix A** shows the average monthly Manitoba Child Benefit caseload for fiscal years from 2018/19 through 2024/25 and average monthly expenditures.

What is the trend in the Manitoba Child Benefit expenditures?

- The forecasted expenditures for 2024/25, based on current year costs up to June 2024, are \$1,623K. This is a decrease from \$1,894K in 2023/24.

How much do families currently receive through the Manitoba Child Benefit?

- The maximum benefit is \$35 per month for families with annual incomes up to \$15K who do not receive income assistance, which includes Employment and Income Assistance and Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities. Partial benefits are paid at incomes between \$15K and \$20K.


BACKGROUND

- The Manitoba Child Benefit provides monthly benefits to eligible Manitobans with dependent children in their care.
- Families working full or part time and earning \$15K or less may be eligible for up to \$420 tax free each year for every child. Partial benefits are paid for parents who earn \$15K to \$20K.
- To be eligible, an applicant must meet the following criteria:
 - reside in Manitoba,
 - receive the Canada Child Benefit for dependent children,
 - have a family income up to \$20K,
 - and not receive EIA or MSPD, unless receiving health benefits only.

- The MCB also provides parents with additional assistance to help with some of the costs of prescription glasses for their children through the Children's Opti-Care Program.

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23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Program and Legislation 204-945-0811

Appendix A

Manitoba Child Benefit - HISTORY: CASELOAD AND EXPENDITURES					
Year	Average Caseload (Families)	Percentage Change	Average Caseload (Children)	Percentage Change	Expenditures (000)
2024/25	1,782	-0.61%	4,434	- 0.58%	1,623***
2023/24	1,793	29.6%	4,460	19.8%	1,838
2022/23*	1,363	-12.1%	3,673	-17.4%	1,539
2021/22	1,550	-17.2%	4,178	-10.9%	1,665
2020/21	1,871	-3.7%	4,688	-0.8%	1,847
2019/20	1,942	-0.2%	4,725	1.4%	1,966
2018/19	1,946	-10.4%	4,659	-10.6%	1,926

*** YTD forecasted total as of June 2024

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES**ISSUE TITLE: Rent Assist****ISSUE**

- Rent Assist is a shelter benefit for low-income Manitobans renting in the private market.

SPEAKING POINTS**How many households are receiving Rent Assist benefits and what is the associated cost?**

- As of June 2024, approximately 26,700 households receiving provincial income assistance (Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) or Manitoba Supports for Persons with Disabilities (MSPD)), living in private rent, board and room, trailer and homeowner situations are eligible for Rent Assist.
- As of June 2024, about 9,200 households not receiving income assistance were in receipt of Rent Assist. This is an increase of approximately 8.2 per cent from June 2023, when the number of households was about 8,500.
- Rent Assist benefits are indexed each year to reflect 77 per cent of Median Market Rent for households in receipt of income assistance, which includes EIA and MSPD, and 80 per cent of Median Market Rent for low-income households not receiving income assistance.
- Budget 2024 includes new investments of more than \$15M in Rent Assist. This supports the indexation of benefits effective July 2024, as well as caseload growth as we continue to see increased numbers of eligible Manitobans enroll on Rent Assist.
- In July 2024, income assistance Rent Assist rates was indexed to 77 per cent of MMR for households in receipt of income assistance and 80 per cent for non-income assistance Rent Assist households.
- **Appendix A** shows the average monthly non-income assistance caseload for full fiscal years from 2018/19 through 2023/24 and forecasted average monthly non-EIA caseload and expenditures for 2024/25. See **Appendix B** for the total budget breakdown.

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- Maximum rates for single persons in the General Assistance category of EIA, and the General category of non-EIA Rent Assist reflect 77 and 80 per cent of Median Market Rent for a bachelor apartment, respectively. A bachelor or studio unit is considered by the National Occupancy Standard as suitable housing for a single individual living alone.
- All household sizes, regardless of composition, saw an increase in maximum benefits in July 2024.
- The department continues to monitor the Rent Assist program to ensure that it is meeting its objectives and is targeted to Manitobans most in need.
- See Appendix C for a breakdown of both income assistance and non-income assistance Rent Assist rates by year and by household type and category.

What are the thresholds for eligibility for non-Income Assistance Rent Assist?

- Manitobans who rent in the private market and have income below the regulated threshold are eligible for Rent Assist benefits. The income threshold changes each year as benefits are indexed and varies by household type and size.
- The threshold is a function of the maximum benefit, and is calculated based on a definition of affordable housing in which shelter costs are no more than 30 percent of household income.
- See Appendix D for a breakdown of non-income assistance Rent Assist income eligibility levels by year and by household size and category.

How much is 77 and 80 per cent of Median Market Rent for bachelor units and how does it compare to the rate based on the average of bachelor and one-bedroom units?

- Based on 2023 data published by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation 77 per cent of Median Market Rent of bachelor units is approximately \$638, while 77 per cent of the average Median Market Rent of bachelor and one-bedroom units is \$735.
- The 2023 data published by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation also shows that 80 per cent of Median Market Rent of bachelor units is \$662, while 80 per cent of the average Median Market Rent of bachelor and one-bedroom units is \$763.

Do Manitobans have to claim Non-Income Assistance Rent Assist on their income tax?

- In 2023, the Canada Revenue Agency advised that per the federal Income Tax Act, Manitobans receiving non-income assistance Rent Assist must be issued tax forms, and that benefits received will now be included in a recipient's total net income as reported to the Canada Revenue Agency. Previously, Rent Assist recipients did not receive tax forms.

- Rent Assist is not a taxable benefit, but income received and counted toward net annual income does affect eligibility for other benefits.
- This may impact recipients' eligibility or deductible for some other benefits, like Pharmacare, the Canada Child Benefit and the Goods and Services Tax credit. ²³⁽¹⁾
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- The department has made regulatory changes to ensure that Rent Assist benefits received in the past are exempt from consideration in the calculation of eligibility for future program benefits, and for other income supports programs, such as the Manitoba Child Benefit, 55 PLUS, and the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit.

BACKGROUND

- Rent Assist is a shelter benefit for Manitobans with low-incomes who rent in the private market or own a home.
- For Manitobans receiving income assistance who have shelter costs, Rent Assist benefits are included with monthly benefit payments, the total of which may be reduced if participants have other sources of income. Benefits are indexed annually based on 77 per cent of Median Market Rent in Winnipeg.
- Households not in receipt of income assistance must apply for Rent Assist annually. Eligibility is based on the previous year's income as reported by CRA.
- For Manitobans not on income assistance, eligibility and actual Rent Assist benefits are calculated to provide the difference between 30 per cent of net household income and 80 per cent Median Market Rent.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs and Legislation 204-945-0811

Appendix A

Average non-Income Assistance Rent Assist Caseload and Total Expenditures (millions)						
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
Average Monthly	7,447	7,708	6,966	7,318	9,009	*10,746
Expenditures (\$000)	\$35,724	\$36,745	\$36,360	\$41,993	58,157	**54,584

*2024/25 YTD Statistics as of June 2024

** Forecast for 2024/25

Appendix B

Rent Assist program – 2024/25 Budget breakdown	
Rent Assist	Increase (\$000's)
Income Assistance Rent Assist Indexation*	\$9,493
Non-Income Assistance Indexation*	\$3,710
Non-Income Assistance Volume Increase	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$18,203

* Includes annual costs for indexations effective July 2024.

Appendix C

Income Assistance Rent Assist Maximum Rates					
	July 2021	July 2022	January 2023	July 2023	July 2024
1 person (Disability, Senior)	\$657	\$673	\$691	\$705	\$735
1 person (General Assistance, General)	\$578	\$596	\$612	\$616	\$638
2 persons (couple)	\$737	\$750	\$770	\$793	\$832
2 persons (single parent)	\$930	\$971	\$996	\$1,020	\$1,064
3 to 4 persons	\$930	\$971	\$996	\$1,020	\$1,064
5 to 6 persons	\$1,159	\$1,234	\$1,267	\$1,308	\$1,328

* Based on Median Market Rents in Winnipeg, as calculated by the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Non-Income Assistance Rent Assist Maximum Rates					
	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024
1 person (Disability, Senior)	\$632	\$701	\$718	\$732	\$763
1 person (General Assistance, General)	\$576	\$616	\$636	\$640	\$662
2 persons (Couple)	\$710	\$786	\$800	\$824	\$864
2 persons (Single parent)	\$896	\$992	\$1,035	\$1,060	\$1,106
3 to 4 persons	\$896	\$992	\$1,035	\$1,060	\$1,106
5 to 6 persons	\$1,133	\$1,236	\$1,316	\$1,359	\$1,380

*Based on Median Market Rents in Winnipeg, as calculated by the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Appendix D

Non-Income Assistance Rent Assist Income Eligibility Levels (\$0.00)					
Family Size	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024
1 person (General)	\$23,040	\$24,640	\$25,440	\$25,600	\$26,480
1 person (Disability, Senior)	\$25,280	\$28,040	\$28,720	\$29,280	\$30,520
2 persons (Couple)	\$28,400	\$31,440	\$32,000	\$32,960	\$34,560
2 persons (Single Parent)	\$35,840	\$39,680	\$41,400	\$42,400	\$44,240
3 to 4 persons	\$35,840	\$39,680	\$41,400	\$42,400	\$44,240
5 to 6 persons	\$45,320	\$49,440	\$52,640	\$54,360	\$55,200

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: **Healthy Baby Program**

ISSUE

- Trends and expenditures for Healthy Baby programs.

SPEAKING POINTS

What services and supports are offered through the Healthy Baby Program?

- Healthy Baby consists of two programs: The Manitoba Prenatal Benefit and Community Support Programs.
- The Manitoba Prenatal Benefit is designed to help pregnant individuals meet their nutritional needs throughout the second and third trimester of pregnancy.
- Community support programs are delivered by partner agencies and regional health authorities, which help pregnant individuals and new parents connect with other parents, families, and health professionals.
- Programs are delivered as group sessions that give participants information, support and resources on prenatal and postnatal nutrition and health, breastfeeding, parenting tips and lifestyle choices. They also provide participants with practical supports like bus tickets, milk coupons and on-site childminding.
- The Healthy Baby program includes a provincial clinical coordinator who provides clinical oversight to the community support programs and associated resources for participants. The regional health authorities allocate dietitians and public health nurses to the programs.

How many people participate in the Healthy Baby Program?

- In 2023/24, 1,535 individuals received the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit. Of the total number of individuals that received the benefit, 472 were receiving income assistance benefits.
- On average, approximately 3,900 new participants attend a Community Support Program regularly each year, with 5,000 families total receiving services from Community Support Programs across the province annually.

How much assistance do recipients receive through the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit?

- This year, our government is investing an additional \$800K into the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit to support future increases to the benefit rate.
- The maximum benefit for eligible pregnant individuals will increase from \$81.41 a month to 162.82 per month, effective Fall 2024.
- Regulation changes updating the benefit amounts came into effect July 5, 2024. All recipients will have their benefits retroactively increased to July 5, 2024, once the new amounts are implemented.

- Eligible applicants will receive benefits for six months, regardless of the date of application.

What is the Healthy Baby Program budget for 2024/25?

- Our government allocated nearly \$4.9M for the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit and Healthy Baby Community Support Programs in 2024/25. This includes the new investment of \$800K to increase the Prenatal Benefit.
- Please see Appendix A for a detailed breakdown of the 2024/25 Healthy Baby Program budget, including actual expenditures to date (July 2024 inclusive).

Why is the department anticipating an increase in Healthy Baby Program expenditures from 2024/25 to 2025/26?


- Our government has invested an additional \$800K into the budget to support our commitment to doubling the Manitoba Prenatal Benefit amount.

BACKGROUND

- The Healthy Baby program provides grant funding to community-based partners and regional health authorities to deliver Healthy Baby Community Support programs throughout Manitoba.
- Healthy Baby Community Support Programs provide learning opportunities and outreach, which connects families to parenting resources, nutrition/health education and social support. Practical supports are also provided to participants such as healthy snacks, milk coupons, bus tickets and childminding.
- The Manitoba Prenatal Benefit is a monthly benefit for low-income persons to support purchase of nutritious foods throughout pregnancy.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy, Programs and Legislation
204-945-0811

Appendix A

The 2024/25 Healthy Baby Program budget, and actual expenditures to date (April 2024-July inclusive), for 2024/25:

	2023/24 Budget (\$000)	2023/24Actuals	2024/25 Budget
Operating Costs	\$94.0	\$28,818	\$94.0
Financial Assistance	\$1,466	\$782,385	\$2,266,600
Grant Funding to Service Providers	\$2,531	\$2,395,974	\$2,518,400
Total	\$4,091	\$3,207,178	\$4,879,000

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: **Office of the Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability**

ISSUE

- Overview of the Role, Process, Hearing Panel, Statistics, Appeals and Prosecutions

SPEAKING POINTS**What is the role of the Office of the Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability?**

- The Office of the Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability administers the substitute decision making provisions of the Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability Act. In doing so, the Office of the Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability:
 - Makes decisions on applications requesting the appointment of a substitute decision maker
 - Makes decisions on requests for the variation to existing appointments, the termination and replacement of existing Substitute Decision Makers, and make emergency appointments where there are decisions of an urgent nature
 - Monitors and audits the Substitute Decision Maker's management of the finances and property of adults living with an intellectual disability [excludes where Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) is appointed]
 - Provides information, training, and consultation to families, adults living with an intellectual disability, departmental staff, agencies, parent and community associations, and the general public on the Substitute Decision Maker provisions of the act.

Who submits applications for the appointment of a Substitute Decision Maker and why are they needed?

- Applications are received from anyone who "believes" an adult living with an intellectual disability person needs a Substitute Decision Maker and lacks the capacity to make decisions on their own or with assistance.

Reasons include:

- privacy laws and the requirement for legal consent at age 18
- aging and onset of dementia
- deterioration in health and associated complexities of medical decisions
- transitioning decisions into the adult system of support and services
- policy changes regarding bank accounts
- vulnerability to financial abuse or personal abuse
- transition from the family home
- in receipt of large settlements from claims/estates
- other

- Applicants may be family members, friends, Community Service Workers, Manitoba Public Insurance, social workers in agencies, Child and Family Services, Psychiatric Centres, etc.

What happens when an application is submitted for the appointment of a Substitute Decision Maker for an adult living with an intellectual disability?

- The Office of the Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability conducts a preliminary investigation.
- The Commissioner has the discretion to forego a hearing panel and appoint SDMs in situations where warranted and when there are no concerns. In such cases, all interested parties will receive written notice of the decision to forego the hearing panel.
- The Commissioner uses discretion to send applications to a hearing panel where there is insufficient evidence, conflicting viewpoints regarding the capacity of the individual, multiple SDM applications for the same individual, communication issues between family and service/care providers, or where there are any other red flags. The Commissioner then establishes a 3-member hearing panel to hear the application who use an online service platform that allows users to manage secure video/audio or web meetings.
- The hearing panel meets with the individual person, family, and those involved in the individual's life and makes a recommendation to the Commissioner.
- The Commissioner makes the decision whether or not a Substitute Decision Maker is warranted and if so, who should be appointed and the scope of the appointment including what powers of decision-making they will have, any terms or conditions, and the duration of the appointment.

What are the criteria that are assessed when making the decision to appoint a Substitute Decision Maker?

- Two sets of criteria:
 - a. With regard to the adult living with an intellectual disability:
 - Does the individual meet the definition of an adult living with an intellectual disability needing assistance to meet basic needs?
 - Is there an involved support network?
 - Are there decisions to be made that the individual is not capable of making on his/her own or with the assistance of the support network?
 - b. With regard to the proposed Substitute Decision Maker:
 - Is the individual an adult who consents?
 - Is the individual apparently capable, suitable, and able?
 - Is the individual not in conflict with the interests of the adult living with an intellectual disability?

How long does it take to process the application and have a Substitute Decision Maker appointed?

- If all supporting documentation is submitted with the application (assessments, Individual Plans, Financial Plans, Criminal Record Check, Child Abuse Registry Check and Adult Abuse Registry Check for the proposed Substitute Decision Maker, etc.), an appointment can be made within an average of 4-6 weeks.
- Although all applications are unique, the average amount of processing time is 2-3 months, with further delays where the proposed Substitute Decision Maker has not submitted the required documentation.
- Referrals to the hearing panel for recommendations are currently being scheduled within 8 to 12 weeks from the date of receiving the application.

Can the Commissioner's decisions be appealed?

- Yes. Decisions made by the commissioner are appealable to the Court of King's Bench where the matter is heard as a "fresh hearing."

What is the role of the Hearing Panel?

- To provide the Commissioner with independent and objective recommendations regarding new applications for Substitute Decision Maker appointments or on other matters as referred to a hearing by the Commissioner (e.g. where there are opposing opinions regarding a termination and replacement application, or a review before the renewal of the Substitute Decision Maker appointment).
- The hearing panel meets with the individual, family, and those involved in the person's life. The hearing is conducted by a 3-member panel with one sitting as the presiding member. The hearing is conducted in an informal but orderly manner. The hearing panel has the full-time, ongoing support of the Hearing Panel Coordinator.
- The panel gathers information as needed, encourages input from the parties in attendance with regard to the criteria as stated in above, and submits written recommendations to the Commissioner following the hearing.

Who is on the hearing panel roster?

- There are currently 30 members: 13 community members, 9 family members, 8 lawyers

13 Community Members:

Marilyn Robinson, Winnipeg
 Becky Adams, St. Andrews
 Viola Davidson, Winnipeg
 Norman Bruce, Swan River
 June Letkeman, Plum Coulee
 Ian Anderson, Lockport
 Penny Byer, Thomson

Tracey Adam, Winnipeg
 Diana Taylor, Swan River
 Dr. Anju Bajaj, Winnipeg
 Brent Scales, Swan River
 Morgan Gow, Killarney
 Alice Bourgouin, Gross Isle

9 Family Members:

Tracey Walther, La Salle
 Susan Boulter, Winnipeg

Derrick Turner, Minnedosa
 Heather Deneka, Steinbach
 Guy Mercier, Winnipeg

Rebecca Dunn, West Pineridge
Arnold (Dino) Flett

Theresa Epp, Winnipeg
Carole Boulet, Dunrea

8 Lawyers:

Sandra Kliman, Winnipeg
Nichole Hiebert, Winkler
Tracey Epp, Winnipeg
Sheree Waldner, Winnipeg

Antoine F. Hacault, Winnipeg
Harvey Slobodzian, Winnipeg
Suzanne Carriere, St. Adolphe
Karla Dane, Brandon

- Appointees to the hearing panel roster should be knowledgeable of the supports and services available for adults living with a intellectual disability and have an understanding of the issues affecting them; have good verbal and written communication skills; the ability to conduct a hearing in a fair and orderly manner; good collaboration skills; be able to review and analyze complex written material and verbal information in order to ascertain facts and evidence; and the ability to make decisions in a fair and unbiased manner.

What are the Members per diems? What expenses are covered?

- Member rates are:

Presiding Member	\$336/full-day	\$191/half-day
Member	\$192/full-day	\$109/half-day
- Meals and travel expenses are at the rates outlined in the General Manual of Administration and similar to civil servants.

What training do hearing panel members receive?

- The members are initially provided with a one-day orientation and training session conducted by the Commissioner and Program staff. As well, members observe two or three hearings to further orient themselves prior to assuming their responsibilities. Training is ongoing and provided by more experienced members at hearings and from the Hearing Panel Coordinator.
- An Annual Training and Discussion Group Session is held each year bringing all members together for specific areas of training or refreshing, for updates on procedures, and to provide a forum for the members to discuss common issues that they face as hearing panel members.
- In addition, hearing panel members are encouraged to attend the New Tribunal Member Training Program offered by the Manitoba Council of Administrative Tribunals (MCAT) and are also invited to attend the annual MCAT conference.

How many applications were processed, and appointments made as of January 1, 2024

- Substitute Decision Maker Applications and Related Activity April 1, 2023, to January 31, 2024:

Total Applications for Substitute Decision Maker Appointment:	191
New Applications = 130	
Emergency Applications = 31	
Variation Applications = 16	
Termination & Replacement Applications = 14	
Substitute Decision Maker Appointments:	124
Family = 80	
Public Guardian & Trustee = 43	
Shared (PGT & family) = 1	
Reviews before Renewal of Substitute Decision Maker appointment	434
Reviews Referred to Hearing Panel	4
Deceased who had Substitute Decision Maker appointments	58
Accounting Audits of Substitute Decision Makers with property appointments	approx. 950

- The Office of the Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability tracks the reasons given by the applicant for applying and privacy laws, the requirement for legal consent at age of majority, aging population and the onset of dementia, and vulnerability to financial abuse or personal abuse represent approximately 80 per cent of the new applications.

How many Substitute Decision Maker Appointments are in effect?

- There has been a steady net increase of Substitute Decision Maker appointments over the past several years, from 1,648 in 2008 to 2,336 as of January 31, 2024. (See Question #2 for the main reasons for the increase in Substitute Decision Maker appointments).

Public Guardian & Trustee (PGT) Total = 1043			Family Total = 1129			Shared (Family/PGT) Total = 164	Total 2,336
Property only	Personal Care only	Both	Property only	Personal Care only	Both	Personal Care - Family Prop – PGT	
165	28	850	22	113	994	164	2,336

How many appointments have been appealed to the Courts?

- Since 2006 there have been eleven appeals filed with the Court of King's Bench. Eight were appealing the decision of the Commissioner to appoint the Public Guardian and Trustee as the Substitute Decision Maker rather than a proposed family member, two are appealing the decision of the Commissioner to appoint one family member as Substitute Decision Maker rather than another proposed family member ; and one is appealing the Commissioner's decision to dismiss an application as the individual did not meet the definitions of intellectual disability and adult living with an intellectual disability under the Act.
 - The Court upheld the Commissioner's decision on one appeal.
 - Two appeals were withdrawn.
 - Four appeals are actively before the courts.
 - Four remain before the courts but appear to have been abandoned.

How many cases have been referred to Prosecutions

- The **Office of the Commissioner for Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability** will refer the matter to prosecutions in cases where the appointed **Substitute Decision Maker** has failed to provide requested accounting reports and where financial abuse is suspected.
- Since 2012, five cases have been referred to prosecution. One was withdrawn, three were resolved prior to trial, and one resulted in a conviction.

BACKGROUND

- None.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

- None.

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Corporate Services Division, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Social Services Appeal Board

ISSUE

- Social Services Appeal Board

SPEAKING POINTS

How many appeals does the Board handle by fiscal year and what were their outcomes?

	2023/24YTD	2022/23	2021/22
Total Appeals	407	561	536
Rescinded in entirety	21	32	17
Varied	10	30	25
Withdrawn as resolved	72	146	119
In Appellant's Favour	103	208	161
Confirmed	103*	172	193
Withdrawn as clarified	18	17	21
Summary Dismissal 1(a)	30	7	0
Summary Dismissal 1(b)	16	6	0
Summary Dismissal 1(c)	4	0	0
Summary Dismissal 1(d)	40	10	0
Not in Appellant's Favour	211	212	214
Outside jurisdiction	17	37	73
Abandoned/Did not appear	36	101	85
Referred back	6*	3	3
Process Closures	59	141	161
Still in process	34	0	0

* One decision confirmed one issue and referred another issue back

- The Board may rescind the department's decision in its entirety or vary the decision by changing specific parts of the decision. Both types of Board order are favourable to the appellant.
- If the appeal issue is resolved between the department and the appellant prior to the hearing, that outcome is considered to be favourable to the appellant.
- The summary dismissal criteria are:
15.1(1) The appeal board may dismiss an appeal or part of an appeal if
 - (a) it is not within the jurisdiction of the appeal board;
 - (b) it was not filed within the applicable time limit;
 - (c) in the opinion of the appeal board, its subject matter is trivial or the appeal is not made in good faith or is frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of process;
 - (d) in the opinion of the appeal board, there is no reasonable prospect that it will succeed; or

- (e) its subject matter is being or has been dealt with appropriately according to a procedure provided for under another Act.

What is the operational impact of recent amendments to The Social Services Appeal Board Act?

- Bill 13 (The Social Services Appeal Board Amendment Act) received Royal Assent on November 3, 2023. The amendments allowed the Board to divert appeals to either summary dismissal or a single-member panel process if appropriate. The Board's operations now reflect the flexibility provided by the act.
- In 2023/24, 153 of 406 appeals have been diverted to either the summary dismissal or single-member panel processes (108 summary dismissal recommendations, 45 single-member panel hearings).
- Of the summary dismissal recommendations, 98 were for EIA appeals, four (4) for Manitoba Supports, four (4) for CLdS and two (2) for Rent Assist. The Board agreed to dismiss 100 appeals but referred eight (8) appeals to a hearing before a 3-member panel.

Dismissal Reason	15.1(1) Provision	Number of Appeals
Issue has been resolved	No reasonable prospect of success`	27
No appealable issue	Not within jurisdiction	21
More than 3 months late	Not filed within applicable time	19
Amount set by regulation	No reasonable prospect of success	12
Already appealed	Not within jurisdiction	7
Clearly not entitled	No reasonable prospect of success	4
Chronic abandonment	Frivolous, vexatious or an abuse of process	3
All others		7

* 1 appeal had 3 issues, where 2 were dismissed for different reasons and 1 was allowed

- Single-member panels heard eight (8) EIA appeals, 31 Rent Assist appeals, four (4) 55+ appeals and two (2) Child Care Subsidy appeals. The Board confirmed the department's decision in seven (7) EIA appeals, and referred the appeal to a 3-member panel in one (1) EIA appeal. The Board confirmed the department's decision in every Rent Assist, 55+ and Child Care Subsidy appeal.
- A high rate of confirmations was expected for single-member panel hearings, as only basic appeals with little chance of success are referred to those panels.

Are the number of appeals increasing or decreasing?

- Prior to the pandemic, the number of appeals increased steadily and then stabilized. However, appeals decreased significantly in the two years of the pandemic.
- The number of appeals slowly increased once restrictions were lifted. However, appeals in 2023/24 are tracking lower than last year. EIA/Manitoba Supports appeals are down 24 per cent from 2022/23, while CLdS appeals are up 40 per cent.
- The number of appeals received for the last seven complete years is listed below:

Fiscal Year	Appeals
2022/23	561
2021/22	536
2020/21	534
2019/20	772
2018/19	779
2017/18	771
2016/17	762
2015/16	667

Why do some appellants withdraw their appeal?

	2023/24YTD	2022/23	2021/22
Total appeals completed	406	561	536
Total appeals withdrawn	124	256	233
Percentage withdrawn	31%	46%	43%
Withdrawn due to:			
Resolved prior to appeal	72	146	119
Issue clarified by department	18	17	21
Abandoned – no contact	34	93	93

- An appeal is considered to be resolved if the appellant and the department agree on a solution prior to a hearing being held.
- An appeal is considered to be clarified if the appellant indicates they understand how the department arrived at its decision.
- An appeal is considered to be abandoned if the appellant does not confirm attendance at a scheduled hearing, does not respond to a request from the SSAB office by the due date, or withdraws their appeal without indicating the reason.
- The drop in the number of withdrawn – abandoned appeals reflects the process change resulting from Bill 13. Files that were closed previously through administrative means are now recommended to the Board for summary dismissal.

How many appeals are filed per program?

	2023/24YTD	2022/23	2021/22
Total appeals	406	561	536
Employment & Income Assistance	265	437	408
Manitoba Supports	38	1	0
Rent Assist	39	45	71
Child Care Subsidy	16	28	18
Community Living DisAbility	29	21	19
55 Plus	6	8	8
Child Care Qualifications	2	10	6
All Others	11	11	6

What are some of the most common reasons appeals are filed?

	2023/24YTD	2022/23	2021/22
Total Appeals	406	561	536
Medical eligibility	61	120	108
Basic Needs	19	24	21
Overpayments	24	47	40
Sanctions/non-cooperation	29	36	31
Health needs	28	40	39
Financial resources	37	45	60
CLdS Program eligibility	29	21	19
Shelter costs	24	33	30
Special Needs	10	7	5
Common-law union	5	10	7
All others where reason is defined	42	79	69
Reason is undefined*	98	99	107

* Programs where SSAB reviews eligibility only, or where the appeal was closed because it was a duplicate appeal, had no appealable issue or was out of jurisdiction.

Who are the current Board members?

- The Board members are appointed through an Order-in-Council. They represent a cross-section of Manitobans and reflect the diversity of the citizens of Manitoba. The current board consists of the following members:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| - Bobbette Shoffner, Chairperson | - Sandra Kaufmann |
| - Amanda Racine, Vice-Chairperson | - Songyan Liu |
| - Barb Craven | - Ganpat Lodha |
| - Maxine Diamond | - Thomasina Sinclair |
| - Rajinder Grewal | - Hamath Sy |
| - Kim Harrison | - Beverly Zarazun |
| - Israel Kabashiki | - 2 vacancies |

- Five Board members will reach their maximum term length in May 2023.

Where are the hearings normally held?

- In Winnipeg, hearings are held usually at the Social Services Appeal Board office, 7th Floor - 175 Hargrave Street
- If an appellant is physically unable to attend the Board office, or if they lives outside Winnipeg, hearings are held via teleconference.
- When the volume of appeals warrants travel, hearings are held in rural locations, usually in local public buildings.

Are any of the members lawyers or have legal training?

- Currently, there are no lawyers on the Board.
- The Board has access to independent counsel, which it is able to consult at any time. The current legal counsel is Megan Smith from TDS.

What are the per diems paid for both the Chair and the members?

- Chairperson: \$230 bi-weekly stipend for administrative work, plus \$138.00 for a half-day, and \$243.00 for a full day
- Members: \$79.00 for a half-day, and \$139.00 for a full day.
- A half-day session constitutes 3½ hours of work and can represent as many as 4 hearings. Normally, a full day of hearings is any day that exceeds 3½ hours, including travel time.

What expenses are covered for the members?

- Meals and travel expenses are paid at the rates outlined in the General Manual of Administration (GMA).

Once an appeal is filed, how quickly is it heard?

- Under The Social Services Appeal Board Act, appeals must be heard within 35 days unless the appellant requests a postponement.
- The Board must issue an order within 15 days following a hearing.

Of the appeals filed how many had legal and/or advocate representation?

- Prior to 2019/20, approximately 20 per cent of appellants had advocates. The three main advocacy agencies experienced staff reductions in 2019/20. As a result, only 11 per cent of appellants had advocates in that year.
- The three main advocacy agencies operated at significantly reduced capacity during the pandemic. In the 2020/21 and 2021/22 fiscal years, approximately 3 per cent of appellants had advocates.
- In the 2023/24 fiscal year to date, 13 of the 372 completed appeals had advocates,

representing 3.2 per cent of the total.

- In the 2023/24 fiscal year to date, none of the completed appeals had legal representation.

How many requests for reconsiderations have been received to date?

- In the 2023/24 fiscal year to date, there have been 10 requests for reconsideration – 8 EIA program appeals, 1 Manitoba Supports and 1 CLdS appeal. Of these, 7 were submitted by the appellant, and 3 by the department. The Board granted one department request. The original decision was upheld by the new panel.

What training is provided to the members upon their appointments to the SSAB?

- Members receive an extensive orientation and training session by the administrative staff of the Board upon appointment to the Board, as well as the opportunity to observe several appeal hearings
- Members also receive provincial training sessions, a training session provided by the Manitoba Council of Administrative Tribunals (MCAT) and attendance at MCAT's annual conference.

Jurisdiction of the Board – which programs can appeal to the Social Services Appeal Board?

- Adoption agency licensing
- Child care facility licensing
- Child care licensing and subsidies
- Child care qualifications certification
- Employment and Income Assistance
- Rent Assist
- 55 Plus Junior Component
- Manitoba Prenatal Benefit
- Manitoba Supports Program
- Residential Care Facility Licensing
- Community Living disABILITY Services (eligibility and individual plan)

BACKGROUND

- None.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

- None.

CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Corporate Services Division 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)

ISSUE

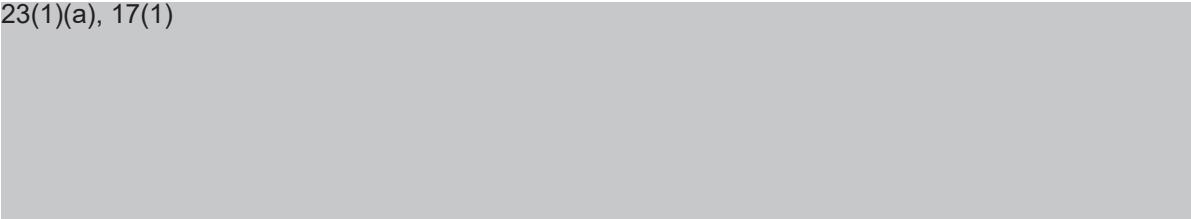

- Accessibility Advisory Council

SPEAKING POINTS

- None

QUESTIONS

1. Who serves on the Accessibility Advisory Council?

- Seven of the nine Council positions are filled. The department is awaiting approval from the Agencies, Boards and Commission office to fill the vacant two positions.
- John Graham, of the Retail Council of Canada, is the current chairperson. Other members are Josh Watt, of the Manitoba School Boards Association (Council Vice-Chairperson), Dianna Scarth, former Executive Director of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission; Scott Jocelyn retired from the Manitoba Hotel Association; Dr. Kristine Cowley of the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba; Laurel Repski, Human Resource Consultant; and Shawna Joynt, representing the Manitoba Deaf Association and multiple local and national Deaf associations.
- 23(1)(a), 17(1)

- The Accessibility Advisory Council strives to have diverse representation of people with various disabilities, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, gender identity, as well as regional representation and representation from various sectors responsible for implementing the legislation.
- 23(1)(a)


2. How often does the Accessibility Advisory Council meet and at what cost?

- The Accessibility for Manitobans Act requires that Council meet at least four times per year and that it has at least one meeting per year with the Minister. Council currently has monthly meetings scheduled in advance for 2024.
- The honorarium for the chairperson is \$256.00 per half-day meeting; the other members receive \$146.00 per meeting.
- The budget is \$30.0, including Council meeting costs, disability accommodations, public consultation and other costs related to research and reporting.

3. What is the mandate and current focus of the Council's work?

- Under The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA), Council makes recommendations to the minister regarding the development of accessibility standards.
- Council has the responsibility to participate in a review of the standards five years after they come into force and make recommendations for improvement.
- In 2023, the Council provided feedback on the new Accessible Transportation Standard and met various times with the Standard Development Committee to provide feedback. Council also met with the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat and identified accessibility issues to prioritize and explore further. For example, this year the Council will focus on accessible procurement and penalty schemes for each standard under the Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA).
- The Council also anticipates coordinating an additional round of public consultations on the Accessible Design of Outdoor Public Spaces Standard. This standard is expected to become a regulation in the latter part of 2024.
- Beginning in 2024, the Council will undertake a mandated five-year review of the Accessible Employment Standard, enacted in 2019.

BACKGROUND

- The Accessibility Advisory Council has responsibility under The Accessibility for Manitobans Act to make recommendations to the Minister responsible for Accessibility regarding the development of accessibility standards. They also provide recommendations on government activities to improve accessibility and long-term accessibility objectives for Manitoba.
- Council members are appointed via Order in Council.

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CONTACT

Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Corporate Services Division, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)

ISSUE

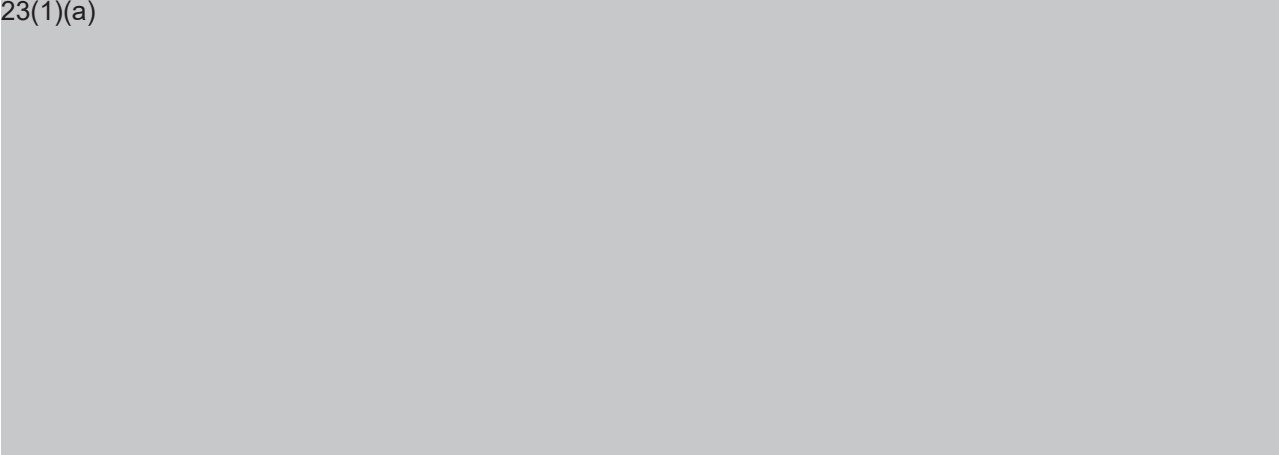
- Standard Development under the AMA

SPEAKING POINTS

- None

QUESTIONS

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2. How will the Accessible Canada Act and its standards affect standard development in Manitoba?

- The Manitoba Accessibility Office participates in monthly meetings to exchange information with Accessibility Standards Canada. This is a federal organization tasked with developing accessibility standards and best practices that affect federal jurisdiction.
- Once accepted by the Canadian government, federal standards apply to the Government of Canada and federally regulated entities, such as the military, RCMP, and financial institutions. Provinces and territories may choose to mirror these accessibility standards, in part or in full.

BACKGROUND

- Standards under the AMA establish clear requirements for organizations that have a responsibility to eliminate barriers. The AMA committed government to significant progress in ten years (2023) following its 2013 enactment.
- Four of the five accessibility standards are enacted (customer service, employment, information and communication and transportation).
- The final standard under development is the Accessible Design of Outdoor Public Spaces Standard. It will address barriers found in community spaces, such as

accessible paths of travel, pedestrian crossings, and other areas of the exterior environment outside of the Manitoba Building Code.

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CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Corporate Services Division, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA)

ISSUE

- Accessibility Standard Implementation and Awareness

SPEAKING POINTS

- None

QUESTIONS

1. How is the department assisting organizations to comply with the accessibility Standards?

- In spring 2021, the Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) launched the Online Learning Portal on AccessibilityMB.ca.
- The portal features training modules that assist affected organizations with meeting the requirements of the accessibility standards for customer service and employment. The information and communication standard module will be launched in spring 2024.
- These training modules are available for organizations to download and include as part of their internal online training systems.
- The MAO provides regular updates about standard development, new tools, and Manitoba-specific accessibility information to almost 1,800 subscribers through its electronic newsletter, Accessibility News.
- The Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) is enhancing community collaboration to promote accessibility and is assisting in eliminating barriers to customer service, employment, and Information and Communications. MAF issues approximately \$800k in grants each year.

2. What public awareness activities are taking place to promote The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its standards?

- The Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) and the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat launched a social media campaign promoting the awareness of the Information and Communication Standard and the compliance with that standard in 2023. Ongoing information has been made public through MAO's Accessibility Newsletter and presentations to government, private and public sectors.
- Several events are planned for the year including the Manitoba Access Awareness Week in June, Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, Indigenous Disability Awareness Month in November, and the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, celebrated in December. As in previous years, the MAO will celebrate each of these events and raise awareness with social media campaigns.
- The Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF) is enhancing community collaboration to promote accessibility and is assisting in eliminating barriers to customer service,

employment, and Information and Communications. The MAO hosts webinars to encourage applications.

3. What is the focus and budget for the department's accessibility public awareness initiatives in 2024/25?

- MAO is planning a mix of activities to celebrate key disability related dates such as International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, in addition to paid advertising campaigns and delivering presentations and webinars.
- The MAO is developing tools and training (including plain language documents and American Sign Language videos) for the newly established Accessible Information and Communication Standard.
- The MAO estimates that it will spend between \$100-200k on public awareness initiatives in 2024/25. This includes awareness events, print ads, social media campaigns, direct mail, and website updates. The department uses corporate social media channels to share information through organic and paid campaigns.
- The MAO designs and produces most resources in-house. This includes new resources, tools, public awareness content, including the monthly electronic newsletter - Accessibility News, and social media campaigns.

4. When was the Accessible Information and Communication Standard established, and what are its compliance deadlines?

- The Accessible Information and Communication Standard became law on May 1, 2022, and has the following compliance deadlines:
 - The Manitoba government will demonstrate leadership with a deadline of May 1, 2023.
 - Public sector organizations and large municipalities must comply by May 1, 2024.
 - Private sector organizations (including businesses and non-profits) and small municipalities must meet requirements by May 1, 2025.
- The Manitoba Accessibility Office (MAO) is developing a module for the AMA Online Learning Portal on AccessibilityMB.ca for the Information and Communication Standard. The module will assist affected organizations with meeting the requirements of the accessibility standards for information and communication.


BACKGROUND

- Standards under the AMA establish clear requirements for organizations that have a responsibility to eliminate barriers. The AMA commits government to significant progress in ten years following its enactment in 2023.
- Four of five accessibility standards (customer service, employment, information and communication, and transportation) have been enacted.

- The Design of Outdoor Public Spaces Standard is currently under development and will address barriers found in community spaces, such as accessible paths of travel, pedestrian crossings, and other areas of the exterior environment.

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CONTACTS

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES

ISSUE TITLE: Compliance with Accessibility Requirements

Issue

- Over 41,275 organizations are subject to The Accessibility for Manitobans Act and its regulated standards. [Manitoba's Accessibility Compliance Secretariat](#) is operationalizing the [provincial accessibility compliance framework](#). This framework is based on best practices for regulatory governance. The framework mirrors the approach of other jurisdictions and emphasizes a continuum of activities ranging from awareness raising to more traditional enforcement activities, such as audits, orders, and monetary penalties.
- The accessibility compliance secretariat has been working closely with obligated organizations to bring awareness of accessibility requirements and provide direct support to achieve compliance.
- More recently, audits of organizations' accessibility documents have taken place. In addition, since September 2021, 201 formal notices to comply, also called Achieving Compliance Plans, have been issued to organizations.

SPEAKING POINTS

What compliance and enforcement measures will you take when organizations fail to comply with accessibility legislation?

- Manitoba has developed an accessibility compliance framework that includes a continuum of compliance activities, ranging from the practice of awareness raising and education through to more traditional monitoring and enforcement activities, such as audits, inspectors' orders, and monetary penalties.
- As a government, we are providing support to organizations in ways that best encourage and promote compliance. This includes targeted outreach, free training and awareness raising of accessibility requirements, and the development of practical tools and resources.
- Some organizations may be unaware that they are failing to comply with accessibility requirements. The first action is to support them to achieve or return to compliance. If this approach is ineffective, activities can be escalated to include orders to comply, as well as monetary penalties. This graduated approach to compliance is in line with other jurisdictions, as well as the federal government, which oversees The Accessible Canada Act.

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What compliance data can you share?

- Manitoba has 127 towns and small rural municipalities. As of March 31, 2024, 105 of them (or 83%) have developed a written accessibility plan outlining the barriers identified in their communities and the concrete actions and initiatives that are planned to remove them. However, 29 out of 127 (or 23%) had updated their plans for the 2024 and 2025 cycle. Through the second independent review of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act, we learned that municipalities and other public sector organizations find the two-year time frame for updating their accessibility plans challenging. Our government is considering implementing the review's recommendation, which called for increasing the time frame by which updates are required from two to four years.
- Large public sector organizations in Manitoba include the provincial government, post-secondary institutions, crown corporations, school divisions, health authorities, and the ten largest municipalities. As of March 31, 2024, 100 per cent of these organizations (n = 69) had accessibility plans in place, and 56 (or 81%) had updated these documents for 2023 and 2024. This is a 12 per cent increase in compliance with the requirement to update plans from last year.
- In fall 2021, the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat began to issue tailored Achieving Compliance Plans to non-compliant organizations. These plans outline the specific areas of the legislation requiring compliance and provide organizations with access to free tools and resources that will assist them to achieve compliance. The plans also include the date by which compliance will be re-assessed by the secretariat. Of the 69 organizations that received Achieving Compliance Plans in the 2023/24 fiscal year, whose deadline had passed as of March 31, 2024, 60 (or 87%) had achieved compliance.

How will audits or reviews take place when over 90 percent of organizations in Manitoba have fewer than 50 employees, and are therefore not required to document policies or practices?

- Government has the capacity to review the written policies of over 2,000 large organizations in Manitoba. Currently, we are reviewing policies of large organizations to determine if they meet legislative requirements, but also to help identify trends and accessibility achievements throughout the province. When reviews are conducted, the aim is to provide organizations with constructive feedback and if, applicable, a concrete plan to achieve compliance.
- Audits represent one tool in our compliance toolbox. Per the legislation, any organization in Manitoba can be subject to a site inspection, whether announced or unannounced.

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What is the government doing to increase transparency of the work done by the secretariat?

- In line with a recommendation made in the recent review of The Accessible Customer Service Standard Regulation, the secretariat is meeting with the Accessibility Advisory Council on a regular basis to share information and compliance results.
- The secretariat is also consulting with other government departments and jurisdictions that have accessibility enforcement responsibilities, to develop data metrics on compliance.

- As an example, a recently developed measure is the percentage of organizations that achieve compliance with accessibility requirements after being issued an Achieving Compliance Plan.

What is the government doing to respond to the compliance-related recommendations in The Accessibility for Manitobans Act Five Year Review?


- The Report of the Second Review of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act was tabled on December 5, 2023. The Review resulted in recommendations which are relevant to topics discussed in this Issues note. For example, the review recommended that:
 - The Accessibility Compliance Secretariat engage in research on the effectiveness of the current complaint mechanism and consider mediating communications between individuals who have made complaints and the organizations that were complained about in an attempt to resolve issues, on a pilot basis.
 - The minister propose a regulation amendment returning to the lower threshold of 20 employees for documenting and reporting obligations under the Customer Service Standard.
- Progress has been made to implement some compliance-focused recommendations of the AMA review, such as the acquisition of a compliance-supporting database and related software, and the development of information-sharing arrangements with other areas of government.
- For other recommendations, work is underway to examine their feasibility and chart potential pathways for implementation.

BACKGROUND


- In response to a recommendation made in the 2018 review of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act, the Accessibility Compliance Secretariat was established in 2019 to release and implement an accessibility compliance framework. The secretariat functions independently from the Manitoba Accessibility Office, although close collaboration is required.
- Manitoba is the second province in Canada (after Ontario) to have a dedicated office that is focused on compliance of accessibility requirements.

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CONTACT

- Lucia Madariaga-Vignudo, Assistant Director, Accessibility Compliance Secretariat, Policy, Programs and Legislation Division, Department of Families
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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF)

ISSUE

- Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF), 2024/25

SPEAKING POINTS

1. What is the purpose of the Manitoba Accessibility Fund (MAF)?

- The MAF grant program assists municipalities, non-profits, and businesses in Manitoba by providing financial support for projects that remove barriers for people with disabilities and promote accessibility across the province.
- The Manitoba government created MAF as a direct response to feedback from allies in the disability community who called on government to provide a funding mechanism. The grant program supports organizations to remove barriers and comply with requirements of the accessibility standards.

2. What is the current budget and staff resources allocated to MAF?

- In April 2021, the Manitoba government made a one-time endowment of \$20 million to the Winnipeg Foundation to manage this investment. Manitoba can access 4 to 5 per cent of the fund (or \$800k to \$1 million) annually to provide grants and cover administrative costs. As of December 31, 2023, the amount available in the Manitoba Accessibility Fund was approximately \$1.0 million.
- Budget 2024/25 includes a total MAF budget of \$997K, including \$825K for one-time project-based grants and \$172K for salaries/benefits and administrative costs.
- There are two dedicated staff within the Manitoba Accessibility Office who coordinate and oversee the MAF grant program.

3. Who can apply for a MAF grant?

- Eligible applicants include:
 - non-profit organizations (operating in Manitoba for at least one year)
 - local businesses (based in MB providing services to Manitobans and registered with the Companies Office)
 - large and small municipalities
 - regional health authorities
 - school divisions
 - post-secondary institutions
 - First Nation communities, businesses, and organizations
- Individual Manitobans, the Manitoba government and Crown corporations are not eligible.
- For this year's intake, organizations were invited to submit project applications from January 8 to February 16, 2024.

4. How much are the grants?

- Eligible applicants can request a maximum of \$50,000 and may only apply once during an intake process. In 2024/25, applicants who have received two consecutive grants or a total of \$100K in funding must wait one intake period before applying again.

5. What types of projects are not in scope?

- The Manitoba government created the MAF specifically to support implementation of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act. Retrofits and renovations affecting buildings, as specified in the Manitoba Building Code, are outside of the scope of the AMA.
- Funding for these kinds of capital projects is available under the Manitoba Building Sustainable Communities grant [Manitoba Grants Online](#) or contact bsc@gov.mb.ca.

6. How many and what type of organizations applied this year (2024)?

- MAF received a total of 175 applications that were eligible for assessment from the third intake.

Year	Number of Applications	Number of Recipients
2024	175	To be determined
2023	155	42
2022	114	30

7. Who sits on the Selection Committee for MAF?

- In 2023/24, a team of four selection committee members were chosen from Manitoba's public service. They were mandated by Terms of Reference to review and score each application and submit a list of recommended grant recipients (projects) for consideration and approval by the Minister responsible for Accessibility.
- Selection committee members have expertise and lived experience on disability issues, grants management, and knowledge of the AMA and accessibility standards. Members have also self-identified as having a disability.

8. How were MAF project applications selected?

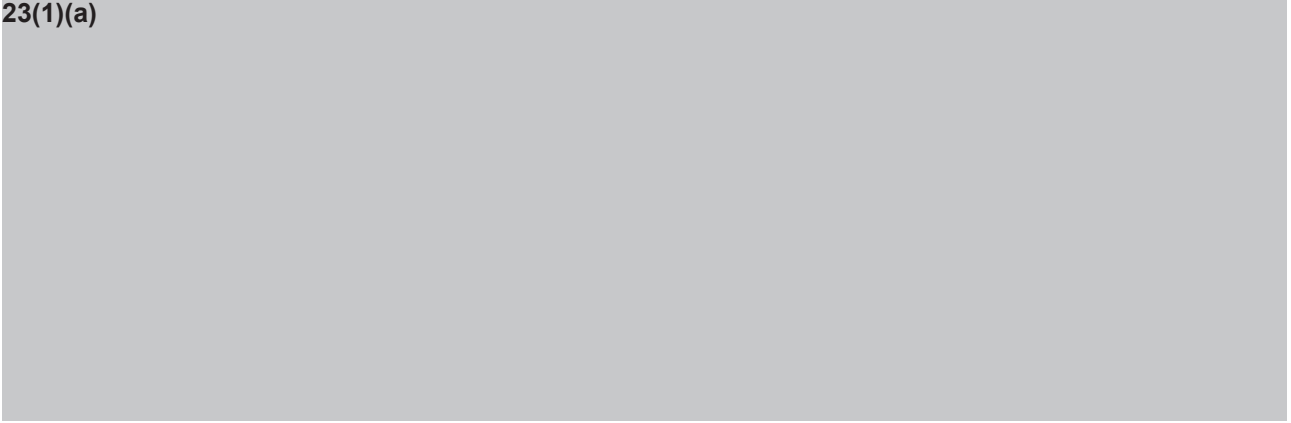
- MAF application guidelines included the following criteria to be assessed by the Selection Committee:
 - the capacity of the organization
 - the quality of the work plan, budget and results
 - the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the project
 - the impact of the project

BACKGROUND

- Since the enactment of [The Accessibility for Manitobans Act](#) (AMA) in 2013 and the subsequent enactment of standards affecting [customer service](#) (2015), [employment](#) (2019), and [information and communication](#) (2022) a number of organizations, including the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, have criticized the Manitoba government for introducing new regulations without funding to support compliance.
- MAF responds to stakeholder concerns by providing government grants of up to \$50,000 to Manitoba municipalities, businesses, and non-profit organizations to help them fulfill the principles of the AMA and comply with its accessibility requirements.

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CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Corporate Services Division, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: The Accessibility for Manitobans Act Five-Year Review

ISSUE

- The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) requires an independent review every five years. This review occurred in 2023.

SPEAKING POINTS

- None

QUESTIONS

1. Why does the AMA need a review?

- The Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA) sets out a path to remove, reduce, and prevent barriers through the development of accessibility standards in fundamental areas of daily living.
- The AMA was enacted in 2013 and affects all Manitobans – both people impacted by barriers in their everyday lives and people in a position to remove and prevent these barriers.
- The AMA requires the Minister to appoint a person every five years to complete a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the AMA and report on findings with recommendations to the Minister.
- As the first review occurred in 2018/19, the second review was required five years later in 2023/24.
- These reviews are a requirement by law and are important to ensure that the integrity of the legislation and transparency of government are maintained. It also supports the government's commitment to improving legislation for an inclusive and accessible Manitoba.

2. Who completed the AMA Five-year review?

- Sarah Lugtig Riezebos was appointed to conduct the AMA review. Sarah Lugtig Riezebos is a lawyer and has worked as in-house counsel for the Human Rights Commission and Legislative Counsel in Manitoba's public service. Sarah Lugtig Riezebos continues to be involved part-time with Legislative Counsel for ongoing special projects.

3. How much did the review cost?

- The cost for the AMA review was approximately \$65k, which included the expenses for the independent reviewer, social media outreach, costs for consultations, and American Sign Language and other accommodations.

BACKGROUND

- The report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on December 5, 2023. The report contained twenty-seven recommendations and twenty-seven sub recommendations.
- The department is reviewing the report and its recommendation and developing an action plan for the consideration of Cabinet.

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CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, Assistant Deputy Minister,
Corporate Services Division, 204-945-0811

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Poverty Reduction Strategy Renewal

ISSUE

- As required by The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, Manitoba must review and renew its poverty reduction strategy by 2024.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is government doing to ensure the timely launch of a renewed strategy that will successfully address poverty in Manitoba?

- Work is underway to review and update the current poverty reduction strategy.
- Our government is developing a robust consultation and engagement plan with communities, organizations, experts, internal stakeholders and others to inform the development of the renewed poverty reduction strategy.
- As we are committed to our mandate to leave no one behind, our engagement plan includes the participation of communities who are disproportionately affected by poverty to ensure the renewed strategy will address their specific needs for a better quality of life.
- Working together with the communities, organizations and experts internal and external to government, Manitoba will take bold actions and explore innovative ideas to bring forward a new strategy to reduce poverty and increase social inclusion. It will be a strategy designed to make a difference in the lives of Manitobans, especially those in greatest need.
- Given the huge fiscal deficit that was turned over to the new administration, the road ahead is not without challenges. But with a fresh approach and the collaborative support from our communities, organizational stakeholders and partners across governments, Manitoba will overcome these challenges.
- Manitobans can look forward to a new poverty strategy that will offer an inclusive and good life for all.

BACKGROUND

- The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act (PRSA), passed in June 2011, requires Manitoba to have a poverty reduction strategy, an annual report, an annual budget paper and a poverty reduction committee.
- In May 2012, the Manitoba government released its first poverty reduction strategy, All Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy, covering a four-year period (2012-2016).
- While the PRSA requires that the strategy be reviewed and updated at least once every five years, the renewed strategy (Pathways to a Better Future) was released in March 2019, seven years after the first strategy was launched.

- According to the timeline required by legislation, the current strategy Pathways to a Better Future is up for renewal in 2024.
- An internal project team has been set up to review the current strategy and draft the new strategy.
- In addition, an interdepartmental working group is being created to provide content, support the project team and help build engagement and ownership of the issue of poverty across government departments.
- The department will work with community/non-profit agencies to host meetings to consult with people with lived experience of poverty and conduct a public online survey.

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- The current strategy adopted the Market Basket Measure (MBM), Canada's official poverty line, as a key poverty indicator. Manitoba has entrenched in regulation a suite of 13 poverty indicators to help measure success of the strategy.
- The most recent MBM data available from Statistics Canada (2021 data) shows that the child poverty rate improved by 51 per cent in 2021 to 9.5 per cent from 19.3 per cent in 2015.
- In addition to the MBM, Statistics Canada produces child poverty data using various methodologies. Appendix A shows the child poverty data published by Statistics Canada for each of the widely-used methodologies.
- Anti-poverty organizations have been advocating for much higher poverty reduction strategy targets, and the adoption of the Census Family Low Income Measure After-Tax (CFLIM AT) using tax-filer data to measure poverty.

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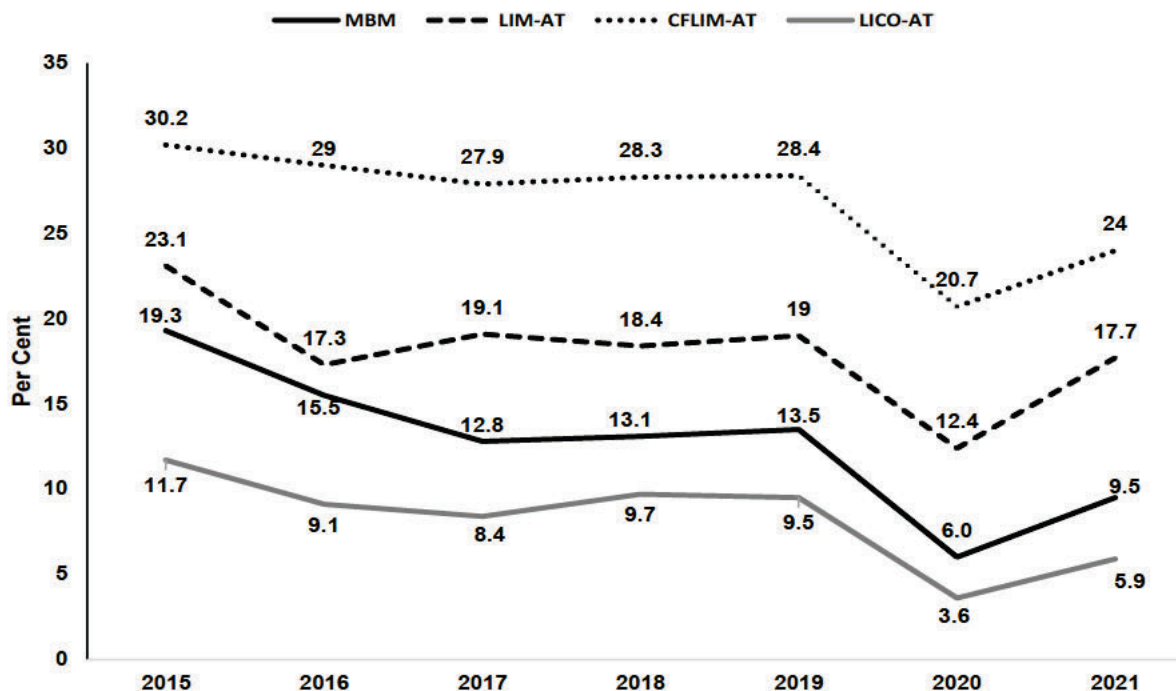


CONTACT

- Heidi Wurmman, ADM, Corporate Services 204-945-0811

APPENDIX A Manitoba Child Poverty Data

Chart 1: Manitoba Child Poverty Rate By Methodology¹



¹ Data published by Statistics Canada, with 2021 as the most recent data available; data for 2022 is expected to be released in April 2024. Information notes on the methodologies as follows:

- MBM refers to Market Basket Measure, Canada's official poverty measure. Data are based on the MBM 2018-base series, and on Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, which excludes populations on reserve, as well as those living in institutions and collective dwellings.

- LIM-AT refers to Low Income Measure After-Tax. Under this measure, individuals living in poverty have after-tax incomes below half of the national median after-tax income. Data are from Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, which excludes populations on reserve as well as those living in institutions and collective dwellings.

- CFLIM-AT refers to Census Family After-Tax. Anti-poverty advocates prefer to use this measure. While conceptually similar to LIM-AT in using a poverty threshold based on half of the median on the national after -tax income, it is different as it uses the census family income while the LIM AT uses the household income. It also uses the taxfiler data (T1 Family File) to determine individuals living in poverty while the LIM AT uses the Canadian Income Survey data. This measure covers all taxfilers and their dependants, even those living on reserves, institutions and collective dwellings.

- LICO-AT refers to Low Income Cut-Off After-Tax. This measure is based on the 1992 consumption pattern, which may no longer be representative of the current consumption pattern of households. Based on this measure, individuals living in poverty are those whose families spend more than 63 per cent of their after-tax incomes on food, shelter, and clothing. Data are from Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, which excludes populations on reserve, as well as those living in institutions and collective dwellings.

Table 1: Manitoba Child Poverty Data by Methodology, 2015 - 2021¹							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
MBM (2018- Base)²							
Poverty Rate (%)	19.3	15.5	12.8	13.1	13.5	6.0	9.5
Rank (1 is best) ³	8	6	5	9	8	6	9
Number (000) in poverty ⁴	52	43	36	37	39	17	28
LIM – AT⁵							
Poverty Rate (%)	23.1	17.3	19.1	18.4	19.0	12.4	17.7
Rank (1 is best) ³	10	7	9	10	9	9	10
Number (000) in poverty ⁴	63	48	53	52	55	36	52
CFLIM AT⁶							
Poverty Rate (%)	30.2	29.0	27.9	28.3	28.4	20.7	24.0
Rank (1 is best) ³	10	10	10	10	10	10	9
Number (000) in poverty ⁴	91	88	85	88	89	65	75
LICO AT⁷							
Poverty Rate (%)	11.7	9.1	8.4	9.7	9.5	3.6	5.9
Rank (1 is best) ³	9	9	8	9	8	8	6
Number (000) in poverty ⁴	32	25	23	27	27	10	18
¹ Poverty data published by Statistics Canada, with 2021 as most recent data available as at March 5, 2024. Data for 2022 are expected to be released in April 2024.							
² Refers to Market Basket Measure, Canada's official poverty measure. Data are based on MBM 2018-base series, and Canadian Income Survey, which excludes populations on reserve, as well as those living in institutions and collective dwellings.							
³ Manitoba ranking relative to other provinces where published data are available.							
⁴ Number of children living in poverty in thousands.							
⁵ Refers to Low Income Measure After-Tax. Under this measure, individuals living in poverty have after-tax incomes below half of the national median after-tax income. Data are from Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, which excludes populations on reserve as well as those living in institutions and collective dwellings.							
⁶ Refers to Census Family Low Income Measure After-Tax. Anti-poverty advocates prefer to use this measure. While conceptually similar to LIM-AT in using a poverty threshold based on half of the median on the national after -tax income, it is different as it uses the census family income while the LIM AT uses the household income. It also uses the taxfiler data (T1 Family File) to determine individuals living in poverty while the LIM AT uses the Canadian Income Survey data. This measure covers all taxfilers and their dependants, even those living on reserves, institutions and collective dwellings.							
⁷ Refers to Low Income Cut-off After Tax. This measure is based on the 1992 consumption pattern, which may no longer be representative of the current consumption patterns of households. Based on this measure, individuals living in poverty are those whose families spend more than 63 per cent of their after-tax incomes on food, shelter, and clothing. Data are from Statistics Canada's Canadian Income Survey, which excludes populations on reserve, as well as those living in institutions and collective dwellings. Number of provinces ranked (where published data are available) under this measure were nine for 2015 – 2018, eight for 2019-2020, and seven for 2021.							

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Budget Overview - Estimates Summary 2024/25

ISSUE: Budget 2024/25

SPEAKING POINTS

- The total budget for the CYS Division is \$524,618.0, an increase of \$56.0.
- The Salaries and employee benefits budget for CYS Division for 2024/25 is \$12,054.0. This represents an increase of \$235.0 from 2023/24 budget.
- The CYS Division Other Expenditures budget is \$27,865.0
- The budget for Grants and Financial assistance is \$83,065.0. This does not include the \$401,634.0 in Grants and Financial Assistance allocated for the Child and Family Service Authorities.

BACKGROUND

- Estimates Decisions 2024/25 (in \$000s)

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- Adjusted Print 2024/25 (in \$000)

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CONTACT

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Child and Family Services System Funding

ISSUE

- The Child and Family Services (CFS) Authorities and their agencies receive flexible funding in advance instead of a reimbursement for expenditures based on the number of children in care.
- The department, through Budget 2024, will reallocate \$10.5M to Indigenous Authorities and their mandated agencies based on a reduction to the General Authority (and Winnipeg Child and Family Services). The allocation to WCFS received some questioning by the Liberal opposition.

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SPEAKING POINTS

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- **Budget 2024 reallocated funding from the General Authority to Indigenous Authorities and their mandated agencies. This funding will help support agencies with the work needed to implement voluntary, customary, and kinship care agreements, which was proclaimed into law October 1, 2024.**
- Manitoba is aligned with the statement of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs in that we should direct our resources in programs and services that not only better respond to the current needs of children but ensure their long-term wellness.

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BACKGROUND

- In 2019/20, Manitoba began funding CFS Authorities and agencies under an allocation based model.
- CFS system partners indicated there were several fiscal pressures placed on the existing allocations, including: salaries, increased service costs, alignment with national standards, and the development of culturally appropriate placements, and services.
- In 2022/23, the Department increased allocations by \$13.9M to address inflationary pressures, introduced up to \$11M in one-time funding for non-government CFS Agencies to address wage, recruitment and retention issues, and allocated \$2.5M in funding for First Nation Authorities to support national standards implementation.
- Further, the department reset allocations based on the CFS Authority Determined Financial Case Transfer Policy, which resulted in an increase for Indigenous Authorities/Agencies and \$4M reduction to the General Authority in 2022/23.
- The department is also committed to funding Indigenous service providers operating under Indigenous jurisdiction. For example, Peguis Child and Family Services is provided \$10.44M annually as they operate under their law.

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CONTACT

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE:

- Children's Special Allowance Class Action and Other Significant Litigation

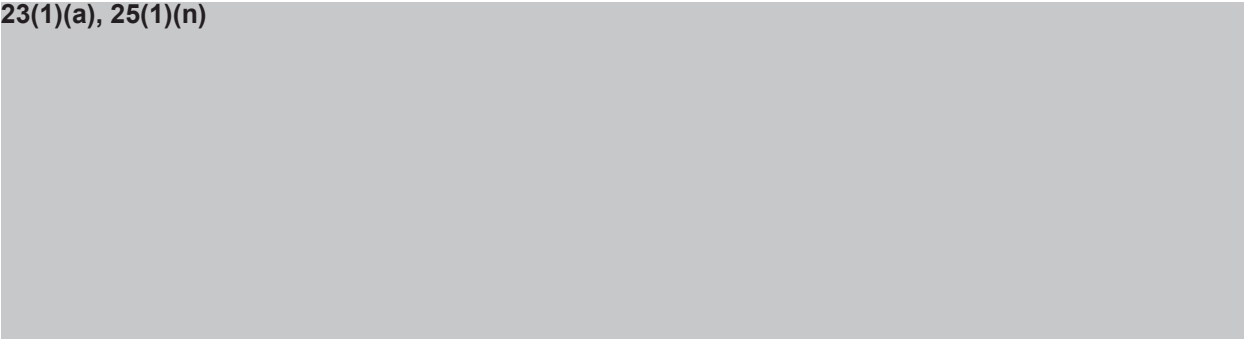
ISSUE

- Manitoba is facing several proposed class action lawsuits related to past practice in the CFS system, including the treatment of the Children's Special Allowance, the alleged underfunding of CFS off-reserve, and birth alerts.

SPEAKING POINTS

- As these matters are currently before the courts, I will not be commenting.


BACKGROUND

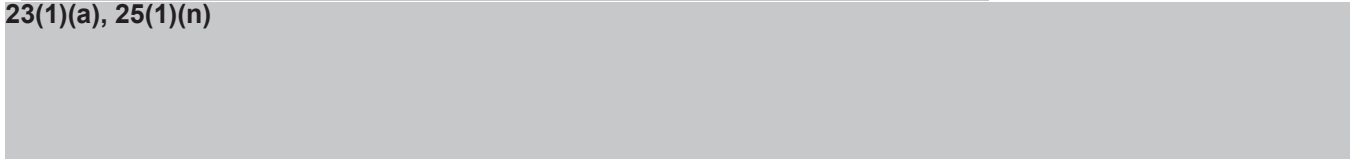
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Children's Special Allowance (CSA) (Flette)

- The CSA is a federal benefit equivalent to the Child Tax Benefit. It is distributed on a monthly basis to CFS agencies for the children in their care. From 2005 to 2019, Manitoba required CFS agencies to remit CSA payments to the provincial government, totaling \$335.3M.
- In March 2024, all parties agreed to settle for \$530M. This includes the \$335.3M remitted plus interest, damages, and other fees.
- A settlement distribution hearing is scheduled for September 5-6, 2024, during which the court will consider whether the settlement is fair and reasonable.

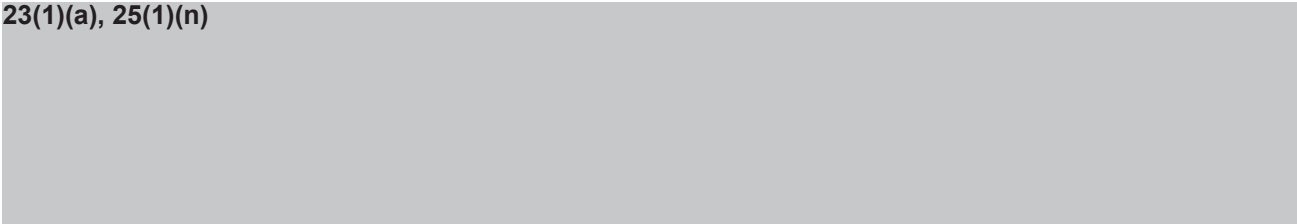
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CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

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CONTACT

- Elizabeth Debicka, Assistant Deputy Minister 204-795-3844

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Foster Care Rates

ISSUE

- 23(1)(a)
- A new collective called the Manitoba Foster Parent Association is appealing for an immediate increase in foster care rate and service fee.

SPEAKING POINTS

How is the Manitoba government seeking to address the rising costs of care?

- Under provincial funding, child and family services agencies pay for the financial needs of foster parents and their children through their funding allocations. This means that, while the Province establishes minimum per diem rates, Authorities and agencies have the flexibility to go beyond the minimum standards.
- **For 2024/25, funding was redistributed from the General Authority to Indigenous Authorities and agencies to improve culturally appropriate services for families and children and to support the implementation of kinship care and customary care agreements, which came into force October 1, 2024.**

What is Manitoba doing to ensure better outcomes for children in care?

- Manitoba recognizes that seeking better outcomes for our children involves responding to the calls to action for Truth and Reconciliation, which includes supporting Indigenous governance and funding culturally appropriate services.
- The Department acknowledges the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs' call that investments should shift towards preventive care, family reunification and post-reunification. It is important for children in care to remain connected to their families and their communities to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- To support this principle, legislative amendments have been made to include provisions for care agreements that would help prevent children entering care and assist in establishing strong family and kinship ties for those who are in care.
- Manitoba's priority is the decolonization of child and family services, and a move away from stranger based foster care.

BACKGROUND

- The foster care rate (or Basic Maintenance) is a provincial rate established by the Province, provided by CFS agencies to all licensed or place of safety caregivers on a monthly basis to support the everyday costs associated with children and youth in care including household allowance, food, utilities, clothing, activities, etc.
- The foster care rate payable to foster parents ranges from \$22.11 to \$32.50 per day, depending on age and location of the home.

- The Province does not fund foster care rates directly. While the Province can establish minimum per diem rates for foster care, Authorities and agencies have the flexibility to develop their own funding policies that would allow for establishing supports where needed.
- **Through Budget 2024, the Department of Families provided an additional \$10.5M to Indigenous Authorities and their mandated agencies to support the implementation of customary and kinship care placements/agreements.** 23(1)(a)

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)

CONTACT

- Christina Moody, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services, 431-279-6648

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY)

ISSUE

- Since 2018, MACY has released 12 public reports with 80 recommendations, 76 directed to Manitoba. MACY assessed 22 complete as of 2023.
- Many of the recommendations are complex and directed to multiple departments. Some are no longer able to be implemented as written due to systemic changes.

SPEAKING POINTS

How will the government address the concern from MACY that progress on a number of recommendations has stalled?

- Our priority is ensuring the needs of children and youth that have been identified by MACY are met.
- We are actively working with MACY to identify alternative approaches and new ideas to address these recommendations.
- The reestablishment of the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet and new focus of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit Peoples and Gender-Based Violence Committee of Cabinet will help provide better understanding and responses to complex issues that need coordination across departments and systems.
- Manitoba's shift to Indigenous governance and decolonization of the child welfare system builds stronger and healthier children, families and communities.

What is the plan to address the recommendations about disability supports for children and families?

- An evaluation is taking place for one of the two respite pilot projects, and will be used to help plan how to best expand the continuum of respite services for families and avoid involvement with the CFS system.
- We are working with the department of Indigenous Reconciliation on how to approach the recommendation about identifying Indigenous ancestry information for all disability programs. Consultation and ensuring a culturally safe approach are key.
- A new guide has been released to help parents use self managed services for their children.

What is happening to expand access to mental health and addictions resources for children and youth?

- We are committed to improving access to mental health and addictions services for children and youth.

- Housing, Addictions and Homelessness recently announced new funding for Huddle NorWest to hire 3.5 clinicians to expand counselling services for children and youth.
- We are taking a holistic approach to the health and wellbeing of our young people, including new food programs in our schools and the re-establishment of the Healthy Child Committee of Cabinet. Prevention and promotion of wellbeing are important pillars to better long term outcomes for our children and youth.

BACKGROUND

- MACY released their 2022/23 compliance determination report on February 1, 2024.
- The preface of the report notes “how diligently each department has been working. For instance, 32% of recommendations are now fully complete, and 75% have positive or mid-level assessments. Another encouraging indicator of progress is that 98.5% of recommendations have demonstrated actions toward their implementation.”
- MACY’s 2022/23 scoring for recommendations is:
 - 23(1)(a) [REDACTED]
 - Families – 56% (17 recommendations)
 - 23(1)(a) [REDACTED]
 - Multi department – 64% (14 recommendations)
- MACY’s 2022/23 compliance report identifies three main areas requiring action: mental health and addictions; disability related recommendations, and lack of progress for a number of recommendations since 2021/22 (48% of total).
- MACY noted that 7 recommendations are under review because systemic changes mean they cannot be implemented as written. This includes the recommendation to complete all the recommendations of the Phoenix Sinclair Inquiry.
- Departments are actively meeting with MACY to discuss alternative approaches to the recommendations under review or those showing no change in implementation assessment.
- Discussions are taking place with MACY about how to make the recommendation development and monitoring more effective. MACY has identified the need for collaboration and integration of Indigenous ways of knowing and being and research into the practices of their office. While completing the change in reporting format, MACY will be delaying the full reporting on recommendations until spring 2025.
- Hearings were held for a five-year review of the Advocate for Children and Youth Act in 2024. The department is now in the process of reviewing all the presentations and recommendations, and will be working with MACY to propose potential next steps.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

Christina Moody, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services, 431-279-6648

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Department of Families led mental health and addiction services initiatives.

ISSUE

- Addressing mental health and addictions is a provincial priority. Working together across departments and with the community, we can help to improve outcomes for children and their families.
- The Department of Families leads ten mental health and addictions initiatives. Six are funded through the mental health area of the Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness and four are funded through the Department of Families.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is the Department of Families doing to support the mental health needs of children, youth and families in Manitoba?

- It is a priority for our government to ensure all Manitobans have access to the services and supports they need to thrive.
- The Department of Families works collaboratively with the Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness, which leads this work, to ensure a coordinated approach to supporting the mental health needs of children, youth and families in Manitoba.
- With funding available through the Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness, my department continues to support important community-based programming that addresses the longstanding need for treatment services and takes a culturally safe approach to service delivery.
- As well, the Department of Families continues to provide funding for four additional initiatives providing prevention supports and a lifesaving supply of Naloxone kits for high risk and vulnerable youth.

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- Recently, our government announced \$183,000 to support Blue Thunderbird Grandmother's Council Program. This funding will help ensure Indigenous

matriarchs' knowledge, guidance, support and teachings is integrated into their family support programs.

- We also announced funding to two other community-based service providers, the Islamic Social Services Association and Acorn Family Place, to support the holistic well-being of families.
- The \$150,000 being provided to the Islamic Social Services Association will enable them to offer Family Supports Services Programming, including emotional, financial, psychological and systems navigations services for families.
- Acorn Family Place's Wrap Around Program will receive \$200,000 to allow them to continue to support families involved in the child welfare system.
- While the Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness is the lead on mental health supports, my Department is working with our community partners to help us improve the services provided to all children and families. Building strong relationships and partnerships between community agencies and child and family services agencies and the families served by both will help us improve outcomes for children in this province.

BACKGROUND

- A number of mental health and addictions initiatives from various departments received funding under a three-year bilateral agreement with the federal government, which expired March 31, 2022. The previous Department of Mental Health and Community Wellness provided 2022/23 and Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness provided funding in 2023/24 and early 2024/25 for these initiatives while negotiations for a renewed bilateral funding agreement were ongoing.
- Manitoba Families led several initiatives under this funding and invested in a number of one-time initiatives in 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2022/23. Four of the Manitoba Families one-time funded initiatives received ongoing funding through the 2023/24 budget.
- These initiatives address priorities from MACY reports, the Truth and Reconciliation Report, the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, and the Tracia's Trust Strategy.
- In February 2024, the Manitoba-Canada Agreement to Work Together to Improve Healthcare for Canadians Bilateral Agreement was announced.
- Appendix A outlines the current initiatives receiving funding from the new bilateral agreement, as well as several mental health and addictions initiatives that received ongoing funding through the Department of Families beginning in 2023/24.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)

CONTACT

Christina Moody, ADM Child and Youth Services, 431-279-6648

Appendix A – Mental Health and Addictions Initiatives led by Manitoba Families

Multi-year funding through bilateral agreement; 2023/24 funding through HAH

1. StreetReach Winnipeg – Addition of spiritual advisor, mental health and addictions clinical support. \$369,000/year
2. StreetReach North – expansion of the StreetReach program to Thompson, outreach supports with assistance from child protection agencies. \$900,000/year
3. Clan Mothers – land based healing teachings and ceremonies for sexually exploited youth and their support people. \$68,000/year
4. Neecheewam Inc. Eagle Embracing You – Indigenous-led treatment facility to support sexually exploited youth with complex mental health and addictions needs. \$1,500,000/year
5. Consortium led by Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre – Nagijeung Abinoojiik is a community helpers program providing 24/7 culturally safe support services for families in crisis to prevent child apprehension or family breakdown. \$250,000/year
6. Blue Thunderbird Family Care Inc. – Granny’s House – emergency respite care for children to prevent family involvement with child and family services. \$400,000/year

Total Annual Funding = \$3,487,000

Annualized Funding through Manitoba Families (annualized in 2023/24 budget)

7. Gwekaanimad Consortium Community Helpers program – funded through Wahbung Abinoojiiag - provides culturally safe support services for families in crisis to prevent child apprehension or family breakdown. \$250,000/year
8. Blue Thunderbird Family Care Inc. – second Granny’s House site – emergency respite care for children to prevent family involvement with child and family services. \$410,000/year
9. Mount Carmel Clinic – Super Dads program, culturally safe group teaching and healing program for high risk fathers, provides 4 group sessions in calendar year. \$48,000/year

10. Naloxone kits – life saving kits provided to service providers with Community Living and disABILITY Services (CLDS) and child and family services group living facilities. \$120,000

Total Annual Funding = \$828,000

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Number of Children in Care

ISSUE

- The annual number of children in care as at March 31, 2024 is 8,919, of which, 91 per cent are Indigenous.

SPEAKING POINTS

What was the number of children in care in Manitoba as at March 31, 2023?

- **The number of children in care as at March 31, 2024 was 8,919, which represents a decrease of 0.8 per cent compared to last year.**
- **Peguis Child and Family Services were excluded from the total number as the agency provides service under Peguis First Nation's Child and Family Services law and not under a provincial mandate.**

What has this government done to support keeping families together and reducing the number of children apprehended every year?

- The Province has stopped the practice of issuing birth alerts and replaced it with a new practice model and additional supports for vulnerable expectant parents. As a result of this change, the number of newborn apprehension continues to decrease across the Child and Family Services system in Manitoba.
- With provincial funding, agencies have been provided with increased flexibility to allocate funding to meet the needs of individual children and their families and drive positive outcomes.
- The department plans to shift investment towards supporting the implementation of voluntary kinship and customary care agreements. The department acknowledges the importance of ensuring children in care remain connected to their families and their communities to achieve the best possible outcomes.

What is the status of Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services in Manitoba?

- A historic moment was celebrated in January 2022, as Peguis First Nation became the first Indigenous Government in Manitoba to sign a trilateral coordination agreement and be fully responsible for delivering services to its members.
- We work with Nations as they come forward. Manitoba is currently involved in discussions with several Indigenous Governments who are exercising jurisdiction over child and family services, to transfer responsibilities back to the nations and families, where it belongs.
- This will shift how Indigenous children and families are supported in Manitoba. **For example, Peguis CFS has reported a dramatic reduction in child protection matters in court, and will never seek permanent orders on children.**

BACKGROUND

- Manitoba defines a child in care as a child who meets all the following criteria:
 - under the age of 18
 - placed in care by a Child and Family Services agency

- under apprehension, a permanent ward, temporary ward, under a voluntary surrender of guardianship or under a voluntary placement agreement
- whose care needs are financially supported by government
- Children in non-paid care are not included in the total number and are reported separately. This includes:
 - Children in Own Home placements, with relatives or guardians in non-paid care.
 - Supervised adoption placements are children placed in the care of their prospective adoptive parents in non-paid care but who still maintain a legal status.

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CONTACT

- Christina Moody, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services, 431-279-6648

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Supports for Youth Transitioning Out of Care

ISSUE

- Supports for youth transitioning out of care are changing across Canada following federal reform of post-majority care on April 1, 2022. Provinces and territories as well as Indigenous Governing Bodies are expanding programming and providing services beyond the age of 21.
- **Manitoba is currently providing services for young adults who age out of care through Agreements with Young Adults and the Supports for Young Adults grant up to the age of 26.**

SPEAKING POINTS

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How does the Supports for Young Adults Grant assist young adults transitioning out of care?


- The Supports for Young Adults Grant is a continuation of the supports offered under the Emergency Measures Act during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the grant, CFS agencies are able to continue supporting young adults through provision of supports and services (financial assistance, housing and mental health services) for a successful transition to adulthood.
- The SYA Grant provides supports to youth who are otherwise ineligible to receive them through Agreements with Young Adults. This includes non-permanent wards and those who are over the age of 21 up to age 25 years.
- **The Supports for Young Adults (SYA) grant will continue to be available in 2024/25 to assist youth who are normally ineligible to receive a formalized agreement with a CFS agency to extend care.**

How is the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit – Youth Stream assisting youth transitioning out of care with housing?

- Effective April 1, 2023, the CMHB-Youth Stream benefit was increased **to up to \$350 per month** with a \$72 top-up for those who have to pay utilities.

- The Department continues to work to make the application process easier for youth and improve access to the benefit.
- **The CMHB has had strong uptake, and was briefly paused in August 2024, then restarted in September following additional funding of \$1.2 million from Manitoba to support the program.**

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BACKGROUND

- The Child and Family Services Act authorizes supports to youth who age out of care up to the age of 21 through an Agreement with Young Adults (AYA). To be eligible, young adults must be a permanent ward at the age of 18 and was determined to require supports to successfully transition to adulthood.
- As at March 31, 2023, there were 1,120 youth with AYAs.

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CONTACT

- Christina Moody, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services, 431-279-6648

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES**ISSUE TITLE:** Implementation of CFS Agreements and Agreement Framework**ISSUE**

- On October 1, 2024, the remaining provisions from **Bill 32 An Act Respecting Child and Family Services (Indigenous Jurisdiction And Related Amendments)** which received royal assent on May 30, 2023, came into force. The CFS agreement provisions (family support, kinship, customary care and voluntary care) are available for use.

SPEAKING POINTS**Why is proclaiming the agreement framework so important?**


- These legislative changes are crucial for modernizing the CFS system and shifting control over child and family services back to Indigenous Nations, where it belongs.
- The introduction of agreements will maintain parental guardianship, prioritize placement with family and kin and support children returning to their communities. This exemplifies reconciliation with Indigenous People and will support improved outcomes for children and families.

How is your government financially supporting the agreement framework?

- Budget 2024 reallocates \$10.5M in funding from the General Authority to Indigenous Authorities and their agencies. This funding helps support agencies with the work needed to implement voluntary, customary, and kinship care agreements.

BACKGROUND

- Bill 32 received Royal Assent on May 30, 2023. The bill amended 11 provincial acts, including The Child and Family Services (CFS) Act, to recognize Indigenous jurisdiction in relation to child and family services and to support the implementation of the federal CFS Act.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER23(1)(a)
**CONTACT**

- Christina Moody, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services, 431-279-6648


DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: OAG Report on Management of Foster Homes
ISSUE


- The Office of the Auditor General of Manitoba (OAG) released a report in 2019 on the Management of Foster Homes. It made 43 recommendations, of which 28 were directed at the Department of Families.
- The OAG will release an update report on the status of outstanding recommendations to several reports, including this report, in spring 2025. The Department will submit status updates on the recommendations to the OAG in fall 2024 for this release.




SPEAKING POINTS

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BACKGROUND

- The 2019 report can be read on the OAG website: <https://www.oag.mb.ca/audit-reports/report/management-of-foster-homes/>. It made 43 recommendations including 28 to the Department of Families. Other recommendations were directed to CFS Authorities and agencies.
- By the time the OAG report was released, changes to child welfare, the move to Single Envelope Funding and the new federal legislation meant some of the recommendations were already outdated.
- The OAG released an updated report in March 2023. It has informed the department it will be requesting a follow-up update on the status of its recommendations as of September 30, 2024. Final documentation and responses will be due October 21,

2024. This is expected to be part of a report to be released by the OAG in spring 2025, noting implementation status of several previous reports.


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- Several of the OAG recommendations proposed a greater level of standardization regarding the management of foster homes. Recent changes in policy and legislation in Manitoba reflect a shift away from standardization towards decolonization in Manitoba's relationships with Authorities and IGBs.
- As outlined in the mandate letter to the Minister, the department's focus is on restoring jurisdiction for child and family services to Indigenous governments. The department is very focused on this goal, which will reduce the need for foster care.
- The department is also focused on preparing for the implementation of legislative changes made in 2023 through Bill 32, the creation of new agreement types. These agreements will give CFS agencies more flexible tools for preventing children from coming into care, which is also expected to reduce the number of children in foster care.
- Significant progress towards implementation of other recommendations includes:
 - Updated funding allocations to CFS Authorities and agencies under Indigenous oversight
 - Work to advance and implement child welfare under Indigenous oversight
 - Legislative amendments recently passed and under consideration, i.e. Bill 32 (2023) and Bill 38 (2024)
 - Training in collaboration with CFS Authorities
 - Modernization and streamlining of CFS Standards
 - Updated Service Purchase Agreements with third party service providers and potential alignments with Authorities and agencies.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

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CONTACT

- Christina Moody, Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Youth Services, 431-279-6648

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE:

- Status of Indigenous Governments Exercising Jurisdiction

ISSUE

- Status of coordination agreement negotiations with Indigenous governments that are exercising jurisdiction over child and family services.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is the status of Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services in Manitoba?

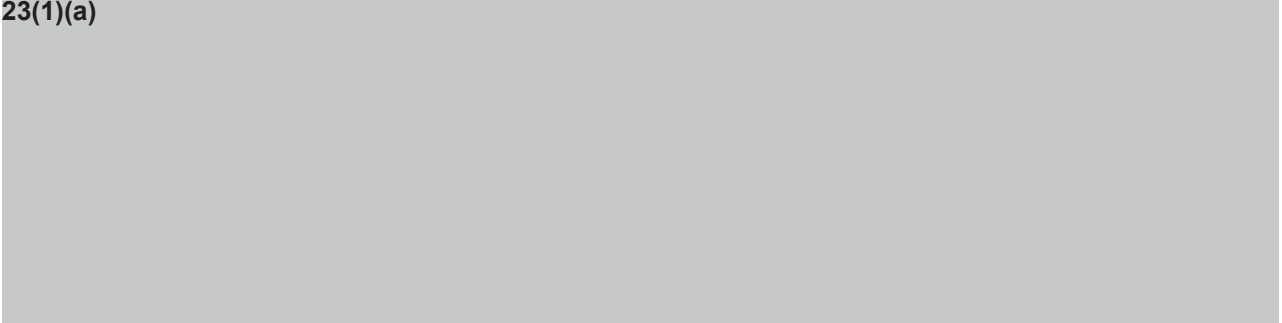
- Earlier this year, I hosted a Roundtable with Chiefs to discuss restoring First Nations jurisdiction. The signing of a Relationship Declaration that day signals a pivotal shift towards formally committing to collaborating with First Nations rights holders and honouring the paramountcy of Indigenous law. This historic milestone is the first of its kind in Manitoba and across Canada.
- Manitoba has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ontario's Treaty 3 Nations recognizing the important relationship between Manitoba and First Nations in Northwestern Ontario.
- We are actively in the planning stages for an Officials Roundtable scheduled for October 25, 2024 as part of Manitoba's commitment made during the Roundtable with Chiefs.
- Manitoba is currently involved in discussions with several Indigenous Governments that are on the path to exercising jurisdiction over child and family services. We are excited to be working with Nations to transfer responsibilities back to the communities and families, where it belongs.

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How much funding has Manitoba committed to Nations under Indigenous law?

- Manitoba is committed to supporting Indigenous jurisdiction. At the Roundtable with Chiefs, I committed to transferring to the First Nation the existing funding used by provincial agencies to serve their members. As future agreements are signed, Manitoba will continue to commit funding.
- Manitoba is providing \$10.422M to Peguis CFS for the 2024/25 fiscal year.
- We are also working closely with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) to confirm the provincial funding that will be provided to the MMF when they enact their own CFS law and begin delivering CFS to Manitobans who are members of the Manitoba Métis Federation.

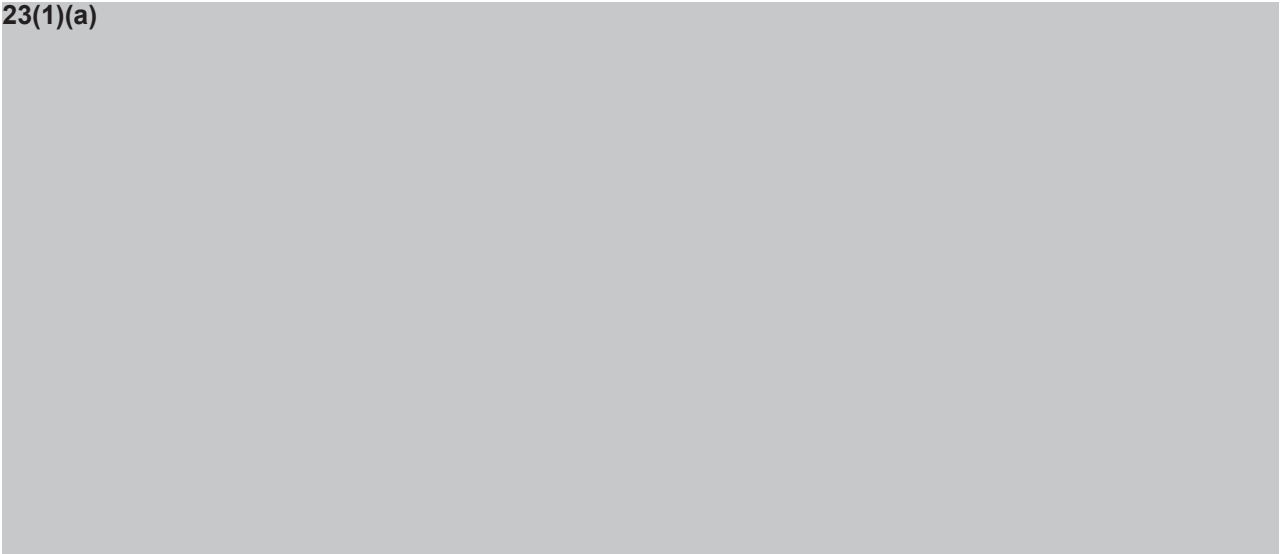
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BACKGROUND


- The federal Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families (the federal CFS act) provides the pathway for Indigenous governments to exercise jurisdiction over child welfare for their members under their own laws.
- Trilateral coordination agreements address the relationships between Canada, Indigenous Nations and Manitoba, the transition of CFS jurisdiction to Indigenous control, and the areas where provincial and IGB law intersect. They outline provisions respecting ongoing systemic coordination between provincial CFS agencies and Indigenous service providers operating under Indigenous law.
- Manitoba has signed one trilateral coordination agreement with Peguis First Nation and Canada in January 2023. Peguis First Nation was the first Indigenous government in Manitoba to have its own CFS law come into force.

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CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

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CONTACT

- Elizabeth Debicka, Assistant Deputy Minister 204-795-3844

Appendix A – Status of Nations Exercising Jurisdiction in Manitoba

<u>Complete</u>	
Nation/IGB	Status
Peguis First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination agreement signed January 31, 2023 - Manitoba provided funding for \$10.81M in 2023/24 and \$10.422M in 2024/25 - Monthly check in meetings

<u>Active Tables</u>

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Paused Tables

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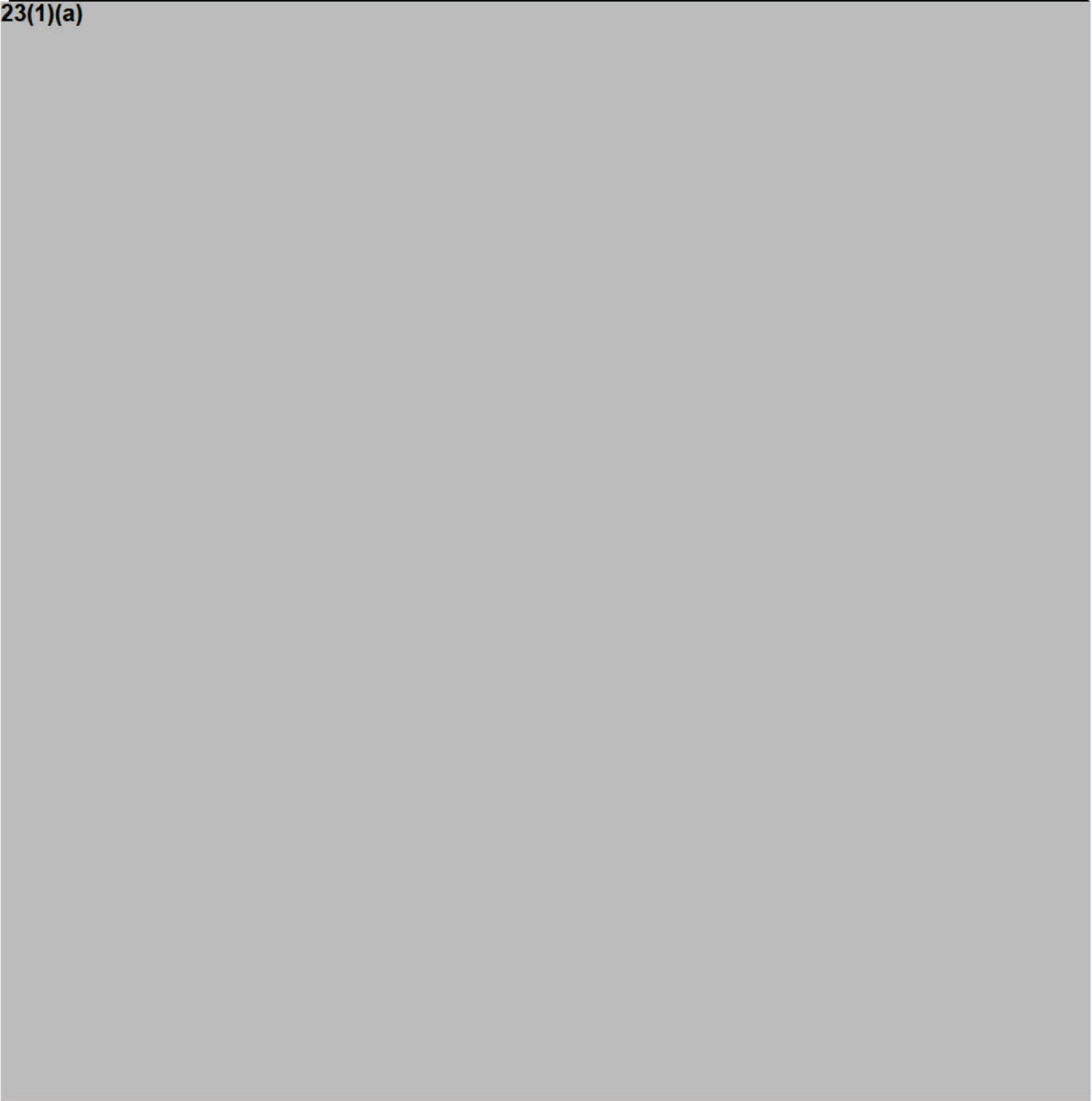


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Pending Tables

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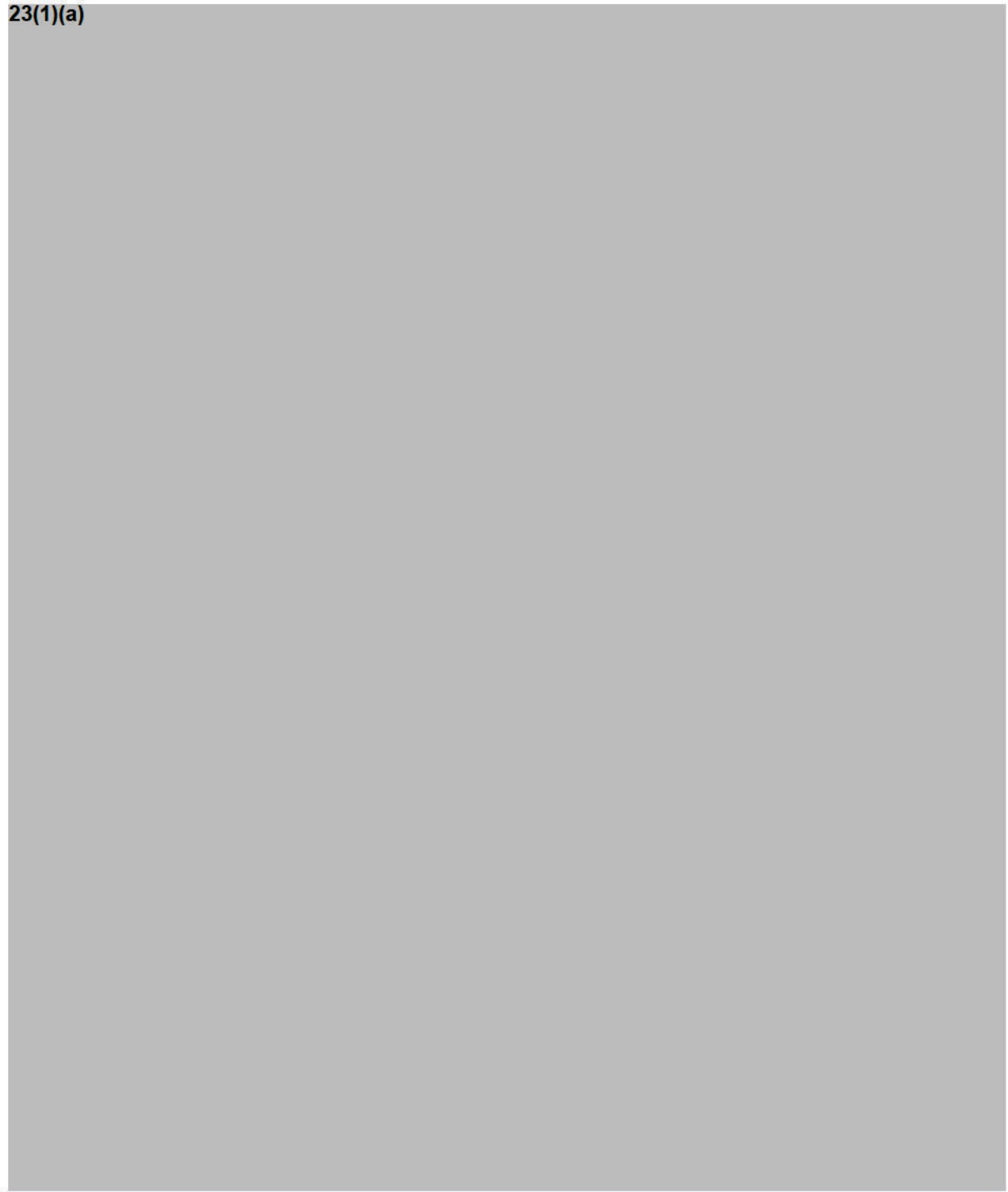


Notice of intent to exercise legislative authority (20(1))

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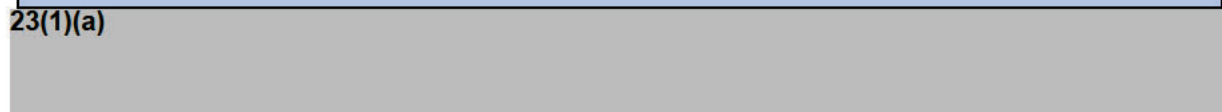


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Federal Capacity Development Funding

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES


ISSUE TITLE: Gender Based Violence Program (GBVP) Funding Models

ISSUE

- Funding of GBVP agencies had not increased since 2013/14, while the cost of living and provision of services increased greatly. In addition, GBVP agencies are experiencing increasing number of clients presenting with complex needs.
- Beginning in 2022, GBVP implemented funding increases to address long-standing and new needs in the gender-based violence sector. As of 2023/24, funding increases amounted to \$8.25M, with the third phase of increases occurring in 2024/25 for Thompson Crisis Centre (\$125K).

SPEAKING POINTS

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There is a risk of surplus accumulation with such large funding increases. How has this risk been mitigated?

- With the rollout of these increases, GBVP anticipated that agencies may accumulate some surplus while they develop strategies to reorganize their operations with the increase in funding.
- The unique needs of the sector coupled with the significant challenge in recruiting and retaining qualified staff did result in some surplus accumulation for agencies. However, the implementation of the funding increases has also allowed for most agencies to operate with 95 per cent FTE capacity, a significant improvement from previous years.
- GBVP has worked closely with the sector to identify possible solutions to hiring and retaining qualified staff within the sector. The development and implementation of

the Microcredential course through Red River Polytech to address this challenge has been regarded positively throughout the sector.


- GBVP recognized that it would take several years for the sector to adjust their operations to fully utilize their funding increases and develop strategies to address the challenges around recruitment and retention. The Agency Relations Manager provides support and guidance to all agencies with their recruitment strategies and conducts regular touchpoints with agencies to remediate any issues, mitigate financial risks and support strategic planning to ensure the funding is used effectively.

BACKGROUND

- In 2019, the Treasury Board Secretariat conducted a Program Review (T.B. 7C/2019) of GBVP. The result was 15 directives designed to improve GBVP operations and the gender-based violence sector as a whole.
- In 2022/23, the shelter funding model was approved, and Phase I of funding which amounted to \$3.25M was provided to shelters. Phase 2 of the shelter funding model was approved in the 2023/24 Budget, amounting to an increase of \$1.6M for shelters as well as improved funding models for the remaining program sets, amounting to a total increase of \$3.4M. Phase 3 of the shelter funding model was approved in the 2024/25 Budget, amounting to an increase of \$125K specifically for TCC.
- The implementation of the funding model increase for TCC was extended from three years to four years. GBVP will include the proposed fourth year funding model installment of \$125K in the 2025/26 Estimates.
- These funding strategies focus on addressing systemic inequities and concerns seen across the sector by considering agency size, implementing professionalized salaries for all staff, appropriate numbers of full-time equivalent positions, regional differences and corresponding evidence-based risk factors, and provision of equitable operational funding.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE TO THE MINISTER

23(1)(a)



CONTACT

- Jamie Carnegie, Women and Gender Equity Manitoba, Gender Based Violence Program, 204-290-4548

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: System Change in the Gender-Based Violence Sector

ISSUE

- The Gender-Based Violence Program (GBVP) is supporting system change in the gender-based violence sector.

SPEAKING POINTS

What is government doing to assist community-based organizations as they continue to support individuals and families who are experiencing heightened rates of gender-based violence?

- Women and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals have experienced an escalation in gender-based violence over the last several years. This has put an increasing strain on shelters and other organizations working to address this serious issue.
- Sector improvements for gender-based violence shelters, including the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) case management system and an improved crisis line, are essential. Strong data and improved access to consistent and quality support services are key in the sector's growth and responsiveness to changing needs.

What is government doing to support strengthening the gender-based violence sector?

- GBVP is supporting system change in the gender-based violence sector, at the same time as it is rolling out significant funding increases. With increases included in Budget 2024, the overall budget for the sector is now almost double what it was previous to 2022.
- In addition, GBVP is supporting collaborative work in the sector to create a Collective Impact organization to provide structure and cohesion for all organizations working in the gender-based violence field in Manitoba. Women and Gender Equity Manitoba (WAGE MB) identified this proposal as a priority in the first year of implementation of the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence Canada-Manitoba bilateral funding agreement. In 2023/24, the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) and the Family Violence Consortium of Manitoba worked with the organization BluePrint ADE to lead an engagement with the sector to inform this work.
- GBVP has also worked closely with several partners to develop a microcredential program at Red River Polytech to increase capacity at GBVP funded shelters and agencies, as well as organizations within the homeless sector. Partners include representatives from the Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness, MAWS, Red River Polytech, GBV Shelters and homeless shelters. Due to the success of the first offering, WAGE MB was able to fund the delivery of a second round of the program in January 2024, through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence bilateral agreement.

BACKGROUND

HIFIS

- To support integration and better data collection practices across the sector, GBVP has been working closely with the sector to improve access to information. In March 2021, GBVP entered into an agreement with End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) to train and support the ten family violence shelters in use of the federal case management system called HIFIS (Homeless Individuals and Families Information System).
- The roll-out of HIFIS has been delayed due to several unexpected challenges. GBVP continues to work closely with EHW and the Manitoba Association of Women's Shelters (MAWS) to address these challenges and support implementation across the sector. See more background in Appendix A.

Crisis Line Enhancements

- GBVP provides funding to support a provincial 1-877 crisis line for callers who require shelter, assistance or information about gender-based violence services in Manitoba. The 10 GBVP-funded shelters in Manitoba answer calls to the crisis line.
- Manitoba entered into a contract with Izzy Solutions to provide a web-based platform for delivery and tracking of crisis calls, including text and chat in 2022. As of September 2023, all ten shelters have implemented the new platform successfully. The current 1-877-977-0007 number has not changed. GBVP is in the process of exploring a public awareness campaign to inform community of the improved accessibility to crisis line supports. See more background in Appendix A.

Training

- GBVP has worked closely with several partners to develop a microcredential program at Red River Polytech to increase capacity at GBVP funded shelters and agencies, as well as organizations within the homeless sector. Partners include representatives from the Department of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness, MAWS, Red River Polytech, GBV Shelters and homeless shelters. The tuition-free course was offered in January 2023, which resulted in 25 graduates. Due to the success of the first offering, WAGE MB was able to fund the delivery of a second round of the program in January 2024, through the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence bilateral agreement. There continues to be significant interest amongst sector leaders and students to participate.

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APPENDIX A – HIFIS and Crisis Line Improvements

HIFIS – Integrated Case Management System

- HIFIS is the case management and information system used by a number of agencies working to address homelessness across Canada and is mandated for use by those receiving federal funding under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. This system is web-based, and allows for the sharing of data with Employment and Social Development Canada to inform on the national state of homelessness.
- End Homelessness Winnipeg (EHW) is the community entity identified by the federal government to support organizations using HIFIS in Winnipeg. GBVP staff met with EHW throughout 2020 to discuss the implementation of HIFIS in the family violence sector. On December 3, 2020, EHW informed GBVP that they had been granted federal Reaching Home COVID-19 funding to support the onboarding of five family violence shelters in Winnipeg and surrounding areas, by March 31, 2021. EHW was already supporting another Winnipeg shelter, Ikwe Widdjitiwin. Together that made six of the ten GBVP-funded shelters already being onboarded to HIFIS by March 31, 2021, without provincial investment.
- GBVP received Treasury Board approval for both onboarding and first full year costs estimated by EHW as \$13.1K for onboarding in 2020/21 and \$75.6K in 2021/22.
- Through Estimates 2022/23, GBVP received approval to solidify funding for EHW for ongoing years, using existing funds. The annualized cost beginning 2022/23 is \$85.3K.
- Since 2021, GBVP has worked closely with EHW and MAWS to adapt HIFIS to meet the needs of the sector. However, this process has been challenging, with various delays based on the unique needs of the sector and unexpected limitations of the system itself. To address the concerns related to HIFIS, MAWS hired a staff member to work closely with EHW and shelters to support implementation of HIFIS in the sector.

Crisis Line Enhancements

- The pandemic, along with government stay at home orders, created barriers in terms of victims' ability to reach out for assistance using traditional means, such as telephone calls. GBVP is also aware of increased difficulties with routing of calls on the existing 1-877 line. Together these factors bring heightened need for a chat-based solution to be implemented.
- There is a growing body of research that suggests providing a chat-based crisis intervention allows for more discreet methods of accessing resources for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). Research suggests that chat-based messaging provides privacy, flexibility, and anonymity. During the onset of COVID-19, two shelters agreed to implement a texting option and accept texts from around the province on a temporary basis. However, from a tech-safety perspective, this presents critical risks to the caller's safety, as abusers can track text messages easily if they have access to an individual's cell phone bill and/or see the conversation on the individual's phone.
- In December 2020, GBVP received a Quick Estimate from then-named Business Transformation and Technology (BTT), and subsequently began working with BTT to conduct the Scoping exercise. A Request for Proposal was issued on MERX on August 3, 2021. GBVP selected a vendor called Izzy to provide this solution and completed contract negotiations in 2022. The total project cost of \$254.8K over three years was within the Minister's delegated authority of \$1.0M for a tendered goods and services contract.
- As of September 2023, all ten shelters within the GBV sector have onboarded Izzy successfully.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: Klinic Sexual Assault Crisis Response and Healing Program

ISSUE

- In April 2023, the Government of Manitoba provided Klinic Community Health with \$1.36 million to create the Sexual Assault Crisis Response and Healing Program (SACRHP), a new community-based program to support survivors of sexual assault, which includes forensic nursing services.
- As part of Budget 2024, \$1.36M in funding to Klinic Community Health is annualized to support the ongoing delivery of this program.

SPEAKING POINTS

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Does Ka Ni Kanichihk receive any funding to support this program?

- The funding provided to Klinik supports the provision of services by forensic nurse examiners at Ka Ni Kanichihk.
- In addition, the Government of Manitoba has provided Ka Ni Kanichihk with \$347K in February 2024 from the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence funding to support wrap-around services including cultural supports and counselling.

BACKGROUND

- Klinik began seeing patients as part of this program in October 2023, and Ka Ni Kanichihk was able to welcome Klinik nurses and staff to provide services at that site beginning in November 2023.
- A program coordinator as well as several community nurses with forensic nursing experience have been hired to staff the program.
- A Survivor Advisory Council has been established to guide the creation and implementation of the program. This group consists of members with lived experience who will be providing feedback on the space, workflow and services offered.
- In addition, there is a Steering Committee made up of members from Klinik, HSC Winnipeg, Elders Billie Schibler and Leslie Spillett, and other community partners.
- This program could serve as a model for other community-based sexual assault services across the province.

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

**ISSUE TITLE: National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence
Bilateral Agreement**

ISSUE

- In 2023/24, the Government of Manitoba entered into a four-year bilateral agreement totaling \$22.292M with Canada for the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (GBV NAP). In 2024/25, Manitoba is receiving \$6.248M.

SPEAKING POINTS

How were the initiatives identified in Manitoba's implementation plan for 2024/25 aligned with the needs of community?

- Over the past several years, Women and Gender Equity Manitoba (WAGE MB) has worked diligently to develop and maintain strong relationships with community organizations and leaders that provide front-line service delivery and work with individuals and families experiencing gender-based violence. WAGE MB recognizes the importance of prioritizing the voices of community as their experience and expertise is integral to decision making and the policy and program level.
- WAGE MB built Manitoba's implementation plan with this lens at the forefront of decision making. The initiatives selected were informed by the relationships WAGE MB has developed with community with the goal of supporting initiatives that allow for unique and effective service delivery designed for the diverse population groups that are most impacted by gender-based violence.
- Additionally, the initiatives outlined for 2024/25 are informed by the outcomes of the previous year of funding. Several of the initiatives are continuing due to their success in 2023/24. These include funding for the expansion of the GBV-specific microcredential program through Red River Polytech and the development of a Collective Impact Organization to guide and advocate for the gender-based violence sector across the province.

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How does the implementation plan for the second year of funding of the GBV NAP strengthen the GBV sector in Manitoba, and ultimately address GBV more broadly?

- WAGE MB developed a robust implementation plan for all four years of the GBV NAP agreement in 2023/24, with the intention of developing a framework to enhance and strengthen the existing network of gender-based violence supports in Manitoba. The implementation plan was designed to fill in gaps in the service continuum identified by community, reinforce successful programs and supports, and develop the foundational aspects of the sector, including increased capacity for strong leadership, advocacy and data collection.

- WAGE MB recognizes that the needs identified in 2023/24 may change over time. The flexibility within the agreement to adjust each year's implementation plan allows Manitoba to be responsive to community needs as they arise, strengthening Manitoba's approach to addressing gender-based violence over time.

Due to this being a 50-50 cost-sharing agreement, what is the required investment from Manitoba to receive federal funding?


- WAGE MB's existing operating budget well exceeds the required provincial cost-sharing amount. This allows Manitoba to leverage the full amount of \$3.548M in 2023/24 and \$6.248M in 2024/25 without any additional investment from Manitoba. No additional funding is required.

BACKGROUND

- In November 2022, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women released the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, which was tied to the federal \$539.3M investment to WAGE in Canada's Budget 2022. Of the \$539.3M commitment, \$22.292M is being distributed to Manitoba through a four-year, National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence bilateral agreement.
- WAGE MB was identified as the representative from Manitoba to lead the negotiation and implementation of this 50-50 cost-sharing agreement. WAGE MB's existing operating budget allowed Manitoba to leverage the full amount of \$3.548M in 2023/24, and \$6.248M annually beginning in 2024/25 and ending in 2026/27 without any additional investment by Manitoba.
- Funding provided through the GBV NAP agreement must be invested into initiatives that fall under at least one of the five identified pillars or foundational elements outlined in the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence. These include: Support for Survivors and their Families; Prevention; Responsive Justice System; Implementing Indigenous-led Approaches; and Social Infrastructure and Enabling Environment. Foundational elements include leadership, coordination and engagement; data, research and knowledge mobilization; and reporting and monitoring.
- Using an intersectional and multi-sectoral approach, while integrating the advice and needs identified by community and Indigenous-led organizations, WAGE MB has proposed an implementation plan for each year of the GBV NAP agreement.
- As of January 2024, funding has flowed to several community partners to undertake the work outlined in Manitoba's implementation plan for Year 1. WAGE MB has adjusted some plans since the original proposal, based on shifting priorities and emerging community needs.
- Part of the agreement requires that the Government of Manitoba provides an annual report for each year on July 31 to access the upcoming year's funding in September.
- The agreement is flexible, should priorities shift. WAGE MB has the ability to adjust the implementation plan, as long as the selected initiatives meet the requirements outlined in the agreement. WAGE MB is required to communicate any changes to the Government of Canada when they occur.

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: **Women and Gender Equity Manitoba (WAGE MB) Mandate Expansion**

ISSUE

- Treasury Board (TB) approved an expanded mandate for the Women and Gender Equity Manitoba Secretariat (formerly the Manitoba Status of Women Secretariat) in April 2023 to focus more broadly on gender equity and establish the secretariat as the entity within government to address 2SLGBTQI+ issues.
- This budget line provides funds to WAGE MB to support 2.0 FTEs on an annualized basis as well as a grant to Pride Winnipeg to assist with staffing and to expand Pride activities throughout the province (\$125K in 2024/25). In 2024/25, Rainbow Resource Centre will also receive funding, in the amount of \$106K, for its Place of Pride campus.

SPEAKING POINTS

How does WAGE MB's expanded mandate differ from other departments? Is there duplication of work?

- Prior to the announcement of WAGE MB's expanded mandate, multiple departments were responsible for engaging gender and sexually diverse communities in Manitoba. While departments interacted with 2SLGBTQI+ organizations, including Health, Families, Education and Early Childhood Learning, and Indigenous Reconciliation, there was limited coordination between departments to ensure a coherent strategy to address issues.
- WAGE MB's expanded mandate clearly identifies the secretariat as the government entity to address this gap and provide a whole-of-government approach to best serve the 2SLGBTQI+ community in Manitoba.

What is being proposed/budgeted to support the work?

- The expanded mandate requires 2.0 FTEs to support the secretariat.
- The mandate expansion also includes \$125K to Pride Winnipeg to support its operations and \$106K for Rainbow Resource Centre in support of the Place of Pride initiative.
- WAGE MB has allocated \$48K from the Gender-Based Violence National Action Plan funding to support community engagement taking place in spring/summer 2024.
- The engagement plan will be collecting data on the experiences of various segments of the 2SLGBTQI+ population with provincial government services, as well as gaps and challenges for programs and services in order to explore the possibility of future funding opportunities for 2SLGBTQI+ organizations.

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Other than engagement and coordination between community organizations and government, what other outputs/outcomes are expected to come from the expanded mandate?

- There is currently a lack of research, consistent and respectful data collection, and subsequent programming and services designed to better understand and support the needs of gender and sexually diverse individuals.
- With both financial and human resources dedicated to this work, WAGE MB will be able to respond to requests involving gender and sexual diversity in a timely and reliable manner, establish best practices and methods when monitoring the needs of and issues affecting members of the community, and establish and cultivate the development of relationships with segments of the population that may not historically have engaged with government due to a lack of trust or adequate or appropriate supports.

BACKGROUND

- In April 2023, TB approved WAGE MB's expanded mandate to focus more broadly on gender equity and to establish the secretariat as the entity within government to address 2SLGBTQI+ issues. The expansion was announced on May 23, 2023.
- Two (2.0) FTEs were hired to support the mandate expansion and in November 2023 began working on an engagement plan with the community, the broader public, as well as government departments to collect information on any service gaps experienced by 2SLGBTQI+ Manitobans.
- TB also approved grant assistance of \$125K for Pride Winnipeg to allow the organization to hire permanent staffing of an executive director and an executive assistant to support and expand Pride activities across the province.
- In addition, for 2024/25, TB approved one-time grant assistance of \$106K for Rainbow Resource Centre in support of operating costs for its Place of Pride initiative.

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DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES - SUBJECT ISSUES

ISSUE TITLE: **MMIWG2S+ Strategy**

ISSUE

- Manitoba is investing \$20M a year for four years to support the implementation of a new MMIWG2S+ Strategic Action Plan aimed at making our province safer for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people. The strategic action plan will be guided by the Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issues and the Matriarch Council, as well as the MMIWG2S+ and Gender-based Violence Committee of Cabinet.

SPEAKING POINTS

What will this funding support?

- This funding will support the development and implementation of a strategic action plan on MMIWG2S+ in Manitoba, with an aim to make our province safer for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.
- It is intended that this funding will support programs and services for Indigenous women and girls, as well as community-led solutions.
- This funding will also support foundational projects like data collection, public engagement, and public awareness campaigns to ensure that we can change the norms and attitudes that enable violence against Indigenous women and girls to continue.

How will the funding be distributed?

- In the first year, Manitoba will explore options for how some of the funding can become a long-term, sustainable source of funding to support families of MMIWG2S+.
- We will also work with community organizations to augment and expand services and address known gaps in programs and services.

Who will be developing the strategic action plan?


- The Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issues will lead the development of the strategic action plan.
- She will be guided by our recently-created Matriarchs Council, a powerful group of matriarchs from across Manitoba.
- She will also collaborate with the MMIWG2S+ and Gender-based Violence Committee of Cabinet to ensure that this strategy is a whole-of-government approach to addressing these issues.

BACKGROUND

- \$20M is being allocated in 2024/25 to support the development and launch of an MMIWG2S+ Strategic Action Plan aimed at making our province safer for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people.
- The strategic action plan will be guided by the Special Advisor on Indigenous Women's Issues and the Matriarch Council, as well as the MMIWG2S+ and Gender-based Violence Committee of Cabinet.
- This funding will support programs and services that increase safety for Indigenous women, girls and 2S+ people, including 24/7 safe spaces in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson.
- It will also support Indigenous-led approaches and capacity building within community organizations to ensure they can implement programs that meet the needs of the community.
- Finally, this funding will support foundational projects like data collection, public awareness campaigns, and public engagement to enable systemic, sustained change in Manitoba.

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