

# A HEALTHY FUTURE STARTS NOW



**VOTE LIBERAL**

Better Ideas, Brighter Future



**“If politicians were superheroes, Jon Gerrard would be Everywhere Man. The leader of the Manitoba Liberal Party... shows up everywhere someone needs a politician’s help. While he can read a budget statement as fast as a finance minister and spot problems in the health care system as fast as he can stitch up a wound, he is fast becoming legendary for taking on a myriad of issues no other politician will touch.”**

– The Winnipeg Free Press

Dear Fellow Manitoban,

We have a way of life in Manitoba that is worth not just preserving, but promoting. We have a uniquely Manitoban tradition of tolerance, caring and mutual respect between cultures and individuals that should be encouraged. It is a tradition that deserves to grow and flourish.

In order for that to happen, we need to make Manitoba a place where young people can stay and thrive, not leave.

For the past 40 years Manitoba’s economic position within Canada has been in steady decline. We have lost a total of 220,000 people to other countries and provinces. Over the last ten years, the number of people aged 22-35 dropped by 22% in Manitoba. This trend must stop.

While other provinces have moved ahead, we are standing still. Just managing the province’s affairs is not enough. We need to do something different.

We need a new approach to government in Manitoba, one that says to young people, “If you make a commitment to Manitoba, we will make a commitment to you.” We need to create a climate of opportunity in Manitoba, one from which all Manitobans can reap the benefits.

There is so much more that our government could do for the future of our province. Manitoba Liberals are ready to make that commitment. Because the future of Manitoba depends on it.

I hope you will join us and vote Liberal in the upcoming election.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon Gerrard". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Jon Gerrard

# YOUTH

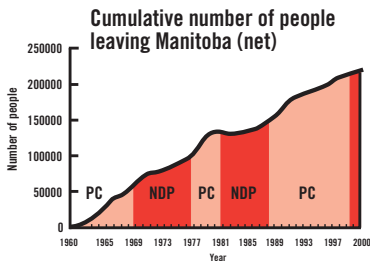
## Making Manitoba Worth Their While



Manitoba Liberals know that the future of this province depends on attracting and retaining young people. Young people want better jobs and more opportunities. They need a government that looks to their future, and the future of this province.

### To create a climate of opportunity for young people, we will:

- Cut provincial income tax rates, beginning with young people, so Manitobans pay no more than the average of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.
- Develop an affordable, accessible post-secondary education system that meets the needs of all Manitoba students.
- Make Manitoba attractive for graduates by making principal and interest payments on student loans deductible from income tax payable for those who stay and work here.
- Build links between post-secondary education and business. We will provide enhanced funding for cooperative education, for graduate students and for public-private sector partnerships like technology and research labs.



For too long, our greatest export has been the talent and resources of so many young people. Manitoba under the NDP and PC's lost nearly 250,000 people to inter-provincial migration between 1961–2001.

The number of people aged 25 – 34 in Manitoba has fallen 22% in the last ten years. *Statistics Canada Report.*

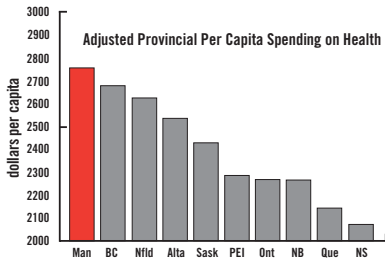
The NDP government has failed to reverse this trend. It's time to elect a government that puts a priority on Manitoba's future.

*“The key to real growth is with real people, beginning with the youth of our province. Manitoba Liberals have the best action plan to turn our province around.”*

Dr. Jon Gerrard, Manitoba Liberal leader

# HEALTH

## Creating a Better System



Spending per capita of health dollars per province  
*Figures courtesy of Statistics Canada*

Statistics show that Manitoba continues to spend more per capita on health than any other province yet we have seen a further deterioration in the quality of health care being provided. Our health care system can be vastly improved. Liberals will take direction from Manitobans who want a better way of providing improved health care service.

### Creating a culture of health

Manitoba Liberals are committed to ensuring every Manitoban has access to the best quality health care when they need it. Liberals will buy health care services more efficiently and more effectively to improve the quality of health care. Liberals will work to continually improve health care by substantially increasing provincial support for research and development.

### To improve the quality of health care, we will:

- Establish a health care treatment guarantee that ensures people will be treated within a set period of time. For example a maximum of 90 days for all cardiac surgical care.
- Encourage excellence by building and providing core funding to specialized health care teams with a province-wide mandate.
- Provide real help for people trying to quit smoking by allowing for Pharmacare coverage of smoking cessation aids.
- Address regional disparities in quality standards and outcome measurements by developing standards that are consistent throughout the province.
- Refocus health services on the delivery of primary care. We will ensure there are family doctors and nurses in communities throughout Manitoba and that they are better supported using the best practices from around the world.
- Ensure seamless health care delivery between institutions, the community and the home.
- Focus on areas where there are major needs for improvement such as cardiac care, mental health and brain diseases including epilepsy.



## Seniors & Good Health

Liberals in Manitoba recognize that seniors are a vital part of our community and that they deserve to have the best health system to meet their growing needs. To achieve this goal, we will:

- Provide better access to palliative care and home care.
- Introduce preventive care for blindness.
- Address adverse tax implications of Pharmacare to improve the system for seniors.
- Within two years, produce a long-term strategic hospital and service plan for seniors.

## To reduce the costs of health care, we will:

- Focus on the prevention of diseases, such as diabetes, fetal alcohol syndrome, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and cancer. The efforts will include promoting the better health of Manitobans in schools and in the work place.
- Eliminate wasteful spending where research shows no evidence of health benefit.
- Build on models of internal competition within health care, and provide public funding on the basis of service delivered, regardless of location.
- Continuously improve quality and costs through research and development.
- Improve training in health care management.
- Improve the development and use of technology, including distance and tele-health care delivery.

## To improve the accountability in our health care system, we will:

- Legislate a sixth principle of accountability and transparency for Manitoba's health care system.
- Provide for reporting on outcomes, such as reporting on mortality rates and surgical waiting lists.
- Provide for public accounting of the spending of federal transfers and provincial spending so Manitobans know where their health dollars are going.
- Refocus the system on patients and services, instead of institutional funding. Instead of providing hospitals with global budgets, we will shift to a service-based funding model following recommendations in the Kirby report.

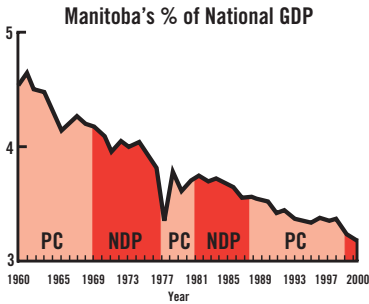
# ECONOMY

## Improving the Economic Climate

Successful economies are increasingly measured by their capacity to generate wealth through innovation, and their ability to attract labour and capital. Manitoba Liberals will create the best economic conditions to allow for a successful economy.

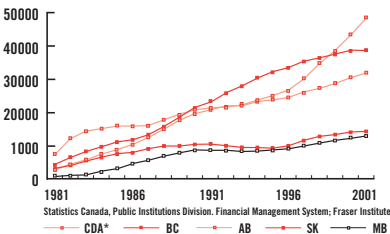
### We will:

- Restore responsible management to the province's finances. This is a prerequisite to encouraging job creation and growth.
- Reduce, and then eliminate, the regressive payroll tax.
- Reduce, and then eliminate, the corporation capital tax to attract new business, investment, and jobs for youth.
- Cut provincial income tax rates, beginning with young people, then expanding to all Manitobans.
- Put a priority on building and maintaining infrastructure, such as roadways and drainage. Liberals will dedicate fuel taxes to highways construction and maintenance.
- Invest in new technology. We will focus on broadband communications, information technology, biotechnology, and research and development.
- Create technology-entrepreneur centres throughout Manitoba.
- Operate in a fair and transparent manner, including the open procurement of government services.
- Attract more young people to our province.



Over the last 40 years, Manitoba's contribution to the national gross domestic product has steadily declined, along with the number of high paying jobs and head office locations. Nobody has put the same priority on reversing this trend as Manitoba Liberals.

**Accumulated Net Per Capita Fixed Business Investments in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Canada, 1981-2001**



Manitoba has the lowest rate of capital investment per capita in Western Canada, and the third lowest in the country. Liberals will create confidence in Manitoba's investment climate

– Statistics courtesy of the Frontier Centre for Public Policy.

**Manitoba Liberals will build a new foundation for a better future.**

# CITY OF WINNIPEG

## Building Capital Excitement

From 1976 to 2001, Winnipeg's population grew by just 16.1 %. By comparison, Calgary grew by 103.3%, Vancouver by 70.4%, Edmonton by 69.2%, Toronto by 67.1%, Saskatoon by 66.4%, London by 59.9%, and Regina by 27.5%.

— courtesy of Statistics Canada

In the last five years, Winnipeg is the only Canadian city that experienced a decrease in the numbers of people who live in the downtown area.

— Winnipeg Free Press, April 2003

**For far too long, provincial NDP and PC governments have allowed Winnipeg to decline. Manitoba Liberals have an action plan to turn things around.**

As our largest city, Winnipeg is the economic centre of our province. Liberals recognize Winnipeg has some of the brightest and most talented people in the country. We need to focus on what makes Winnipeg a great city, and to build on its strengths to ensure it remains a desirable community to work, play, live, and invest in.

### **We will:**

- Dedicate fuel taxes to build and improve highways to and throughout the city.
- Create an economic climate that encourages new business investment and growth for corporate head offices and new business.
- Be vigorous in working to have a downtown where more people are excited to live, with a focus on accessible, quality housing and safer streets.
- Create career opportunities by investing in technology and research, and by building cooperative education links between business and young people.
- Attract and retain young people.
- Put a major effort to increase immigration including through the provincial sponsorship program.
- Develop and promote our incredible arts and cultural scene.
- Support Aboriginal culture and multiculturalism in the city to build on the strength of our diverse communities.
- Allow the City of Winnipeg a greater autonomy in its own affairs.
- Support the City of Winnipeg and its development Plan Winnipeg.

**Manitoba Liberals are committed to making Winnipeg an attractive and desirable place to live that can compete with other major centres in Canada.**

# REGIONS

## A Province-Wide Economic Development Plan

The regions of our province are as different as they are vast, but they share the strength and willingness of Manitobans who make this province a better place to live and work.

Manitoba Liberals believe in a province-wide commitment to government and economic development that recognizes and respects regional differences.

### **Throughout our province, we will:**

- Dedicate fuel taxes to build and improve highways.
- Create and promote broad band internet access.
- Adopt a province-wide strategy for tourism to promote Manitoba here and abroad.
- Develop technology entrepreneurship centres.
- Support continued development of Manitoba's section of the Trans-Canada Trail.

### **In Northern Manitoba, we will:**

- Build more highways and ensure better access to remote communities.
- Expand affordable health care services and access to education.
- Secure long-term growth and development by improving the management of Manitoba Hydro, the mining and forestry industries.
- Deliver better social supports and justice service to Northern communities.
- Balance environmental concerns with the need to develop our natural resources.

### **In Eastern Manitoba we will:**

- Improve drainage systems to protect farmers from wet conditions.
- Protect Shoal Lake as a source of clean drinking water and ensure there is clean drinking water to all communities.
- Maintain the environment in and around Whiteshell Provincial Park and the Winnipeg River area.
- Support infrastructure for potable water in the RM of Alexander.
- Support ongoing scientific research and development in Pinawa.





## **In Western Manitoba, we will:**

- Work with farmers and communities to ensure the success of farming.
- Create better access to water management including both irrigation and drainage.
- Focus on Brandon as an important urban centre for the future of our province.
- Put a time table on twinning the Trans Canada highway west of Virden.
- Assist in developing historical sites like Fort Pelly and the Skinner Arboretum as tourist attractions.

## **In the Interlake, we will:**

- Protect our lakes and rivers from further damage from harmful pollutants.
- Protect and promote our successful fishing industry.
- Provide vigorous support for the development of the Lowlands National Park.
- Work with local communities on an Interlake water management plan.

## **In Southern and Central Manitoba we will:**

- Implement the best possible plan for flood protection of the whole Red River Valley.
- Build on the successful results of the Deerwood project on South Tobacco Creek.
- Provide support for projects like the Treherne Dam to enhance water storage, irrigation potential (for potato farming), and recreational activities.
- Support research and infrastructure for farmers looking to use tile drainage.
- Provide support for tourism infrastructure like the Paleontology Museum in Morden.

## **In the Capital Region area, we will:**

- Set up a Capital Region Planning Commission to allow for building an economic development plan to create a win-win situation for Winnipeg and the municipalities around the city.
- Get out of micromanaging the affairs of the City of Winnipeg and its surrounding municipalities.

# EDUCATION

## Investing in Our Future



The future of our province depends on our young people having access to an education system that is the best in the world.

Manitoba Liberals will ensure that all students have access to quality education at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. We will ensure that all students are taught by well-trained teachers in properly equipped and efficiently managed schools.

### **We will:**

- Improve funding for education.
- Increase the proportion funded from provincial revenues and decrease the reliance on property taxes to provide more tax fairness and equity in education throughout the province.
- Provide stable multi-year funding two years in advance to allow for better planning.
- Cap post-secondary tuition increases at the rate of inflation.
- Make the interest and principal of student loan payments deductible from income tax payable for those who stay and work in Manitoba.
- Expand campus Manitoba to improve provision of post-secondary education services throughout our province.
- Provide for a consistent level of training, support and certification for principals and superintendents.



- Allow a College of Educators, to provide for a self-regulatory body for teachers to provide enhanced standards and training.
- Develop improved ways of integrating technology into schools and work towards optimum class sizes.
- Address the requirements of special-needs children throughout our schools.
- Prepare young people for employment and entrepreneurship by developing mentorship programs and technology centres, and by linking post-secondary education to business.

**Manitoba Liberals believe that quality education in a safe and healthy learning environment is a necessary basic right.**

Manitoba  
Liberals  
les Libéraux

# AGRICULTURE

## A Business Plan that Works

Manitoba Liberals recognize the importance of farmers and farming communities in building our province. The agriculture industry is facing greater challenges than in the past. There are growing costs and the family farm as an anchor of the rural economy is threatened. Years of neglect by the provincial government has only worsened the situation.

Manitoba Liberals have a plan to assist farmers and farming communities. We need to work with farmers to reduce input costs and risk.

### **We will:**

- Remove the education tax from agricultural land (but not farm buildings).
- Remove the PST from agricultural inputs, including building construction.
- Improve drainage programs to reduce crop losses from heavy rains and flooding.
- Invest in water storage activities to reduce flooding and to provide for improved irrigation potential.
- Improve farm safety net programs.

To improve the value chain and provide a positive future for young farmers,

### **We will:**

- Reduce, and then eliminate, capital taxes on businesses, including farms.
- Encourage agricultural activities with a higher economic value and a greater potential for employment, such as the development of higher value crops and local processing.
- Expand agricultural research and development.
- Provide financial incentives for farmers to use conservation practices. We recognize that water management means better land management, and farmers are stewards of the land they own. We will support farmers who provide public goods like cleaner water or reduced flooding, in the belief that the provision of public goods should receive public support.

# ENVIRONMENT

## Creating Sustainable Development & Responsible Resource Management

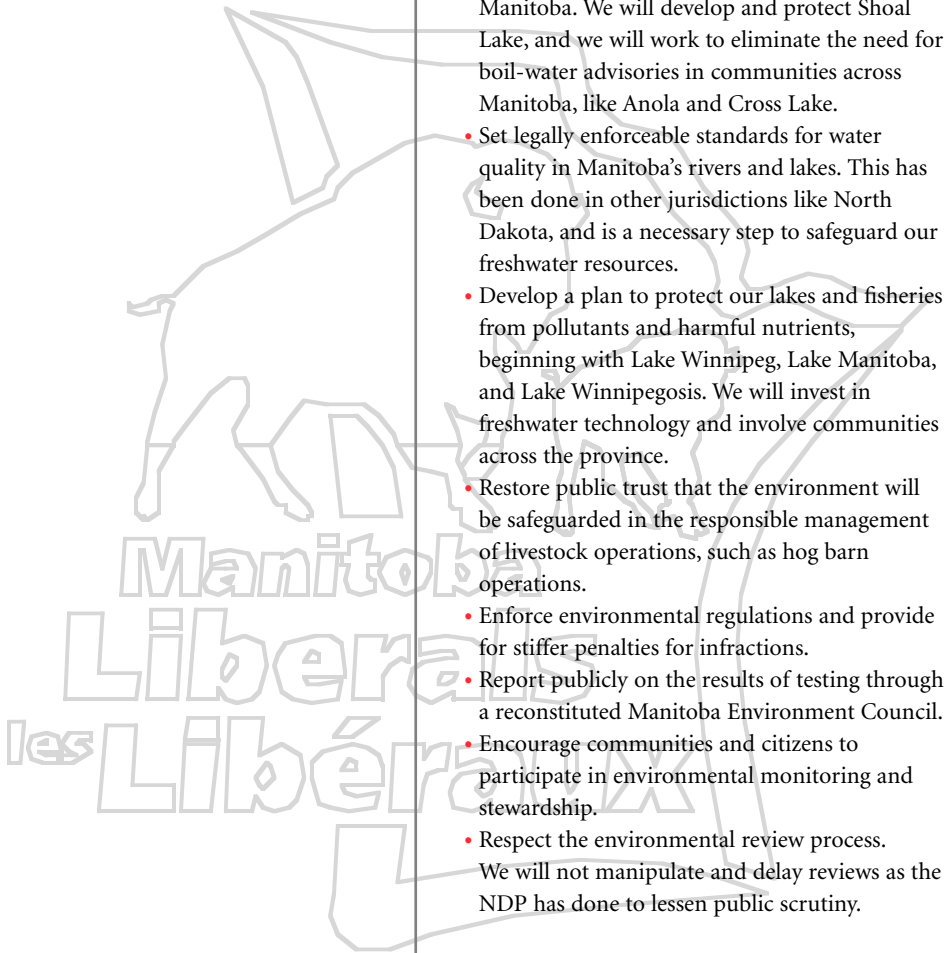
Liberals in Manitoba value our vast land, our clean air and water, and our diverse wildlife and habitats.

However, past provincial governments have left us with a number of serious problems.

Manitoba Liberals make the responsible environmental stewardship of our environment a priority.

### We will:

- Ensure there is clean drinking water throughout Manitoba. We will develop and protect Shoal Lake, and we will work to eliminate the need for boil-water advisories in communities across Manitoba, like Anola and Cross Lake.
- Set legally enforceable standards for water quality in Manitoba's rivers and lakes. This has been done in other jurisdictions like North Dakota, and is a necessary step to safeguard our freshwater resources.
- Develop a plan to protect our lakes and fisheries from pollutants and harmful nutrients, beginning with Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba, and Lake Winnipegosis. We will invest in freshwater technology and involve communities across the province.
- Restore public trust that the environment will be safeguarded in the responsible management of livestock operations, such as hog barn operations.
- Enforce environmental regulations and provide for stiffer penalties for infractions.
- Report publicly on the results of testing through a reconstituted Manitoba Environment Council.
- Encourage communities and citizens to participate in environmental monitoring and stewardship.
- Respect the environmental review process. We will not manipulate and delay reviews as the NDP has done to lessen public scrutiny.



# JUSTICE

## Enforcing Responsibility and Accountability

Manitoba Liberals will act to increase public safety and to reduce the factors that lead to crime. For serious crimes and repeat offenders, we will impose stricter penalties.

### **To improve the justice system, Manitoba Liberals will:**

- Ensure there is vigorous prosecution for violent offenders, especially in firearm offences, and in such cases, seek to reduce plea-bargaining.
- Work to counter-act the conditions that foster crime. Liberals will be vigorous in addressing poverty issues, mental health issues, substance abuse, and fetal alcohol syndrome. We will provide access for all youth to education on nutrition, health, parenting, and better access to daycare.
- Create a Crime Preventions Program for school curricula.
- Expand recreational activities and programming as an alternative to peer pressure from gangs.
- Appoint one or more judges who live in Northern Manitoba and build a new Remand Centre in Thompson to involve northern communities in providing local solutions to local problems.
- Work to clear the backlog in the courts so criminals are prosecuted more quickly and effectively, so witnesses' memories are not compromised, and so that the victim's trauma is not further exacerbated.
- Enhance support for local groups and organizations working in the area of crime prevention.
- Promote restorative justice for "first-time" offenders of less serious crimes so they may benefit from exposure to positive influences from community service. This will prevent them from being "schooled in crime" by their association in jail with criminals.

# GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY

## Building Public Confidence in Government

**“Clear financial reporting and budgeting is a critical component of our system of democracy. As long as the Manitoba government continues to focus on a budget prepared on a basis different than most other governments in Canada, the Legislature and the citizens of Manitoba will be hindered in their ability to hold the government of the day accountable for its management of public monies,”**

Manitoba Auditor General Jon Singleton, in reference to his report on the Public Accounts for the year ended March 31st, 2002.

Citizens can have confidence in their government only when it is accountable to them. Liberals in Manitoba want Manitobans to know what their government is doing.

Manitoba Liberals want to provide more accountability by opening up the democratic process.

### **We will:**

- Put elected officials’ wage increases to the test. We will introduce legislation so that any wage increases or pension changes for elected officials will not come into effect until *after* an election occurs. If the public disagrees, the presently elected officials will not benefit.
- Provide a full economic accounting of what the government spends and earns, and its assets and liabilities, as recommended by the Auditor General of Manitoba. This will include a full accounting of all tax expenditures and how federal equalization transfers are spent.
- Provide a publicly presented analysis of projected costs and benefits at the time legislation is tabled.
- Create a fair and transparent tendering process for the procurement of government services and purchases.
- Enforce an open and transparent process to hire public employees.
- Provide more accountability for government appointments to the boards of arm’s-length organizations, including a review of such appointments by an all-party legislative committee.
- Open cabinet meetings up once a month to the media.

*“We need to open up the process of government for the benefit of Manitobans. For too long the decision making has been too secretive.”*

– Liberal leader Dr. Jon Gerrard



**Manitoba  
Liberals  
les Libéraux**

**Manitoba Liberals Central Campaign Headquarters**

**635 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3C 0X1**

**Central switchboard: (204) 988-9380**

**Fax: 988-9549**

**email: [leader@manitobaliberals.ca](mailto:leader@manitobaliberals.ca)**

**[www.manitobaliberals.ca](http://www.manitobaliberals.ca)**

**Media inquiries: 792-2622**