

## **Chamber recommends Manitoba revisit mincome as solution to poverty** **Suggestion included in submission to province's poverty reduction strategy consultations**

April 25, 2018, WINNIPEG – The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce [provided recommendations to Manitoba](#) during the provincial government's recent consultations on a new poverty reduction strategy.

"The Chamber exists to improve prosperity in Winnipeg – and if that prosperity isn't felt throughout the community, it's a problem," said Loren Remillard, President and CEO of The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, which is a co-founder of the United Way of Winnipeg. "We're glad to leverage the expertise of our diverse members to weigh in on this important issue."

Key recommendations include:

- Since a meaningful, well-paying job is best way to end poverty, the strategy's primary focus should be increasing employment outcomes;
- The province should conduct another guaranteed annual income (mincome) study modelled after the one done in Dauphin in the 1970's;
- Re-profiling the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative and increasing investment by \$14 million a year to offer significant tuition reductions to students from Manitoba families earning less than \$70,000 a year
- Align and collaborate with the federal National Housing Strategy's efforts to build 100,000 new affordable housing units (Based on Manitoba's population, our share would be around 3,000 housing units over the 10-year timeframe of the strategy)
- Specific initiatives and programming for recent immigrants and Indigenous Canadians, as both groups face higher poverty levels;
- A focus on measurement and outcomes, with a goal for Manitoba to make the biggest improvement in reducing poverty rates amongst all provinces.

While other jurisdictions are drastically raising the minimum wage, The Winnipeg Chamber believes a guaranteed annual income would be a more targeted approach to help Canadians make ends meet. The Chamber also encourages Manitoba to continue its collaborative approach as the strategy gains traction, Remillard said.

"Government can't deliver on the new strategy in isolation" added Remillard. "By partnering with the private and non-profit sectors and leveraging their expertise, greater results can be delivered at a lower cost. We look forward to working with the provincial government on next steps as they continue to develop the new strategy."

### **About The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce**

*The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1873, is the largest organization representing the voice of business in Winnipeg. Our mission is to foster an environment in which Winnipeg business can prosper.*

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