

The Sanctity and Purpose of Human Life: from Conception to Natural Death

Abortion, Euthanasia & Alternatives | Human Engineering | Population Control

Catholic Teaching

The Sanctity and Purpose of Human Life

Catholics care about the sanctity of life because the entire purpose of each soul God endows with life is to find its way back to God by loving God and caring for all the souls God has placed around it. **Voluntary termination of life any time between conception and natural death necessarily frustrates that purpose.**

The source of human dignity is the likeness to God that is bestowed on each of us at the moment we are conceived. We respond appropriately to this gift by **using all the time, talent, and treasure** that God has entrusted to us to seek and grow closer to God, by sharing in His continuing act of creation and caring for those around us. **Our first purpose is to seek God, especially in one another.** If we do that, everything else will be given to us. **Anything that interferes with that is contrary to the Word of God.** *Genesis chapter 1; Matthew chapters 6, 22 & 25*

Abortion & Euthanasia

*"You shall not kill."
– the 5th Commandment*

The right to life from conception to natural death is **the foundation of all Catholic Social Teaching**, and in particular, implies the illicitness of every form of procured abortion and of euthanasia. – 155, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

*"This is not something subject to alleged reforms or 'modernizations.' It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life. Who can remain unmoved before such painful situations?"
– Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium 214*

Human Engineering

Cloning and Cell Manipulation

An issue of particular social and cultural significance today, **because of its many and serious moral implications**, is human cloning... the simple replication of normal cells or of a portion of DNA presents no particular ethical problem. Very different, however, is cloning understood in the proper sense. Such **cloning is contrary to the dignity of human procreation** because it takes place in total absence of an act of personal love between spouses, being agamic and asexual reproduction. In the second place, this type of reproduction represents **a form of total domination over the reproduced individual** on the part of the one reproducing it...



Sanctity of Life

The party advocates:

- expanding health care coverage in Manitoba by:
 - (i) increased funding for conception planning under Medicare and Pharmacare; and
 - (ii) ensuring access to abortion services across the province, including non-surgical abortion options

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- the sanctity, meaning or purpose of life
- euthanasia or alternatives thereto
- human engineering, including cloning or cell manipulation, or gender election surgery



Sanctity of Life

The party's constitution states that:

- the party is committed to the dignity of individuals as the cardinal principle of a democratic society, and as the primary purpose for all political organization and activity in such society. In accordance with this philosophy, the Manitoba Liberal Party subscribes to the fundamental rights and freedoms of all persons and commits itself to the protection of these fundamental values.

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- the sanctity, meaning or purpose of life
- abortion, euthanasia or alternatives thereto
- human engineering, including cloning or cell manipulation, or gender election surgery



Sanctity of Life

The party advocates:

- prioritizing access to reproductive health care and offering free menstrual products in schools

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- the sanctity, meaning or purpose of life
- abortion, euthanasia or alternatives thereto
- human engineering, including cloning or cell manipulation, or gender election surgery

Cloning for therapeutic use does not attenuate its moral gravity, because in order that such cells may be removed the embryo must first be created and then destroyed. 236, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Gender Election

Everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity. **Physical, moral and spiritual difference and complementarities are oriented towards the goods of marriage and the flourishing of family life.** -224 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Men and women with homosexual tendencies must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. – 358 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Population Growth; Birth Control; Family Planning

Judgment concerning the interval of time between births, and that regarding the number of children, **belongs to the spouses alone.** This is one of their inalienable rights, **to be exercised before God...** The intervention of public authorities must be made in a way that **fully respects the freedom of the couple.** All programmes of economic assistance aimed at financing campaigns of sterilization and contraception are to be morally **condemned as affronts to the dignity of the person and the family.**

The answer to **questions connected with population growth** must instead be sought in simultaneous respect both of sexual morals and of social ethics, **promoting greater justice and authentic solidarity** so that dignity is given to life in all circumstances.

All reproductive techniques — such as the **donation of sperm or ova, surrogate motherhood, heterologous artificial fertilization** — that make use of the uterus of another woman or of gametes of persons **other than the married couple**, injuring the right of the child to be born of one father and one mother who are father and mother **are ethically unacceptable** both from a biological and from a legal point of view. – 234-235, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*



Sanctity of Life

The party states that, as a matter of principle,

- it is committed to building a province where compassionate care for those in need and meaningful support for those who are unable to support themselves are available to all

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- the sanctity, meaning or purpose of life
- abortion, euthanasia or alternatives thereto
- human engineering, including cloning or cell manipulation, or gender election surgery

Points to Ponder: Life & Human Dignity

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

- What limits should be placed on voluntary termination of human life, either prior to birth or at any time before natural death? What can or should be done at the federal level, and what should be left to the provinces, or to private, religious, or other non-profit organizations?
- Are federal restrictions and controls on cloning and the use of human cells, fetuses, and body parts properly crafted? What, if anything, should be done differently including at the national or provincial level? Should there be more discussion of this serious moral issue in our society?
- To what extent should voluntary, elective services that are morally questionable to large numbers of individuals, such as the voluntary termination of life or the voluntary modification of gender, be financed publicly through mandatory taxation? If such services are to be offered, should they be financed by the individuals who elect to access them, or by sympathetic charities, or by possibly-dissenting taxpayers?
- In-vitro fertilization, or IVF, is an increasingly common method by which single parents or couples choose gender and other characteristics of children through the buying and selling of human embryos, sperm and eggs, and eggs,

thereby cultivating eugenic attitudes through the process of embryonic selection. Are such practices consistent with Church teachings? If not, are alternatives available, through the Church or through other organizations? Do any limitations exist on such practices? Should they?

Alternatives to Abortion

– What options for support can or should our society, including the church and other non-profit agencies in addition to government, offer to unready, reluctant or unwilling mothers, as alternatives to abortion and to support children cannot raise or do not want? What can or should be done at the local, or federal, or national or provincial level, or by private, religious, or other non-profit organizations?

- In March 2023 the Auditor General of Manitoba issued a follow-up report (<https://www.oag.mb.ca/audit-reports/report/follow-up-of-previously-issued-recommendations-2/>) pertaining to a number of recommendations it had made to the Legislative Assembly, to responsible provincial authorities, and to licensed agencies in 2019. One hundred and twelve (112) of the recommendations related to the management of foster homes, which along with adoption could be considered an alternative to abortion in the eyes of a mother facing an unplanned pregnancy. Of the 112 recommendations, a total of 4 had been implemented. Six others were declined. The remaining 102 were reported to be ‘in progress.’ They pertain to actions such as ensuring that homes are adequately financed and monitored, and that the homes are operated in compliance with regulations.

- In view of the importance of foster homes to children who may not have parents willing or able to take care of them, what measures should be taken to ensure that such homes are safe, supportive, and operated in accordance with health and other applicable regulates>
- who should re responsible for operating safe, clean, and supportive foster homes? Can the province, the Church, or other organizations help?

Palliative Care & Assisted Suicide

– What options can or should be offered by national or provincial or municipal governments, or by private agencies, to families of minors who being encouraged to consider medically-assisted suicide? Is it appropriate to allow minors to consider suicide without consulting their parents?

Table 3.1 below was prepared by Health Canada for its most recent annual report on Socially-Assisted Death (SAD). It shows that assisted suicide has grown each year in Manitoba, up until at least 2021. The chart at right was prepared by the Manitoba Ministry of Health. It indicates that requests for palliative care rose each year between 2012 and 2017. However, no statistics on the demand for or provision of palliative services in Manitoba appears to be available since 2017.

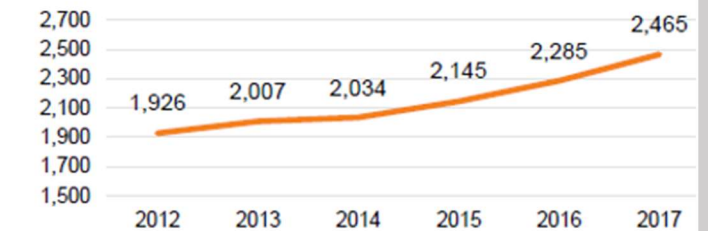
- are adequate facilities for those seeking alternatives to SAD available in Manitoba? If not, why not? Why is it so difficult to find relevant statistics?

Table 3.1: Total MAID Deaths in Canada by Jurisdiction, 2016 to 2021

MAID	NL	PE	NS	NB	QC	ON	MB	SK	AB	BC	YT	NT	NU	Canada
2016	-	-	24	9	494	191	24	11	63	194	-	-	-	1,018
2017	-	-	62	49	853	839	63	57	205	677	-	-	-	2,838
2018	23	8	126	92	1,236	1,500	138	85	307	951	12	-	-	4,480
2019	18	20	147	141	1,602	1,788	177	97	377	1,280	13	-	-	5,661
2020	49	37	188	160	2,275	2,378	214	157	555	1,572	13	-	-	7,603
2021	65	40	245	204	3,281	3,102	245	243	591	2,030	15	-	-	10,064
Total 2016–2021	175	111	792	655	9,741	9,798	861	650	2,098	6,704	67	-	-	31,664

Source: Health Canada – Annual Report on Socially-Assisted Death

Palliative Care Admissions, Manitoba, FY 12/13 to FY 17/18



Source: MHSAL – Discharge Abstract Database

Stewardship of Creation

Climate Change | Species, Diversity & Wildlife | Energy & Resources | Sustainable Development

Catholic Teaching

God gave humans dominion over the earth, thereby making us stewards of creation as we work with Him in His continuing act of creation.

We must constantly consider how our actions glorify or harm this wonderful gift God has entrusted to us. **This is a multi-faceted question, which must not be over-simplified.**

With a vocation to glorify all life which includes respect for the inviolability and integrity of life, humans find themselves in the presence of all God's other creatures. We can and are obliged to put them at our own service and to enjoy them, but **our dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility.** It is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. All of creation has value and is "good" in the sight of God. This is a **marvelous challenge to human intellect.** – 112, 113, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.*

Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue: it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience.
–23, 217, *Laudato Si'*

The Book of Genesis provides us with certain foundations of Christian anthropology, including the meaning of human activity in the world, which is linked to the discovery and respect of the laws of nature that God has inscribed in the created universe, so that humanity may live in and care for it in accordance with God's will. – 37, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.*

Climate Change

There is urgency to this issue. Every Pope since at least Paul VI has written of our need to shift to a more responsible use of the earth and its abundant resources. The Church accepts that that need is now urgent.

"A very solid scientific consensus indicates that we are presently witnessing a disturbing warming of the climatic system... **Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat...** at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. It is true that there are other factors, yet a number of scientific studies indicate that most global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases released **mainly as a result of human activity.** – Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, –23



The party states, as matters of principle, that:

- it believes that human beings are a part of nature, and not separate from it. Whatever humans do to the web of life, we do to ourselves
- the evolutionary creativity and continued productivity of Earth and its regional ecosystems require the continuance of their key structures and ecological processes. Pollution of air, sediments and water, along with exploitive extraction of inorganic and organic constituents, weaken ecosystem integrity

The party further states that:

- the province stands at a moment of crisis. The latest reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have stated in no uncertain terms that we must act immediately if we are to have any chance at mitigating the worst effects of climate change
- Manitobans want to embrace a clean, green economy without delay, with realistic planning decisions that prepare us for the carbon-free future. They are looking for a party they can trust to take action
- its climate strategies are integrated into every area of our platform. It seeks to promote a shift in consciousness and guide Manitobans towards practices that promote the flourishing of people as well as the planet
- through innovative policy, Manitoba can be positioned for an energy future that is robust, sustainable, clean and affordable

In order to address the climate crisis, the party advocates:

- creating greenhouse gas reductions to be achieved by 2030, 2040, 2045 and 2050, taking into consideration input from stakeholders and the public
- incorporating climate targets into budget reporting to ensure that climate policy goals and budget policy goals work together

Energy & Resources

The party advocates:

- to support the transition away from fossil fuels, investing in Green energy, transportation and agriculture
- protecting and managing provincial natural ecosystems in ways that reduce overall emissions

Sustainability

The party states, as a matter of principle, that:

- it promotes the precautionary principle - look before you leap — economic regulatory activity should consider this adage when reviewing a practice or product which potentially poses a significant threat of harm to human health or the environment

To strengthen industry regulations and support sustainable commercial development, the party advocates:

- supporting only commercial development and operations that demonstrate a strong commitment to preserving and protecting ecosystems
- strengthening and enforcing regulations that serve to stop pollution from all sources, with a focus on mining and fossil fuel operations
- improving the Made-in-Manitoba Climate & Green Fund and the Expert Advisory Council, by (i) refocusing the priority of the Made-in-Manitoba Climate & Green Fund on funding climate mitigation and adaptation measures; (ii) providing the Expert Advisory Council with specific year-end greenhouse gas reduction targets to achieve; (iii) ensuring that the advisory council develops the most cost effective measures to achieve year-end targets; and requiring the advisory council to release a report every second year on the progress being made to reach the targets that have been set

To promote sustainable energy and efficiency, the party advocates:

- increasing the energy efficiency of homes and other buildings by: (i) establishing incentive programs to ensure that Manitoba's existing buildings are properly insulated; (ii) changing building codes to ensure that all new buildings meet super-efficiency insulation standards, and include small-scale renewable micro-generators; (iii) halting the expansion of natural gas services for residential heating; and (iv) exploring alternative, renewable options to natural gas heating, such as geothermal and electric

Conservation

The party states that:

- Manitoba's natural ecosystems have been taken for granted for many years, and their existence has become threatened as a result. For example, 70

Energy & Resources

The good steward neither allows the resources entrusted to him to lie fallow or to fail to produce their proper fruit, nor does he waste or destroy them (*Matthew 25:14-30*). Rather, he uses them responsibly, for the Lord's purposes, to realize their increase so that he may enjoy his livelihood and provide for the good of his family, his descendants, and his neighbors.

Humanity's relationship with creation and the creatures of the earth "requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation." – 115, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

One of the higher priority issues in economics is the utilization of resources, that is, of all those goods and services to which economic subjects — producers and consumers in the private and public spheres — attribute value because of their inherent usefulness in the areas of production and consumption... **Resources in nature are quantitatively scarce**, which means that each individual economic subject, as well as each individual society, must necessarily come up with a plan for their utilization in **the most rational way possible**, following the logic dictated by the "principle of economizing." – 346, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Because of the powerful means of transformation offered by technological civilization, it seems that **the balance between man and the environment has reached a critical point...** A reductionistic conception quickly spread, starting from **the presupposition — which was seen to be erroneous — that an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available**, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed... – 461, 462, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Conservation & Sustainable Development

Care for the environment represents a challenge for all of humanity. It is a matter of a **common and universal duty, that of respecting a common good**, destined for all, by preventing anyone from using "with impunity the different categories of beings, whether living or inanimate — **animals, plants, the natural elements** — simply as one wishes, according to one's own economic needs." Responsibility for the environment, the common heritage of mankind, extends not only to present needs but also to those of the future... This is a **responsibility that present generations have towards those of the future...** A correct understanding of the environment... at the same time...**must not absolutize nature and place it above the dignity of the human person himself**. In this latter case, one can go so far as to divinize nature or the earth, as can readily be seen in certain ecological movements that seek to gain an internationally guaranteed institutional

percent of Manitoba's wetland habitats have already been drained, damaged or destroyed as a result of agricultural and urban development
- failure to conserve wetlands has resulted in increased flooding, greater greenhouse gas emissions, and more nutrient run-off into our waterways
- the province's natural ecosystems are a vital part of its infrastructure that protects against flooding, mitigates climate change, and sustains the provincial economy

To ensure that Manitoba's ecosystems are preserved for future generations, the party advocates:

- preventing further pollution to Manitoba's lakes and rivers, by: (i) working cooperatively with the City of Winnipeg and the federal government to upgrade Winnipeg's sewage treatment system to prevent diluted raw effluent from being spilled into the Red River; and (ii) mandating strengthening and enforcement of manure management regulations for hog barns, chicken barns and feedlots in the Red River Basin to eliminate manure run-off
- restoration of Manitoba's wetlands and protection of the health of provincial waterways, by: (i) creating a grant program for farmers to move ponds and wetlands around their land for convenient farming, as long as the water is retained; (ii) using tax incentives to encourage the replacement of the natural water retention capacity where potholes and sloughs have been removed; (iii) protecting government owned wetlands and prohibit further wetland drainage; and (iv) ensuring that all public right of ways, including ditches, road allowances, lagoons and drainage ditches, preserve as much natural wetland habitat as possible
- preserving and restoring Manitoba's boreal forests, by: (i) in consultation with Indigenous communities having claim to territory through traditional occupation and/or use, identifying areas to be preserved and protected for hunting, fishing and gathering purposes; requiring that all woodland operations, including logging, be done in a way that ensures the regeneration of the affected forest; ending clear-cutting in provincial parks, and promoting healthy reforestation projects
- banning harmful resource extraction methods, including: (i) the mining of peat lands, which are the filter for Lake Winnipeg; (ii) fracking, in order to prevent contamination of ground water with toxic chemicals; and (iii) uranium mining and exploration



The party advocates

- harnessing Manitoba's potential as a world leader in fighting climate change through implementation of a "Carbon Payment Plan" - funding projects that improve reductions and storage of greenhouse gases – planting trees, wilderness, efficiency projects, with the goal of making Manitoba Carbon neutral within a decade and carbon negative after that

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- species, diversity or wildlife
- energy & resources
- sustainable development



Climate Change

The party states that:

- the climate crisis, which is the defining issue of our time, with far-reaching global consequences and real effects here at home, also introduces economic and health challenges
- the consequences are already affecting all Manitobans, in the form of floods, wildfires, and droughts
- but in Manitoba, climate change is also a great opportunity. While oil-rich provinces face tough choices between jobs and the environment, in Manitoba things are different. The province is rich in hydroelectric power, which is cleaner, healthier, and more reliable energy
- it is more sensitive now to the human costs of Hydro developments, and plans to actively address that legacy in a positive way
- because demand for hydro will continue to grow, even while companies and countries around the world phase out gas-powered vehicles and replace them with electric ones. Thus there are many opportunities for Manitobans to come out ahead financially, and for the economy as a whole to benefit,

status for their beliefs. – 346, 461-463, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Species Diversity & Wildlife

Man and woman find themselves also in the presence of all the other creatures. They can and are obliged to put them at their own service and to enjoy them, but their dominion over the world requires the exercise of responsibility, it is not a freedom of arbitrary and selfish exploitation. **All of creation has value and is “good” in the sight of God, who is its author.** Man must discover and respect its value. This is a marvellous challenge to his intellect, which should lift him up as on wings towards the **contemplation of the truth of all God’s creatures**, that is, the contemplation of what God sees as good in them. Man must recognize all of God’s creatures for what they are and establish with each of them a relationship of responsibility. – 113, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

“Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness. Man must respect the particular goodness of every creature, to avoid any disordered use of things which would be in contempt of the Creator and would bring disastrous consequences for human beings and their environment.” – 339, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

It is a responsibility that must mature on the basis of the global dimension of the present ecological crisis... This perspective takes on a particular importance when one considers, in the context of the close relationships that bind the various parts of the ecosystem, the environmental **value of biodiversity, which must be handled with a sense of responsibility** and adequately protected... -466, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

while taking serious action on climate change

The party advocates:

- committing to meet climate targets of the Paris Accord with science and evidence-based policies, including the banning of oil and gas subsidies and fracking

Sustainable Development

To build good jobs and sustainable growth, the party advocates:

- returning Manitoba Hydro to provincial control, and using it to generate more green jobs with expanded broadband
- installing geothermal and solar energy systems using Hydro expertise, and beginning to transition Hydro into a renewable energy company
- supporting mining jobs in northern Manitoba by granting multi-year mining permits



The party states that:

- as a matter of principle, it is committed to environmental leadership through responsible management of resources, conservation and a commitment to both present and future generations
- since it formed government in 2016, it launched the “Made-in-Manitoba” climate and green plan to reduce emissions, including investment of \$100 million in green infrastructure through an innovative Conservation Trust Program, to help preserve and protect the environment for future generations
- as part of a new ‘Five-Point Guarantee’ during the prior election, it committed to continuing implementation of the Made-in-Manitoba green plan to provide environmental solutions that work for Manitoba

Climate Change

The party states that:

- the federal government has unfairly imposed its rising carbon tax on Manitobans, after rejecting its Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan that would have reduced more emissions than the federal carbon tax
- it filed a motion challenging the federal carbon tax and the special deals and exemptions it has granted to other provinces, and expects that Ottawa must respect the province’s billions of dollars in clean Manitoba Hydro investments

Sustainable Development

In support of the global focus on reduction of plastic waste, which has put a spotlight on the need to improve waste management and recycling, the party advocates:

- in order to reform Recyclable Waste Regulations, (i) banning landfilling of materials in recycling programs; (ii) expanding recycling programs to include more materials, including organic waste; (iii) including commercial and industrial waste in recycling programs; (iv) working with cities and municipalities on consolidating landfills; and (v) setting ambitious targets regarding the share of municipal waste prepared for reuse and recycling to be met by 2025
- strengthening green retrofit programs by developing a \$25 million/year retrofit program, delivered through Efficiency Manitoba, to grow Manitoba’s green economy by offering financial incentives for specific renovation products and services to encourage use of new energy-saving products and technologies in homes, farms and businesses, such as smart thermostats, envelope renovations (insulation, windows, doors) and high efficiency furnaces. The party expects that at full implementation, this will achieve natural gas savings targets of 0.75% of annual domestic natural gas consumption, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 135,000 tonnes in three years while growing Manitoba’s green economy
- reducing transportation emissions, by: (i) making Manitoba’s biofuel standards the cleanest in Canada with an ethanol requirement at ten per cent and the biodiesel requirement at five per cent in 2020, in order to reduce carbon emissions from internal combustion engines, (ii) displacing fossil fuels, so as to reduce emissions by displacing 375,000 tonnes over three years, the equivalent of taking 75,000 cars off the road or planting 25 million trees; (iii) seeking advice from the Expert Advisory Council on the expansion of electric charging infrastructure to enable the transition to electrification of transportation, including public transport; and (iv) supporting tree planting through the Conservation and Grow Trusts

Species, Diversity & Wildlife

The party advocates:

- in order to improve both safety and wildlife welfare, ending night hunting, which is a dangerous and sometimes deadly activity, by (i) implementing the Safe Hunting and Shared Management Act; (ii) enhancing enforcement and prosecution of fish and wildlife offenses; and (iii) disclosing the names of individuals charged for night hunting and fish wildlife offences

- in order to end suffering in provincial fish and wildlife populations due to fragmented management regimes and unsustainable harvest resulting in local conservation closures, implementing shared management to bring all of those who care about fish and wildlife management together to work collaboratively towards sustainable fish and wildlife populations, by (i) continuing to advance a meaningful and respectful shared management framework for wildlife and fish resources; (ii) launching additional shared management boards to advise on the management of regional fish and wildlife populations; and (iii) building on steps taken to date, better managing harvest, working with commercial fishers and anglers to sustain fish populations in Manitoba's great lakes

Energy & Resources

The party states that Manitoba would benefit from better land and water planning to guide drainage and water retention efforts and make the provincial landscape more resilient in light of our changing climate

The party advocates development of a Provincial Water Management Strategy for:

- conservation of wetlands and enhanced water storage
- better drainage of high quality soils
- improved flood protection
- water quality improvements and carbon sequestration (emission reductions) through reservoirs (wetlands) holding and filtering water
- improved downstream water quality in our lakes and rivers
- enhanced biodiversity
- sustained agricultural production

Lake Winnipeg

The party advocates:

- enhanced conservation of Manitoba's wetlands to protect the water quality of Lake Winnipeg, provide habitat for multiple species, store carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous, and mitigate the effects of flood and droughts brought on by climate change
- investing an additional \$50 million in the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds (GROW) Trust Fund to raise our total commitment to \$200 million, complementing the \$154 million already invested in the Conservation Trust and in the GROW Trust Fund, such that both funds will provide stable and perpetual funding for the country's most comprehensive green stewardship programs, focusing on threatened and temporary wetlands, complementing regulatory protection of permanent and semi-permanent wetlands under the Sustainable Watersheds Act

Parks

The party advocates a renewed parks strategy, to compensate for demands for maintaining municipal services, which has caused the ability to invest in other infrastructure to decline. The strategy would include:

- promoting enhanced visitor experiences and better integration of parks with local communities
- achieving a more sustainable financial model for Manitoba parks
- partnering with other organizations on capital investment requirements and delivery of an improved parks experience
- developing opportunities for corporate/private sponsorship investment in parks including sponsorship and naming rights
- developing agreements with municipalities and First Nations to develop cottage lots, expand campgrounds, and operate and maintain these areas providing new tax, lease or fees revenue opportunities
- creation of dedicated funds/revenue accounts for provincial parks, which will allow private donations to flow to specific projects and parks
- maintaining and improving provincial trail networks, including (i) the Great Trail, which stretches 1,555 kilometers across the province and has been the object of approximately \$9 million in investment, (ii) working to keep provincial trails accessible for hikers and bikers and provide Manitobans with more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, even in winter months; (iii) partnering with 22 volunteer trail groups across the province to continue investing in and expanding the trail network; and (iv) working with Snoman and ATV Manitoba to further develop and maintain a trail system for snowmobiles and ATVs

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- climate change
- species, diversity or wildlife
- energy & resources
- sustainable development

Points to Ponder: Stewardship of Creation

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

Many voices, including scientists, the Vatican, and the United Nations, agree that in order to avoid catastrophic global heating, with resulting unpredictable increases in the number and severity of extreme weather events, loss of agricultural land, particularly in the poorest countries, and collapse of ecosystems, global average temperature increase must be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade; and that to achieve such a limit, emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide must be cut in half by 2030 and brought to zero net increase by 2050. Canada is currently committed to a 30% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, relative to 2005 levels, by 2030, but according to the federal auditor general is not on track to meet that goal.

- Are the recent massive forest fires from British Columbia to Nova Scotia linked with climate change? If so, what measures can and should Canada, Manitoba, and individual Manitobans take to combat climate change?
- What can or should federal, national or provincial, and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations, families, and individuals do, if anything, to help prevent irreversible and possibly catastrophic damage to the earth's atmosphere?
- How can or should the national or provincial government help guide Manitoba toward a sustainable, adaptable, and resilient economy and life style, in order to protect future generations and those who live in other parts of the world, while enabling Manitobans to work at materially-sustaining and spiritually fulfilling jobs?

In March 2023 the Auditor General of Manitoba issued a follow-up report (<https://www.oag.mb.ca/audit-reports/report/follow-up-of-previously-issued-recommendations-2/>) pertaining to a number of recommendations it had made to the Legislative Assembly and to responsible provincial authorities in 2020. Nineteen (19) of the recommendations related to oversight and the safety, including licensing and monitoring, of drinking water systems across the province. Of the 19 recommendations, six had been implemented or otherwise resolved.

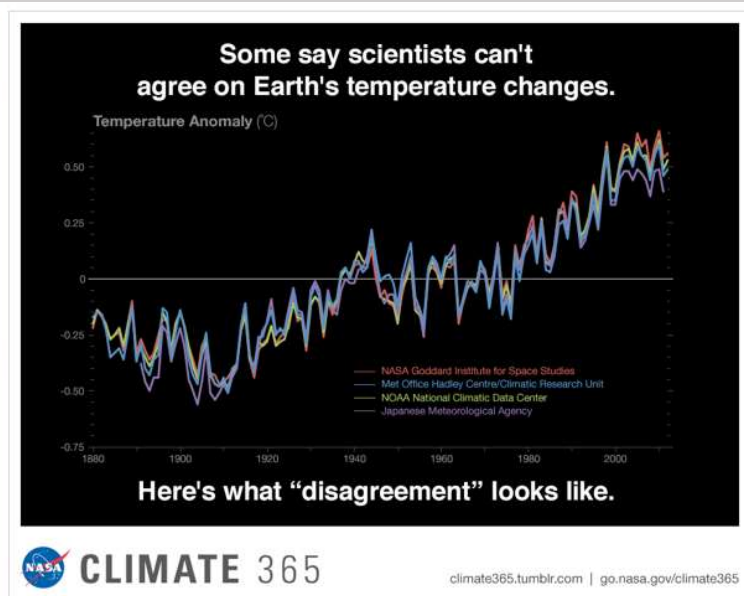
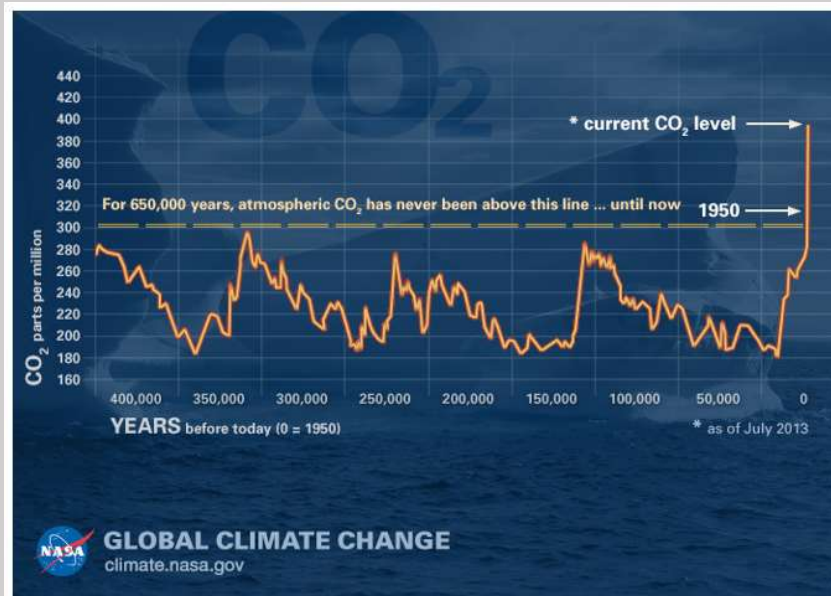
- The Church has declared that access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right. Whose responsibility is it to ensure that that right is realized? What expectations do individuals and communities have of provincial and local governments charged with responsibility for safe drinking water?
- What can or should national, federal, and local governments, the Church and other private agencies, and individuals do to ensure that safe drinking water is available to all

The same report reviewed fifteen (15) recommendations related to irregularities in financing for and management of the provincial Quarry Rehabilitation Program. Of the 15 recommendations, none had been implemented.

- Is the failure to implement measures intended to facilitate the rehabilitation of quarry mines consistent with provincial goals regarding sustainability and care for the environment?
- if not, what can be done to promote implementation?

Some candidates and parties have expressed doubt concerning the extent to which human activities are adversely affecting the climate. Many authorities, scientific and academic, including the Vatican, have disagreed, suggesting that there is broad and relatively close agreement among qualified environmental scientists that human are having an effect, and that in order to avoid catastrophic global heating, with resulting unpredictable increases in the number and severity of extreme weather events, loss of agricultural land, particularly in the poorest countries, and collapse of ecosystems, global average temperature increase must be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade; and that to achieve such a limit, emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide must be cut in half by 2030 and brought to zero net increase by 2050.

The US National Space and Aeronautics Administration has recently published the following charts. What if anything to do they tell us about climate change, or consensus among scientists?



According to the Canada Energy Regulator (<https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/data-analysis/energy-markets/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles/provincial-territorial-energy-profiles-manitoba.html>):

- Manitoba's [GHG emissions](#) in 2020 were 21.7 megatonnes (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). Manitoba's emissions increased 19% since 1990 and 6% since 2005.
- Manitoba's emissions per capita are 15.7 tonnes of CO₂e— 11% below the Canadian average of 17.7 tonnes per capita.
- The largest emitting sectors in Manitoba are agriculture at 34%, transportation at 31%, and buildings (residential and service industry) at 14% of total emissions (**Figure 7**).
- Manitoba's GHG emissions from the oil and gas sector in 2020 were 0.89 MT of CO₂e, attributable to crude oil production and oil and gas transmission.
- Manitoba generates virtually all its electricity from renewable sources. As such, it emits less than 0.1 MT CO₂e emissions from electricity generation, or 0.1% of total Canadian GHG emissions from power generation.
- The [greenhouse gas intensity](#) of Manitoba's electricity grid, measured as the GHGs emitted in the generation of the province's electric power, was 1.1 grams of CO₂e per kilowatt-hour (g of CO₂e/kWh) electricity generated in 2020. This is an 89% reduction from the province's 2005 level of 9.7 g of CO₂e/kWh. The national average in 2020 was 110 g of CO₂e/kWh (**Figure 8**).

- Manitoba can take pride in its energy production processes. Yet emissions continue to increase. What more, if anything, can or should be done to reduce emissions, and who should do it?

Family, Community & the Common Good

Role of the Family | Health Care | Elder Care | Education & Young Workers | Culture, Arts & Tourism

Catholic Teaching

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. These demands concern above all the commitment to peace, the organization of the State's powers, a sound juridical system, the protection of the environment, and the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same time human rights: **food, housing, work, education and access to culture, transportation...** - 166, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Role & Development of the Family

"Honour your father and mother."
- the 4th Commandment

The family is the primary unit in society. It is where education begins and the Word of God is first nurtured.

The Church considers the family as the first natural society, with undervived rights that are proper to it, and places it at the centre of social life. Relegating the family to a subordinate or secondary role, excluding it from its rightful position in society, would be to inflict grave harm on the authentic growth of society as a whole.

A society built on a family scale is the best guarantee against drifting off course into individualism or collectivism, because within the family the person is always at the centre of attention as an end and never as a means. It is patently clear that the good of persons and the proper functioning of society are closely connected with the healthy state of conjugal and family life. **Without families that are strong in their communion and stable in their commitment peoples grow weak.**

The priority of the family over society and the State must be affirmed... *The family, then, does not exist for society or the State, but society and the State exist for the family.*

Every social model that intends to serve the good of man must not overlook the centrality and social responsibility of the family. In their relationship to the family, society and the State are seriously obligated to observe the principle of subsidiarity. In virtue of this principle, public authorities may not take away from the family tasks which it can accomplish well by itself or in free association with other families; on the other hand, these same authorities have the duty to sustain the family, ensuring that it has all the assistance that it needs to fulfil properly its responsibilities.

- 209-214, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Church teaches that the proper role of government and other human institutions is **to foster human life and dignity by maintaining**



The party states, as matters of principle, that:

- global sustainability and justice can only be achieved when responsibility is shared at all levels of society. We are all called to take responsibility for ourselves, our families, and our communities
- common resources such as water, air, forests and other natural resources should be shared equitably. Communities create a collective culture and knowledge and the party supports everyone's right and access to the more contemporary 'common' resources that we've come to expect, e.g., education and adequate health care
- it honours the diversity of life on our planet. An eco-centric worldview values Earth's diversity in all its forms, the non-human, as well as the human
- cultural, biological, social and economic diversity are central to healthy, functioning communities

Health Care

The party states that:

- a health care system must do more than respond to illness. Health care must also promote wellness at every stage of life
- it takes seriously the broad range of personal, social, economic and environmental factors that contribute to the overall health of Manitobans
- since poverty is a primary factor leading to poor health, poverty reduction will be our most significant initiative in preventative health care. This will reduce the burden on the health care system, which in turn will contribute to its fiscal sustainability
- in addition to prevention measures, our long-term vision is to provide a strong community-based network that focuses on well-being and preventative support. Primary physical and mental health care will be delivered at a local level, within a collaborative model
- it opposes any move to privatize health care. Properly funding public health care will always require a significant allocation of the provincial budget, but it is a price we pay for a fair and equitable society in which everyone has access to health care services regardless of socio-economic circumstances. That being said, we are continually searching for the most efficient and cost effective ways to provide the health care services that are needed

The party advocates:

- respect and support for frontline health careworkers, including: (i) repeal of the Public Services Sustainability Act, to reverse the freeze on public-sector wages and honor the right to engage in collective bargaining; (ii) consulting and collaborating with front-line health workers before making any major changes to the health care system, and during any subsequent implementation process; (iii) increasing the number of health care practitioners working in the public system; (iv) eliminating mandatory overtime for health professionals; and (v) expanding opportunities for cross-training between health professionals, and implementing appropriate expansions in scope of practice
- increasing the focus on preventative, community-based health care, including (i) increasing the existing provincial sales tax rate on "junk food," and using the proceeds of this tax to increase funding for health promotion initiatives; (ii) allocating 2% of total health care spending to support best-practice preventative programs; and (iii) working toward a local, cooperative health care model in which communities have a say over their own health facilities and can cooperate to deliver health care in the best interest of the local community
- expanding health care coverage in Manitoba by: (i) providing universal basic dental care and vision care to all children 12 years of age and under; (ii) negotiating universal Pharmacare with the federal government to access volume buying and significantly reduce the cost of prescription drugs; (iii) funding conception planning under Medicare and Pharmacare; and (iv) ensuring access to abortion services across the province, including non-surgical abortion options
- improving medical and emergency medical services across Manitoba, by (i) ensuring that there are no further emergency room closures; (ii) relieving of pressure on existing emergency rooms by increasing the number of health practitioners and after hours non-urgent care; (iii) ensuring that rural and Northern communities have adequate emergency transport services; providing better support and coordination to municipalities for health professional recruitment and developing a provincial health human resource plan; increasing the utilization of internet technology to address the needs of rural and Northern patients and reduce the burden of long-distance travel
- providing increased services and support options for seniors, including (a) increasing the capacity of housing and support options for seniors so that seniors can be independent and self-sufficient as long as possible and avoid unnecessary, unwanted and costly stays in hospitals and personal care homes; (ii) support for active living programming for seniors to enhance physical, social and mental health; and increased investments in the areas of injury

social conditions that enable and encourage us to serve God in one another, and thereby to promote that which is truly in the common interest. This begins with nurturing and enabling families, as well as supporting the elderly and other marginalized members of society.

Health Care

Among the causes that greatly contribute to underdevelopment and poverty, mention must be made of illiteracy, lack of food security, the absence of structures and services, inadequate measures for guaranteeing basic healthcare, and the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation. -166, 447 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Support for the Elderly

If the elderly are in situations where they experience suffering and dependence, not only do they need health care services and appropriate assistance, but and **above all they need to be treated with love**. - 222 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Education

“May Nazareth remind us what the family is, what the communion of love is, its stark and simple beauty, its sacred and inviolable character; may it help us to see **how sweet and irreplaceable education in the family is**; may it teach us its natural function in the social order. May we finally learn the lesson of work.” – 210 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, citing St Paul VI, Address at Nazareth (5 January 1964)*

As those first responsible for the education of their children, parents have the right to choose a school for them which corresponds to their own convictions. This right is fundamental. As far as possible parents have the duty of choosing schools that will best help them in their task as Christian educators. Public authorities have the duty of guaranteeing this parental right and of ensuring the concrete conditions for its exercise. – *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2229*

Maintaining employment depends more and more on one’s professional capabilities. Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one’s responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. – 289, 290 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

“[T]here is a growing loss of the sense of history... A kind of “deconstructionism”, whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today’s culture. The

prevention, healthpromotion, and chronic disease management

- increased services for individuals with disabilities and their families, including reduced wait times for residential services for families with adult children with intellectual disabilities; increased availability of support services for children living with disabilities; and establishment and implementation of an updated FASD strategy with a focus on enhancing prevention and intervention services for people with FASD

Elder Care

The party advocates:

- providing increased services and support options for seniors, including (a) increasing the capacity of housing and support options for seniors so that seniors can be independent and self-sufficient as long as possible and avoid unnecessary, unwanted and costly stays in hospitals and personal care homes; (ii) support for active living programming for seniors to enhance physical, social and mental health; and increased investments in the areas of injury prevention, healthpromotion, and chronic disease management

Education & Young Workers

The party states that:

- it believes that an education system of quality must support students by addressing their individual needs, by providing them with high quality academic instruction, and by equipping them with the skills necessary for their future

- it acknowledges that individuals and communities have diverse learning needs and plans to provide them with appropriate funding and resources to meet those needs, including (i) addressing the financial inequities in the Manitoba Education System by providing equitable funding to all schools; and (ii) addressing further inequities by consulting with teachers and communities about the specific needs of their students and community, and addressing those needs accordingly

- it believes in assisting families in achieving these goals, as well as adults that are looking to further their education

To ensure that all students receive a quality education that meets their needs, the party advocates:

- revising the funding structure of public schools to ensure equitable funding for education, making education funding fair and transparent by funding education only through corporate and personal income taxes rather than partly through property taxes

- increasing support for students with specific needs by (i) reducing the wait time for assessing students with learning disabilities so that those who qualify for a special education designation receive early intervention and the necessary supports; (ii) providing culturally appropriate supports for newcomer students to receive early intervention when necessary; and providing funding to school divisions specifically in support of in-school, out-of-class tutoring services

- providing support in schools for children and families living in poverty, including (i) putting into place programming and services that are designed to specifically address the in-school social, physical, and emotional needs of children and youth living in poverty; and (ii) providing support to enable all parents to fully participate in the education of their children

- improving the educational experience of Indigenous students by (i) developing a provincial strategy in partnership with Indigenous groups to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Manitobans; promoting environments where Indigenous students feel a sense of welcome and belonging in public schools through the implementation of culturally appropriate educational programming and services; and (iii) developing culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Indigenous families

- updating school curriculums to promote meaningful engagement by (i) centering the curriculum on participation in projects in order to incorporate diverse subject matter and teach a variety of skills, including critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration; and (ii) requiring that all future curriculum development be done from the perspective of teaching students to be ecologically aware and literate

- providing support and autonomy to teachers and schools by (i) providing local schools with increased autonomy over their schedules and curricula in response to local needs; (ii) supporting all school divisions, in collaboration with teachers and school administrators, in creating annual professional development plans for teachers and school administrators; and (iii) repealing the Public Services Sustainability Act, which will reverse the freeze on public-sector wages and honor the right to engage in collective bargaining

- providing increased assistance to post-secondary students to promote equal access to education by (i) providing students in need of financial assistance with at least 50% of eligible assistance as non-repayable financial assistance; and (ii) introducing an income contingent repayment plan, where the repayment of student loans is based on the ability to pay

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- the role & importance of the family

- culture arts & tourism

one thing it leaves in its wake is the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism. Concern about this led me to offer the young some advice. **“If someone tells young people to ignore their history, to reject the experiences of their elders, to look down on the past and to look forward to a future that he himself holds out, doesn’t it then become easy to draw them along so that they only do what he tells them? He needs the young to be shallow, uprooted and distrustful, so that they can trust only in his promises and act according to his plans. That is how various ideologies operate: they destroy (or deconstruct) all differences so that they can reign unopposed. To do so, however, they need young people who have no use for history, who spurn the spiritual and human riches inherited from past generations, and are ignorant of everything that came before them”.**

Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, 13

Culture, Arts & Tourism

Faced with rapid technological and economic progress, and with the equally rapid transformation of the processes of production and consumption, **a great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed.** *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 376, 401

Certain economically prosperous countries tend to be proposed as cultural models for less developed countries; instead, each of those countries should be helped to grow in its own distinct way and to develop its capacity for innovation while respecting the values of its proper culture. **A shallow and pathetic desire to imitate others leads to copying and consuming in place of creating, and fosters low national self-esteem.**

We forget that “there is no worse form of alienation than to feel uprooted, belonging to no one. **A land will be fruitful, and its people bear fruit and give birth to the future, only to the extent that it can foster a sense of belonging among its members, create bonds of integration between generations and different communities,** and avoid all that makes us insensitive to others and leads to further alienation.” – *Fratelli tutti*, –51-53



Support for Families

The party advocates:

- to ensure that no child ever starts the school day hungry, implementing a K-12 universal nutritional program, and make sure that schools get the funding they need to support every single student

Health Care

The party advocates:

- Fix Health Care: reducing wait lists by supporting nurses demands for life-work balance; lifting the cap on surgeries like hip, knees and cataracts, and demanding investments in prevention to keep people healthy, like insulin pumps and supplies to manage diabetes.

Care for the Elderly

The party states:

- for years, and in some cases decades, there have been no investments in improving care and support for seniors' housing and health care in our province
- when the pandemic hit, the system broke in all the weak places - and it was oft en seniors and their families who were hit hardest
- it wants to take the protection and care of seniors in Manitoba to a new level, with more intensive preventive care, better oversight, and better housing protections

The party advocates:

- in view of their success in other jurisdictions, placing nurse practitioners in care homes to provide a higher level of preventive care. Nurse Practitioners can perform many duties and assessments comparable to physicians, including prescribing medications. Residents will see a significant improvement in the quality of care while preventing costly ambulance trips and visits to the ER and hospital
- protecting affordable housing for seniors, and preventing future sell-offs of seniors' housing, like Lions' Place, by bringing in legislation requiring the Minister to sign off on future sales, including commitment to support for affordable rents for seniors housing with current ownership
- empowering and establishing “Family Councils” to hold Personal Care Homes to account, including through legislation already introduced by the party
- improving staffing ratios to 4.1 hours of direct care per resident per day to make sure seniors get more attention and care
- ensuring seniors and their families have an independent advocate to turn to, including an independent office of a Seniors Advocate with power to take complaints and investigate on behalf of seniors and their families and report issues to the legislature, and a mandate to launch unannounced inspections of facilities to make sure they are compliant

Education & Young Workers

The party advocates:

- improving quality and inclusion in education, by ensuring that the students who are being left behind in the K-12 system have the tools and resources to succeed, and that provincial universities and colleges have the resources they need to innovate and graduate students to the peak of their abilities

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- the role & importance of the family
- culture arts & tourism



Support for the Family

The party states that public child care is a smart investment, one that meets the needs of children and the economy, while also being good for gender equity

In order to continue to work toward its goal of affordable, high-quality child care for all families, and to maximize the social and economic benefits of public child care, the party advocates:

- bringing the child care system under the Department of Education. This change recognizes the continuity from early childhood education through K-12 schooling, to post-secondary education and beyond

In order to promote good jobs and sustainable growth, the party advocates:

- building additional child care spaces for young families, and committing to an ambitious goal of affordable, high-quality, accessible child care for all families, starting with bringing the child care system under the Department of Education

The party advocates:

- helping families make greener choices and keep life affordable, while working with the Federal government to put a price on pollution and make big polluters pay

Education & Young Workers

The party states that:

- getting a good job in today's economy requires education and training more than ever before
- the days of working one job for your entire career are largely a thing of the past
- it understands that everyone's path to success will look different. Under its plan, the individual will supply the hard work and ambition, while it seeks to make the path easier by (i) making it easier to transfer credits across institutions, (ii) creating a world-class online education planner that will show which skills are in the highest demand in Manitoba; (iii) helping students chart a path to acquiring these skills; and (iv) working with industry to keep updating information about which sectors have the highest demand for more workers

To build good jobs and sustainable growth, the party advocates:

- restoring the cap on K-3 class sizes eliminated by a prior government, and putting more Educational Assistants in classrooms
- helping every child overcome the unique challenges they face by providing better supports in schools, such as mental health supports and healthy food
- helping post-secondary students pay for their schooling while learning valuable job skills with co-op job placements and paid internships
- making university and college more affordable by freezing tuition growth to inflation and keeping student loans interest-free
- restoring the ACCESS bursary for rural, northern and Indigenous students
- helping young agricultural producers by reviewing Crown Lands policy

Health Care

In view of cuts implemented by a prior government, the party advocates:

- reopening closed emergency rooms and opening more acute care beds
- end reduction in nursing staffs and instead hiring more nurses in critical areas, and seeking to reset the government's relationship with nurses and health care professionals
- cancelling planned cuts to CancerCare, and improved services for cancer patients
- transforming mental health care for Manitobans, including appointing a Minister Responsible for Mental Health and Addictions, creating new community-based mental health services, doubling the number of counsellors in ACCESS Centres, and examining how to fund some eligible mental health costs for families
- increasing community-based health care, offering more family-friendly hours in clinics, and training more Nurse Practitioners
- making Manitoba a leading voice for universal national Pharmacare and working with the Federal government to lower drug costs for Manitoba families
- reinstating coverage for outpatient physiotherapy and sleep-apnea treatment, and reviving the Special Drugs Program through an enhanced Pharmacare program
- cancelling plans to privatize home care, which is more expensive, and redirect the savings into improving home care for Manitobans, including ensuring that the length of home care visits reflects the care offered, so that every person receives the time and support they need
- improved palliative care, including better training for health care professionals and development of a new province-wide palliative strategy
- prioritizing women's health by supporting access to reproductive health care, offering free menstrual products in schools, reinstating lactation consultants released by the prior government, and retaining recently trained midwives
- improving health care for northern Manitobans health care by reinstating the obstetrics program in Flin Flon and Lifelight, hiring more midwives in northern communities, and partnering with the Federal government on new hospital-level health centres in northern First Nations communities
- addressing social determinants of health by: improving Rent Assist by reversing recent cuts; improving EIA rates; restoring the Getting Started benefit; and beginning to transform EIA into a basic income by eliminating the "welfare wall" as a disincentive to work; and striking a task force on a basic income and a dignified income for people with severe and prolonged disabilities

- ensuring that LGBTQIA2S+ people have access to health care services that are respectful and appropriate; introducing a non-binary option on Manitoba government ID such as health registration cards and driver's licences
- reducing health care bureaucracy at the highest levels, and ensuring any changes to health care administration prioritize front-line services above highly-paid bureaucrats
- opposing health care premiums
- to improve healthcare, the party would commit to spending \$148 million over four years, while bringing the budget from a \$270 million deficit (2020/21) to a 0.5 million surplus
- emphasis would be placed on prevention and the social determinants of health, including (i) reopening hospital emergency rooms in Winnipeg and adding acute care beds, (ii) training and hiring nurses and nurse practitioners, (iii) measures to support mental health care for Manitobans, and (iv) measures to support women's health and northern health

Culture, Arts & Tourism

In order to promote good jobs and sustainable growth, the party advocates:

- supporting French-language students by restoring the Assistant Deputy Minister in the Bureau de l'éducation française and, working together, developing a strategy to recruit French-language teachers

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- the priority or role of the family



The Role and Purpose of Family

The party states that, as a matter of principle:

- it is committed to building a province where people can succeed
- it wants a province where families can thrive and enjoy strong economic and social development
- it aspires to create a climate where all can reach their full potential
- it supports promotion of conditions where the security of family and supportive communities allow all children to play, learn and develop into healthy and successful citizens

Support for families

The party states that

- since it formed government in 2016, it reduced PST from 8% to 7%, saving a family of four an average of \$500 per year
- within four years of forming government in 2016, it increased spending in support of families from \$1.9 billion to \$2.2 billion
- as part of a 'Five-Point Guarantee' introduced prior to the last election, it committed to a tax rollback that would save families an average of \$2,020 over four years, including (i) delivering reduction of the PST from 8% to 7%, resulting in \$325 million to taxpayers each year for the next four years, (ii) ensuring that 7,720 additional low-income taxpayers will pay no income tax, through indexing of personal income brackets and personal tax exemptions; (iii) removing PST from home insurance, haircuts, and fees for will and tax preparation; (iv) eliminating probate fees; and (v) beginning phase-out of education property taxes. The reduction would be broken down, over four years, as follows:

* 1% PST Reduction from 8% to 7%: \$1335 million

* Indexing of BPA and Brackets: \$124 million

* Elimination of Probate Fees: \$32 million

* PST Exemptions: (i) home insurance, \$110; (ii) personal care services, \$22; (iii) preparing tax forms, \$10; (iv) preparing wills, \$4; (v) reduction in education taxes, \$141 = \$287 million

**** Total provincial tax savings, over four years: \$1,778 million

**** Total savings for each of 880,000 taxpayers: \$2020.00

Early Learning & Childcare

To improve early learning and child care, the party advocates:

- (i) improving the affordability and availability of child care; (ii) building 1,510 more school-based spaces; (iii) developing a new Portable Child Care Benefit that will extend up to \$500 per month to help 3,000 lower-income families find child care; (iv) creating new spaces sooner with help from the private sector; (v) reviewing the funding model to keep existing centres open; and (vi) addressing shortages and meeting staff training requirements at child care

centres

Children & Family Services

To improve outcomes and continue reducing the number of children in care, the party advocates:

- reducing apprehensions and increasing reunifications
- increasing predictable funding made available to CFS Authorities to provide them with flexibility to direct resources where most needed
- developing a serious injury reporting regulation to identify the most effective and efficient way to report serious injuries
- strengthening Emergency Placement Resources (EPR) to prioritize the best interests of children and long-term permanent care arrangements
- working toward fewer children in care for fewer days with better outcomes by legislating new amendments that align with Bill C-92

Health Care

The party states that:

- as a matter of principle, it is committed to building a province where access to high quality and timely health care, and access to resources that promote healthy living, are available to all
- since it formed government in 2016, (i) it reduced ambulance fees by 50%, (ii) shortened emergency room and other wait times, and (iii) has made record investments in health care, more than \$400 million more, in 2019, than in the 2016 budget.
- within four years of forming government in 2016, it increased health spending from \$6.2 billion to \$6.6 billion
- as part of a 'Five-Point Guarantee' made prior to the last election, it would devote \$2 billion in new funding to health care, for projects including (i) building a new emergency department at St Boniface Hospital, (ii) hiring 200 new nurses, (iii) hiring 80 more rural paramedics, (iv) continuing to recruit additional physicians, (v) expanding mental health and addiction treatment services, (vi) women's health matters, (vii) creation of a \$40 million front line idea fund, to gather innovative ideas from front-line workers on how to improve service (viii) increased capacity for hip, knee, and cataract surgeries, (ix) more echocardiograms and ultrasounds, (x) funding of new services for seniors, and (xi) developing a new diabetes prevention strategy
- improving emergency assessment, treatment and mental health walk-in services for high-risk, sexually exploited girls
- establishing a four-year Bachelor of Midwifery program at the University of Manitoba beginning in 2020 for up to six students, including three northern indigenous students
- lowering wait times for treatment of Manitobans with eating disorders by: (i) investing in two additional inpatient beds; (ii) establishing a medically supported feeding clinic for nutritional resuscitation of inpatients as well as outpatients who require tube feeding or meal support; (iii) expanding outpatient program capacity; (iv) improving programming for co-existing eating disorder and substance use disorder patient

The party's 2023 budget includes investments of \$7.9-billion in the health care system, including:

- * providing \$668-million more to heal health care
- \$130-million to reduce the diagnostic and surgical backlog
- continuing to invest \$200-million into the Health Human Resource Action Plan
- a \$120-million infusion to the Pharmacare program, including extending coverage for insulin pumps for eligible adults with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes
- \$1.2-billion in multi-year capital investments in rural hospitals and other health infrastructure, in addition to renovations in Winnipeg to the St. Boniface Hospital, the Grace Hospital, CancerCare Manitoba and the Health Sciences Centre
- creating a new Hearing Aid Program for seniors
- an additional \$15.9-million to advance initiatives under the seniors strategy
- \$55-million to implement the recommendations from the Stevenson report on long-term care
- ongoing funding for RAAM clinics, including a new clinic in Winnipeg, which will be Indigenous-led through a partnership with the Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre

Addictions

In order to provide continuous care for those caught in addiction, the party advocates:

- providing continuous care including:
 - * acute medical sobering unit
 - * new recovery and drop-in centre
 - * enhanced mobile services
 - * an additional Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinic
 - * more supportive recovery housing
- piloting a mentorship-based model to fight addictions using cultural services and community partners for families with parental substance abuse issues
- continuing to invest in supports for children and youth with complex needs, including (i) expanded Street Reach services in Winnipeg and Thompson; (ii) investing in Indigenous led healing services; (iii) expanding school-based mental health and addictions supports

To address escalating addiction and crime rates in Winnipeg and across the province, the party advocates:

- modern education for children, including (i) development of a modern anti-addictions curriculum, emphasizing the role of peer pressure, social media and cultural influences, with evidence-based lessons; and (ii) engaging students with these modernized, age-appropriate learning outcomes related to substance abuse and prevention, starting in Grade 3
- providing more treatment services, faster, based on a comprehensive overhaul of mental and health addictions within the province; and (i) adding 12 new treatment and waiting spaces for those suffering from meth psychosis and other mental health and addictions issues at the Health Sciences Centre's emergency room; (ii) creating a new sobering centre; and (iii) adding supportive housing, a new RAAM clinic and a new recovery and drop-in centre

Education and Young Workers

The party states that:

- as a matter of principle, it is committed to building a province where access to a quality education and affordable post-secondary education complete with resources for lifelong learning throughout the province is available to all
- within four years of forming government in 2016, it increased spending on education from \$4.1 billion to \$4.6 billion
- as part of a 'Five-Point Guarantee' offered during the prior election, it has committed to:
 - * building 20 new schools within ten years, across the province
 - * developing a \$25 million Teachers' Idea Fund, to promote innovative projects to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes, teachers' practices, and student engagement and well-being
 - * fast-tracking development of Manitoba's Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy, to focus on strengthening connections between industry, employers and apprenticeship and training providers
 - * expanding demand-led training opportunities, where employers and employment service organizations develop customized training opportunities leading to employment
 - * renewing Manitoba's Sector Council program to increase employer investment in training, and ensure post-secondary training is aligned with the labour market to give our students the best chance for rewarding career
 - * in order to help ensure that students with financial need can access post-secondary education, it enhanced provincial matching funds for scholarships and bursaries, to \$6.75 million, and is committed to build Scholarship and Bursary support to \$10 million of 1:2 matching funds, resulting in \$30 million available to students after private sector matches
 - * renewing Manitoba's employment and income assistance framework to ensure simplified and modernized benefit design and delivery, and enhanced pathways for employable recipients to enter the labour market
 - * improved alignment with labour market needs and other benefit systems including programs offered by the Government of Canada, student financial aid and other employment training supports
 - * to build upon the 9,900 Manitobans participating in registered apprenticeship programming, including 1,000 in the high school apprenticeship program, expanding the number of high school apprenticeship program participants in areas with unmet demand for training, and offering more opportunities for increased access to hands-on skilled trades programming for young people between the ages of 13-16
- support young workers while improving the environment, doubling current funding for non-profit-organizations and municipalities providing Manitoba youth opportunities to take up summer jobs including technological and innovation projects, work in provincial and municipal campgrounds and waterbody cleanups

Culture, Arts & Tourism

The party states that:

- as a matter of principle, it is committed to encouragement and celebration of a vibrant and diverse culture of the arts, sports and volunteerism secured and sustained by a strong, steady economy
- to bolster the provincial film industry, which totaled \$723 million between 2012 and 2017, focusing on provincial strengths by increasing the broader ('all spend') portion of the current film tax credit from 30% to 38% of all production costs, to encourage more permanent investments in film production

Points to Ponder: Family, Community & the Common Good

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

Families & Child Well-Being

- When, if ever, is it appropriate for governments to place limits on the right of parents to make decisions pertaining to the care or education of their children?
- To what extent is child poverty a problem in Manitoba? To the extent it is a problem, what, should be done about it, and by whom? By federal, national or provincial governments, by individuals, or by private, non-profit, or community organizations, including the Church and lay Catholic organizations?

– Some political parties have suggested that full participation by all eligible work force members, including both parents of two-parent couples and single parents, is critical in order to maximize return from the national economy, so that economic well-being can be optimized, and that in order to maximize those returns and ensure full economic participation, it is critical to ensure that affordable child care is accessible by all families. Which is more important for children, a stable and dignified home with engaged and loving parents, or maximized national economic returns? Is it possible, through appropriate economic measures, to adjust job remuneration and job opportunities to enable a couple to afford both a family and a dignified home while only one of the couple is working?

Health Care

In September 2018 the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer (CPPHO) of Manitoba recognized (https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/cppho/docs/ps/health_equity.pdf) that:

- Some populations experience a disproportionate burden of poor health outcomes and shorter life expectancy. These populations include Indigenous peoples, newcomers and refugees, visible minorities, people living in poverty, persons with disabilities and people experiencing long-term unemployment, homelessness or other types of economic and social marginalization.
- First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples face persistent health gaps resulting from historic and contemporary traumatic experiences related to racism and colonization.
- Governments spend a large portion of their budget (more than 40 per cent for most provinces and territories) on the health care system with the bulk spent on acute or hospital care. Proportionately less is spent on prevention and early intervention services such as public health and primary health care.
- only 25 per cent of overall health outcomes are influenced by the health care system and its services. Other factors, known as the “social determinants of health” (SDoH), contribute up to 60 per cent to a population’s health status. The social determinants of health are the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age – such as housing, food, income, natural and built environments, social safety net and social inclusion.
- Health is recognized internationally as a human right
- Health is a shared responsibility as most factors that influence population health are outside the traditional mandate of the provincial department of health and health-service organizations.
- the health of a population and the health gaps between population groups has profound consequences for health-system budgets and for the long-term sustainability of the healthcare system.
- Closing health equity gaps is achievable, requiring upstream action on the social determinants of health.
- Including health equity as an essential component of government policy will improve health outcomes. Significant opportunity exists when the work of the health ministry is enhanced by co-ordinated action with other departments. “Health in All Policies” provides an approach that accounts for the health consequences of public policies across sectors.

In the five years since these statements were made, how has Manitoba acted to improve Health Equity? What more, if anything, remains to be done, and by whom should it be done?

- to what extent is it appropriate for federal, state, or local governments to provide taxpayer-supported health care to citizens? Is it appropriate to give any medical services to anyone, any time they ask? If not, how can one properly and even-handedly determine which needs should be met at public expense?
- to what extent, if any, is it appropriate to rely on private service providers, including non-profit and community organizations, such as church-supported hospitals, to provide health care services? For example, it can sometimes seem that care for the whole person – including for example spiritual care – is lacking when care is provided by various institutions. Would it be beneficial to make spiritual and other sorts of specialized care, in addition to general health care, available through institutions such as religious organizations? What are the costs and benefits of providing services through the government, private businesses, charities, or other community organizations?
- in a publicly-funded healthcare system, to what extent is it fair for governments – and taxpayers – to expect individuals to make any efforts to maintain their own health?
- under what conditions, if any, is it just to require health care providers or practitioners to participate in morally questionable practices such as abortion or assisted death, when it is contrary to their understanding of morality or their religious beliefs?
- while birth control pills are covered by most provincial health care systems, the costs of counselling for natural family planning are not, and can be a challenge for young families. Is it reasonable to provide free drugs to young couples while requiring those who seek natural, non-chemical methods, to pay, or should the federal government consider requiring coverage for proven natural family planning methods?

Care for the Elderly

- Some parties are calling for increased space in publicly-funded facilities for the elderly and long-term care patients. Should any other solutions, such as nurturing a culture of life-long intergenerational family cohesiveness and support, including home caregivers, be considered also, in addition to or as alternatives to long-term residential care? For example, could society encourage the building of a culture of multiple generations living together in appropriately-constructed homes? As Archbishop Lepine of Montreal once said, “the children belong to the parents, not the state. The same is true for parents.”
- Who should be responsible for long-term support for the elderly? Themselves? Their families? The federal or provincial governments? Charitable institutions? Businesses? Some combination of these? To what extent?

Education

In March 2023 the Auditor General of Manitoba issued a follow-up report (<https://www.oag.mb.ca/audit-reports/report/follow-up-of-previously-issued-recommendations-2/>) pertaining to a number of recommendations it made to the Legislative Assembly and to responsible provincial authorities in 2020. Twenty-three (23) of the recommendations related to strategic objectives and priorities in desired educational outcomes for publicly-funded post-secondary institutions, and oversight and accountability in accomplishing those goals. They were addressed to each of the seven public post-secondary institutions in the province. The Auditor General noted that none of the 23 recommendations had yet been implemented.

- public education is just 150 years old in Manitoba. What are the goals of public education? To what extent do those goals include moral choices made by the province? Who is responsible for making moral choices concerning public education? Who is responsible for monitoring moral education in Manitoba?
- is it fair for citizens to expect that governmental organizations respond to requests from independent auditors such as the Auditor General, who have been appointed for purposes of monitoring the use of public resources?

An Economy to Serve People

The Dignity & Importance of Work | Poverty Reduction | Jobs, Unions, & Employment | Industries, Infrastructure, Corporations, and Consumers

Catholic Teaching

The Dignity & Importance of Work

The use of one's gifts to seek and serve God **necessarily includes work**, by which humans cooperate with God in God's continuing act of creation. **Work has a place of honour because it is a source of the conditions for a decent life**, and is, in principle, an effective instrument against poverty. **But one must not succumb to the temptation of making an idol of work**, for the ultimate and definitive meaning of life is not to be found in work. Work is essential, but it is God — and not work — who is the origin of life and the final goal of man.

The underlying principle of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. The demand of justice, which stems from it, precedes concerns for profit: **"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it"** (Prov. 15:16). **"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice"** (Prov. 16:8). – 257, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Work is not only an essential part of life, but **when we work in accordance with our inner passions – our individual vocations – it is a joy. And it is also an obligation to one's family, neighbors, and nation.** Man must work, both because the Creator has commanded it and in order to respond to the need to maintain and develop his own humanity. We are heirs of the work of generations and at the same time shapers of the future of all who will live after us. – 274, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

But work, and particularly dignified work, **is not readily available** for all who seek it. **Those who are unemployed or underemployed suffer the profound negative consequences** that such a situation creates in a personality and they run the risk of being marginalized within society, of becoming victims of social exclusion... – 289, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Poverty Reduction

The poor, the marginalized and in all cases those whose living conditions interfere with their proper growth should be **the focus of particular concern.** To this end, the preferential option for the poor should be reaffirmed in all its force... Today, this **love of preference for the poor, and the decisions which it inspires in us**, cannot but embrace the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without health care and, above all, those without hope of a better future." – 182, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Catholics are called to remember Jesus' own words: **What we do to the**



The party states, as a matter of principle, that rather than people being subservient to the economy, the economy should provide for human needs within the natural limits of the earth

The party further states that:

- it believes that the provincial economy must work for everyone, including future generations
- Manitobans want to embrace a clean, green economy without delay, one that will lead the province into the very realistic, carbon-free future
- it believes in divesting from projects related to fossil fuels. World experience indicates that when money is invested in alternative transportation systems and renewable energy, more jobs are created, household costs are reduced, and overall pollution is minimized
- it believes in supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, especially those who ensure social, environmental, and economic benefits. It recognizes that a healthy small business community means more jobs, more diversity, and more resilient communities
- it supports the development of alternative business structures, such as social enterprises and community economic development. It understands that such community organizations emerge to meet local needs, and are a valuable part of a healthy economy and healthy communities
- the green economy thrives on meaningful citizen participation, promotes community involvement and does not accept poverty or social exclusion
- it is important to minimize and re-purposes waste, use resources efficiently, and protect natural ecosystems
- it looks for solutions which create good jobs, reduce household costs, reduce pollution and build a safe, healthy future for our children and grandchildren

To ensure an economy that works for everyone, the party advocates:

- ending subsidization of dangerous and polluting industries with public money and lax environmental standards
- transitioning the provincial economy away from reliance on the use of fossil fuels
- support for businesses interested in making the transition to renewable energy
- holding polluters accountable by ensuring that they pay by introducing a fee on a broad range of fossil fuels that will rise each year, thereby encouraging behavioral change, and providing revenues to be used in transitioning to a carbon-free economy
- integrating environmental and social accountability in all economic processes, including (i) undertaking measures intended to ensure that all economic activity and its impact are both ecologically sustainable and socially just; (ii) undertaking actions to replace jobs lost during the transition away from fossil fuels with a larger amount of better, long-term employment opportunities with more social and environmental benefits; developing and using a "quality of life" measurement of the impact of economic activity in addition to continuing to measure and report on changes to the provincial Gross Domestic Product
- localizing the provincial economy, by (i) making local industry a priority by encouraging trade that is sensible, sustainable, and ultimately beneficial to Manitobans; (ii) supporting and investing in small Manitoban companies producing goods for local markets by directing government assistance toward smaller businesses, especially new and young independent entrepreneurs; supporting and investing in community economic development initiatives

Poverty Reduction

The party states that:

- it acknowledges that poverty is a complex issue that must be addressed on many levels
- it seeks to mitigate poverty through removing barriers in education and training, health care, childcare, housing, and child protection
- it wants to equalize access to services that promote equity and address social marginalization, thereby expanding opportunities for people to escape the cycle of poverty
- it believes that it is important to ensure that everyone has a financial support net, provided in the most cost-efficient and effective manner possible
- the current method of providing income assistance to Manitobans is inefficient and costly to administer, with difficult-to-navigate bureaucratic processes. By introducing a Basic Income, it would be able to support Manitobans in a way that is efficient and that respects inherent human dignity
- introducing a Basic Income will support to individuals and families living in poverty, and drastically reduce the number of children living in poverty in Manitoba. It will reduce poverty rates among those groups that are disproportionately affected, such as seniors and people living with disabilities. It will also provide students and entrepreneurs with a safety net that will encourage education, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- investing in people pays huge dividends in long-term cost savings for health care, justice, and social services

least among us, we do to Him. – Matthew 25:31-46

“Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. **The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work**”. – Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, 128

An Economy to Serve People

I encourage financial experts and political leaders to ponder the words of one of the sages of antiquity: ‘Not to share one’s wealth with the poor is to steal from them and to take away their livelihood. It is not our own goods which we hold, but theirs...’ Money must serve, not rule! –Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, 57-58

The development of economic activity and growth in production are **meant to provide for the needs of human beings. Economic life is not meant solely to multiply goods produced and increase profit or power**; it is ordered first of all to the service of persons, of the whole man, and of the entire human community. For many people, a living wage and dignified housing are beyond reach. – 2426, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The planning capacity of a society oriented towards the common good and looking to the future **is measured... above all on the basis of the employment prospects that it is able to offer. Maintaining employment depends more and more on one’s professional capabilities.** Instructional and educational systems must not neglect human or technological formation, which are necessary for gainfully fulfilling one’s responsibilities.

Young people should be taught to act upon their own initiative, to accept the responsibility of facing with adequate competencies the risks connected with a fluid economic context that is often unpredictable in the way it evolves. –271-290, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Small businesses, trades, and crafts

The **decentralization of production**, which assigns to smaller companies several tasks previously undertaken by larger production interests, **gives vitality and new energy** to the area of small and medium-sized businesses. In this way, alongside traditional artisans there emerge new businesses characterized by small production interests at work in modern production sectors or in decentralized activities of larger companies.

Work in small and medium-sized businesses, the work of artisans and independent work can represent an occasion to make the actual work experience more human, both in terms of the possibility of establishing positive personal relationships in smaller-sized communities and in terms of the opportunities for greater initiative and industriousness. In these sectors, however, there are more than just a few cases of unjust

- ending poverty is good for individuals, and good for all Manitobans

To end the cycle of poverty and create an equitable society for all, the party advocates:

- introduction of a Basic Income (BI), administered through the income tax system and funded by the removal of selected refundable and non-refundable tax credits
- the BI plan would include:
 - **Eligibility:** Any adult 18+ in Manitoba who has filed two consecutive tax returns
 - **The Guarantee:** \$7,200 for a single adult family and \$10,180 for a two adult family
 - **The Benefit Reduction Rate:** 13.5 per cent
 - **Exit Level (at which G=\$0):** \$53,333 for a one adult family; \$75,407 for a two adult family.
- **Definition of Income Used to Reduce the Value of the Guarantee:** Net Nuclear Family income which includes the following income sources for all adults in the family: earnings, public and private pension benefits, interest on investments, dividends, rental income, capital gains & losses, employment insurance benefits, Guaranteed Income Supplements and Spouses Allowances, Worker’s Compensation benefits, Old Age Security and Canada Child Benefits. It does not include provincial transfer payments from Social Assistance, 55PLUS, Manitoba Child Benefit or Rent Assist.
- ending homelessness, by (i) working with individuals, community organizations, and governments at all levels, to prevent, reduce and end homelessness in Manitoba by 2025; (ii) implementing a Housing First strategy to address homelessness; (iii) increasing the supply of affordable housing through cooperatives and community supported projects; and (vi) restoring the cuts made to the Rent Assist Program
- ensuring income security for seniors by protecting pension plans, by (i) working with the federal government on an ongoing basis to ensure the adequacy and fiscal sustainability of the Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Supplement and Guaranteed Income Supplement until such time such measures could be replaced by a joint federal-provincial Basic Income; and (ii) enacting new legislation to require the courts and the Pension Commissioner and the Pension Commission of Manitoba to apply trust law to protect pension trust funds and earnings on behalf of the beneficiaries as defined by those pension plans and pension trust agreements
- introducing a fare-free public transit system to reduce household transportation costs and make transportation accessible to all Manitobans
- ensuring that quality, affordable child care is available for all Manitobans, by (i) increasing the number of spaces available for child care to meet the rising demand; and (ii) ensuring that the cost of child care exceeds no more than 10% of household income

Jobs, Unions & Employment

The party advocates:

- prioritizing the well-being and fundamental rights of workers by (i) enouraging collective bargaining as a fundamental human right, and respecting collective bargaining agreements; (ii) implementing a 35 hour work week to promote work/life balance and protect the health and well-being of workers; (iii) ensuring that farm employees receive the same protections as in any other industry, including employment, labour, safety and workers’ compensation protection; and (iv) ensuring rights and protections for front line health care and support workers

Industries, infrastructure, corporations and consumers

Agriculture

The party states that:

- it defines agricultural success by measuring the well-being of farms, the farmers that own them, and the communities in which they belong
- its long-term vision for rural Manitoba is for more small-scale farms to provide Manitobans with quality foods and other products, using sustainable and regenerative practices, and for those farms to be supported by the communities that surround them.
- it wants to work towards a food system that puts farmers’ well-being first, while providing good jobs and improving the air, water, and soil for future generations
- it does not believe that Manitobans must choose between protecting the environment or protecting industry. With the use of sustainable and regenerative practices, the province can build strong and vibrant farming communities that work together to improve our environment and create resilient, local food systems

The party advocates:

- providing support to new farmers by (i) directing government assistance toward new, smaller farms, ending the practice of giving big grants to already established profitable farms; and (ii) creating a land bank to provide retiring farmers with new succession opportunities and help make land available and affordable to new farmers
- reducing the financial burden of all farmers by (i) reviewing provincial farm land ownership laws to discourage land price speculation by non-farming shareholders, pension plans and foreign corporations; (ii) ending farmland school taxation; and (iii) supporting the rights of farmers to save their own seeds

treatment, of poorly paid and, above all, uncertain work. – 315, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Industries, Innovation, & Agriculture

Thanks to technological innovations, the world is being enriched with new professions while others are disappearing. In the present phase of transition there is a continuous movement of workers from the industrial sector to that of services... In particular, there is an increase in...part-time, temporary and “non-traditional” employment... – 313, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Unions & Workers’ Rights

The demands of competition, technological innovation and the complexities of financial fluxes **must be brought into harmony** with the defense of workers and their rights. – 313, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Any form of materialism or economic tenet that tries to reduce the worker to a mere instrument of production, a simple labour force with an exclusively material value, would hopelessly distort the essence of work and strip it of its most noble and basic human quality. 270-271, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Among the rights of workers, the Church recognizes:

- the right to a just wage;
 - the right to rest;
 - the right “to a working environment and to manufacturing processes which are not harmful to the workers’ physical health or to their moral integrity”;
 - the right that one’s personality in the workplace should be safeguarded “without suffering any affront to one’s conscience or personal dignity;
 - the right to appropriate subsidies that are necessary for the subsistence of unemployed workers and their families;
 - the right to a pension and to insurance for old age, sickness, and in case of work-related accidents;
 - the right to social security connected with maternity;
 - the right to assemble and form associations.
- 301, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Church recognizes the fundamental role played by labour unions...

Such organizations, while pursuing their specific purpose with regard to the common good, are a **positive influence for social order and solidarity**, and are therefore an indispensable element of social life. Work, because of its subjective or personal character, is superior to every other factor connected with productivity; this principle applies, in particular, with regard to capital.

The Church’s social doctrine teaches that **relations within the world of work must be marked by cooperation**: hatred and attempts to

- increasing financial opportunities for farmers by (i) diversifying market opportunities to help stabilize and balance agricultural commodity markets, reducing Manitoba’s dependence on exports to the US and China; (ii) working to open new provincial, regional and local market opportunities and new international markets which appreciate Manitoba quality; and (iii) directing government procurement toward ‘Buy Manitoba’
- working with farmers to move away from greenhouse gas intensive agricultural practices by (i) encouraging the use of regenerative farming practices to reduce greenhouse gases, increase plant growth, and increase species diversity on pastures; (ii) providing transition programs to support farmers who wish to transition to organic and/or regenerative food production; (iii) encouraging and supporting the transition to energy independence on farms; and (iv) encouraging clean energy production on farms, such as solar, wind, geothermal, small scale hydro energy, and energy storage capacity installations

Infrastructure

The party states that:

- in order to achieve a truly sustainable, low-carbon society, efficiency and intelligent design need to be at the core of all new infrastructure in the province
- it recognizes that some of these infrastructural changes take more time than others; however, we are also aware that in the face of the climate crisis these changes must begin now

To ensure low carbon, pollution-free and resilient communities, the party advocates:

- expanding green transportation and infrastructure by: (i) improving active transportation opportunities, such as cycling, with further infrastructure investments; (ii) encouraging the creation of an intercity bus service in Manitoba; (iii) promoting the use of electric vehicles in Manitoba through fee-bate programs, government fleet purchases, and the installation of a greater number of electric car charging stations; (iv) providing Winnipeg and other municipalities with assistance to purchase Manitoba-made electric buses; (v) providing Winnipeg and other municipalities with the option for fare-free public transit; and (vi) exploring efficient and sustainable approaches to road maintenance and construction
- encouraging the creation of land-use projects such as urban greenspaces, urban forests, and rooftop gardens in order to decrease rainwater runoff, and cool down cities during warm summers; and (ii) exploring available options to protect urban canopies from blight and disease
- moving provincial solid waste management towards zero-waste by: (i) implementing a system of high environmental handling fees and adequate rebates to consumers for returning recyclable items; (ii) implementing province-wide municipal composting programs for residential, industrial, commercial and institutional sectors; (iii) implementing a ban on all unnecessary single-use plastics, and exploring additional strategies to encourage the reduction of other plastic waste; implementing ban on all materials that cannot be recycled; supporting local initiatives that utilize local waste for the creation of new products



Poverty Reduction

The party states that:

- the 2022 Winnipeg Street Census showed that 68% of those who are experiencing homelessness are Indigenous, with 89% of those sleeping outdoors being Indigenous. It is estimated that more than half, 52%, of people who are homeless were once in custody of Manitoba’s Child and Family Services (CFS) system
- Manitoba’s ‘end homelessness’ policy requires six months of homelessness before people can get help
- organizations across the province are doing great work already, but need to be supported with long-term and stable funding to be able to maximize their resources

The party advocates:

- ending provincial homelessness within two years, by (i) implementing “same-day housing” by adapting models from Medicine Hat and other cities where rapid housing with relevant supports is the norm, (ii) to help people escape homelessness and poverty for good, assessing and treating the reasons people are homeless including poverty, addictions, the Child and Family Services System; Learning Disabilities; ADHD; FASD; autism; and those who are 2SLGBTQ; and (iii) creating a dashboard Linked to Supports, updated daily, to help people and organizations navigate to the help they need and find and use food, services, warming locations and shelter

Jobs, Unions & Employment

The party advocates:

- to improve health wait times for Manitobans, and encourage workers to stay or join the public health system, introducing ‘Thank You Retention Bonuses’

eliminate the other are completely unacceptable. This is also the case because in every social system **both “labour” and “capital” represent indispensable components of the process of production.**

No Christian, in light of the fact that he belongs to a united and fraternal community, should feel that he has the right not to work and to live at the expense of others (cf. 2 Thes 3:6-12). Rather, all are charged... to make it a point of honour to work with their own hands, so as to be dependent on nobody (1 Thes 4:12), and to practise a solidarity which is also material by sharing the fruits of their labour with “those in need” (Eph 4:28). – 264, 305-307, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.*

Corporations & Competition, and Consumers

You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.
– the 10th Commandment

The individual profit of an economic enterprise, although legitimate, must never become the sole objective. **Social utility is an objective of even higher order.** When the free market carries out the important functions mentioned above it becomes a service to the common good and to integral human development. When focused on profit alone, however, the market can degenerate into an inhuman and alienating institution, with uncontrollable repercussions.

Freedom in the economic sector... must be regulated by appropriate legal norms so that it will be placed at the service of integral human freedom... A great deal of educational and cultural work is urgently needed, **including the education of consumers in the responsible use of their power of choice, the formation of a strong sense of responsibility among producers and among people in the mass media in particular,** as well as necessary intervention by public authorities. In order to balance the principle of solidarity with the rights and obligations of the individual, **the State’s intervention in the economic environment must be neither invasive nor absent, but commensurate with society’s real needs.** “The State has a duty to sustain business activities by **creating conditions which will ensure job opportunities,** by stimulating those activities where they are lacking or by supporting them in moments of crisis. The State has the further right to intervene when particular monopolies create delays or obstacles to development. –305-307, 351, 376 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.*

There is a growing loss of the sense of history, which leads to even further breakup. A kind of “deconstructionism”, whereby human freedom claims to create everything starting from zero, is making headway in today’s culture. The one thing it leaves in its wake is **the drive to limitless consumption and expressions of empty individualism** –12, *Fratelli Tutti*

Transportation & Infrastructure

The demands of the common good... are strictly connected to respect for and the integral promotion of the person and his fundamental rights. Among other things, these demands concern commitment to **the provision of essential services to all, some of which are at the same**

of \$10,000 to nurses who have been working in the public system, \$10,000 to nurses who return to the public system for two years, and \$5,000 to all other health care workers

Industries, Infrastructure, Corporations, and Consumers

The party advocates:

- stronger, fairer business supports, especially for Manitoba-owned businesses to build and grow after the pandemic, including supports that are fair and based on need, rather than personal relationships



An Economy to Serve People

The party states that:

- one of the best things about Manitoba is that a good quality of life is affordable for families
- while most Manitobans are not rich, things such as camping in a provincial park, fishing trips, or maybe spending time at a family cottage on one of Manitoba’s 100,000 lakes are all within reach
- but in recent years it has become more expensive to heat your home, or to go to university or college, and in some places property taxes have risen. There have also been attempts to raise the cost of auto insurance in order to protect the profits of private insurance brokers
- there have been promises of attempts to implement a health-care premium, in effect forcing Manitobans to pay a new tax on health care
- the climate crisis, which is the defining issue of our time, with far-reaching global consequences and real effects here at home, also introduces economic and health challenges
- job loss is a possibility due to disruptions in industry and agriculture
- its plan for promoting good jobs and sustainable growth would cost \$197 million over four years, while bringing the budget from a deficit of \$270 million (2020/21) to a surplus of 0.5 million. Funds would be applied to support robust economic development and the creation of thousands of new careers for Manitobans; provide education, training, and other supports to allow Manitobans to embark on those careers; and to enable all communities to enjoy the benefit of a strong economy and labour market. This would include investments in education, child care, and EIA, and support for Indigenous and northern communities, as well as a four-year infrastructure program
- to build an affordable quality of life, the party would spend an additional 67.5 million in new programming, including construction of affordable housing, environmental protections, and initiatives to combat addictions.

The party advocates:

- helping families make greener choices and keep life affordable, while working with the Federal government to put a price on pollution and make big polluters pay
- continuing to index Personal Income Tax brackets and Basic Personal Amount to inflation
- maintaining the timeline to balance the provincial budget established in the Manitoba Budget of 2019
- asking the top 1% of income earners – individuals earning over \$250,000 – to contribute a bit more, and using those funds to invest in public services for all Manitobans
- helping small businesses by increasing the small-business tax threshold to allow an estimated 2,000 more small businesses to pay no income tax
- committing to meet climate targets of the Paris Accord with science and evidence-based policies, including ending oil and gas subsidies and fracking in Manitoba
- supporting mining jobs in northern Manitoba by granting multi-year mining permits
- making first home ownership more affordable
- making it easier to visit loved ones in hospital
- increasing the minimum wage to \$15/hr, to ensure that no one working full-time is forced to live in poverty
- enacting better consumer protection laws, including legislation to make cell phone bills more affordable, while improving cell coverage in rural communities
- cancelling \$23 million in unnecessary provincial contracts, and using the savings to fund vital public services
- ensuring that Manitoba Public Insurance is allowed to pursue its core mandate of providing low rates and comprehensive coverage
- working with the Federal government to build more affordable housing, invest in transitional housing and shelters for victims of domestic and intimate

- partner violence, and rebalance the appeals system to be more fair to renters
- strengthening legislation that protects Manitoba Hydro from the threat of privatization, in order to keep electricity rates low
- supporting the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, starting by reforming the child welfare system to recognize the right of Indigenous children to grow up in Indigenous households
- establishing a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Committee of Cabinet led by Indigenous women, who will work with families to implement recommendations coming out of the National Inquiry
- partnering with the Federal Government to enhance English-language services for newcomers while phasing out the \$500 application fee for the Provincial Nominee Program
- making workplaces safer by restoring and improving workplace health and safety standards
- making communities safer by introducing meaningful, effective, evidence-based measures to combat addictions, including a Safe Consumption Site, Managed Alcohol Program, and new facilities
- working with the City and other municipalities to protect our waterways and improve surface-water protections

Job, Unions & Employment

The party states that:

- it is harder than ever for a young person to find a good job, or for working families to make ends meet
- the minimum wage has been kept by prior governments below poverty level
- post-secondary education has become more expensive
- under new laws, children Kindergarten to Grade 3 receive less one-on-one time with their teachers
- Manitoba employers regularly single out skill shortages as their major impediment to growth
- every Manitoban who wants to work should be able to find work
- no one who works full-time hours should be stuck living in poverty
- it believes that opportunities offered by technology and education can allow people of all ages to overcome obstacles and succeed
- it is committed to investing in schools, universities, and colleges.

The party advocates:

- restoring the cap on K-3 class sizes eliminated by a prior government, and putting more Educational Assistants in classrooms
- helping every child overcome the unique challenges they face by providing better supports in schools, such as mental health supports and healthy food
- helping post-secondary students pay for their schooling while learning valuable job skills with co-op job placements and paid internships
- making university and college more affordable by freezing tuition growth to inflation and keeping student loans interest-free
- restoring the ACCESS bursary for rural, northern and Indigenous students
- improving investments in provincial roads, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure, and working with industry to create a Centre of Excellence for Infrastructure Innovation
- making significant infrastructure investments in Brandon
- improving provincial transit for Manitobans by reinstating the 50-50 operating grant for municipal transit agencies
- returning Manitoba Hydro to provincial control, and using it to generate more green jobs with expanded broadband
- installing geothermal and solar energy systems using Hydro expertise, and beginning to transition Hydro into a renewable energy company
- building additional child care spaces for young families, and committing to an ambitious goal of affordable, high-quality, accessible child care for all families, starting with bringing the child care system under the Department of Education
- supporting French-language students by restoring the Assistant Deputy Minister in the Bureau de l'éducation française and, working together, developing a strategy to recruit French-language teachers
- focusing on smart job growth by convening an annual Tech Summit, which includes innovation and creative economy, with education leaders, entrepreneurs, and labour, to listen to the experts, and make sure we are training workers for the jobs of tomorrow
- working with Indigenous communities to seek consensus before major projects (including Manitoba Hydro projects) begin, and creating job opportunities for Indigenous peoples by putting Resource Revenue Sharing into a Jobs Fund for Indigenous communities, starting by negotiating a fair deal on a gaming fund
- in order to create good jobs, and bring unemployed Manitobans back into the workforce while meeting meet social needs, seeking better alignment of social enterprises and government procurement
- using the Mining Community Reserve Fund to put people back to work in Northern Manitoba
- striking an emergency task force to help find new international markets for canola, pork, and other producers
- helping young agricultural producers by reviewing Crown Lands policies
- renewing the government's relationship with fishers by committing to consult meaningfully with them
- developing a disability policy lens and provincial disability strategy to address issues such as transportation, access to technology and housing, in ways

that complement the Accessibility for Manitobans Act

- helping train more people in key professions like nurses, doctors and engineers with Return of Service Agreements

Industries, Corporations & Consumers

The party advocates:

- helping small businesses by increasing the small-business tax threshold to allow an estimated 2,000 more small businesses to pay no income tax
- committing to meet climate targets of the Paris Accord with science and evidence-based policies, including ending oil and gas subsidies and fracking in Manitoba
- supporting mining jobs in northern Manitoba by granting multi-year mining permits



An Economy to Serve People

The party states that:

- as a matter of principle, it is committed to building a province where compassionate care for those in need and meaningful support for those who are unable to support themselves are available to all
- creating a Team to Grow Manitoba that includes the Premier's Enterprise Team, the provincial Economic Growth Committee of Cabinet, the new Manitoba Economic Development Office (EDO) and our strategic partners (Travel Manitoba, North Forge, World Trade Centre) and regional partners (Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF), Economic Development Winnipeg (EDW), Rural and Winnipeg Metropolitan Region)
- developing performance-based metrics with our partners to measure and report on the success of provincial economic development
- establishing a new rural economic development hub, based in Brandon, to service the unique needs and growth potential of rural Manitoba

2023 Budget

With the goal of transforming Manitoba into a global trade and transportation corridor, the party's proposed 2023 budget includes:

- more than \$2.5-billion in trade-enabling highway infrastructure over the next five years
- a total of up to \$160.4-million on an on-going basis for cost-shared investments in municipal capital projects, including water and wastewater projects
- \$147.6-million over two years in the Hudson Bay rail line to the Port of Churchill
- an additional \$50 million contribution to the Venture Capital Fund to grow businesses in Manitoba
- \$2.3-million to increase the payroll tax exemption and the reduced rate threshold
- \$92.5-million in funding to support post-secondary education and the labour market
- \$2-million for the expansion of the Newcomer Community Integration Support Program
- \$103.1-million contribution to Agrilnsurance premiums to help protect producers against crop production shortfalls caused by adverse weather Events
- increased investments in mining activities, expanding opportunities for northern and Indigenous communities

Poverty Reduction, Housing

To increase the quality and availability of affordable and social housing, the party advocates:

- continuing Rent Assist indexation at 75% Median Market Rent, and continuing to support more low income Manitobans
- developing a new housing strategy to determine greatest need
- renewing existing Manitoba Housing properties that have been allowed to deteriorate under previous governments
- investing \$2 million in home ownership programming
- investing \$450 million in social and community housing through a 10-year bilateral agreement with the federal government

Jobs, Unions & Employment

The party advocates, as part of a "Five Point Guarantee" made prior to the last election regarding creation of 40,000 new jobs within the province by:

- acting on the recommendations of the Review of Planning, Permitting and Zoning in Manitoba by implementing faster permitting systems with clear service standards and appeal mechanisms
- building on provincial strengths by increasing support for tourism and the film industry while also establishing sector strategies in key areas like food processing and commercialization, advanced manufacturing and aerospace
- enhancing the current '96:4' funding model by moving to a '95:5' model, which will invest 5% of tourism related revenue back into promoting Manitoba

tourism and investments, and applying the funds to promote world-class attractions in Winnipeg, attracting major events, and marketing Manitoba Parks

Industries, Corporations & Consumers

The party advocates:

- working with industry to identify opportunities to grow investment and job creation within target sectors including agriculture, food processing, mining, forestry, transportation/logistics, manufacturing (including greeninnovation) and financial services

Infrastructure

The party states that:

- since it formed government in 2016, it invested more than \$1 billion annual in strategic infrastructure, including roads, bridges, flood protection, hospitals, schools, universities and colleges

The party advocates:

- a ten-year strategic capital plan for provincial highways

- growing the highways budget by 14%, from \$350 million to \$400 million over four years, and ensuring that the budget is either fully spent or rolled over into the following year

- dedicating funds for infrastructure projects which stimulate private sector investment and create more jobs for Manitobans such as the local highway improvements that support the Roquette pea processing plant and manufacturing jobs near Vidir

- to increase accountability and transparency in public infrastructure projects, (i) implementing the Regulatory Accountability Act, to enhance consultations with stakeholders and streamline the regulatory process; (ii) reintroducing the Public Sector Construction Projects (Tendering) Act to end the policy of forced unionization in the construction industry, thereby ensuring that all qualified workers and their employers, regardless of union status, have equal access to publicly funded construction projects in Manitoba; (iii) ensuring union leadership is accountable to their members for their financial decisions; and (vi) updating the lobbyist registry to ensure all organizations attempting to influence MLAs, including unions, are transparent

Points to Ponder: An Economy to Serve People

Consider discussing the following questions with your local candidates, elected officials, and the parties, and with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

Poverty Reduction

“The poor you will always have with you,” Christ warned his disciples. Why would Christ say that?

- is it possible that the poor will always be with us in order that we, who now form the living body of Christ on earth, will always have an opportunity to reflect the glory of God by examining the meaning and the causes of poverty, and working to eliminate it, without expecting that we will ever, on our own and without the guidance and assistance of God, be able to do that?

- what does it mean to be poor, particularly in a society overflowing with consumer objects and material wealth? Should such definitions include consideration of the ability of individuals to seek personal fulfillment in pursuing truth, including opportunities for fulfilling work?

- experience has shown that attempts by “rich” cultures to assist the “poor” of other cultures sometimes fail due to lack of a common understanding of life, including its purpose and requisites for happiness. If we accept that the purpose of life is for each of us to increase our closeness to God by doing God’s work with all the time, talent, and treasure that have been entrusted to us, we see that poverty consists in any lack of the material means for doing that, including engaging ourselves in meaningful, dignified work – raising families, for example, while serving others and celebrating God’s love. By this standard, many of us are poor, both in “developing” countries and in “rich” countries. According to some observers, a large majority of people now living are impoverished - through broken or damaged relationships with God, or with one another, the world, and even ourselves

- how can the nature, causes, and answers to poverty in Manitoba be identified and addressed? Whose responsibility is it to address poverty: federal, provincial, or municipal governments? The Church and other private agencies, as collectives? We as individuals? All of the foregoing? What can or should be done by each of these parties?

Jobs, Unions, & Employment

– What can be done to ensure that all Manitobans are encouraged and enabled to work at meaningful jobs, applying the full range of their talents and gifts to the care of their families, to the process of helping to lift themselves out of poverty, and in doing so to give praise to God as co-creators?

– How can Manitoba best strike a balance between the principles of solidarity – ‘we’re all in this together’ – and subsidiarity – ‘everyone should do what he or she can to support themselves, before burdening others?’ – What, if anything, should be done to ensure that a dignified living wage, capable of providing a dignified home and opportunity to support a family is available to workers, or those willing to work, or to reduce poverty in Manitoba? Should a basic income policy be considered? If so, what form should it take? What can or should be done by the provinces, and what should be left to the federal government, or to private or community organizations?

– It has been observed that debt levels among the elderly are increasing, especially as the costs of long-term, dignified care increase. What can or should be done to alleviate poverty and debt among the elderly?

GDP & Well-Being

For decades, governments have focused exclusively on gross domestic product – a measure of an economy’s sheer productivity – as the best measure of national economic health. More recently, some voices have begun to advocate for a broader index of national well-being, to include factors such as the physical and emotional health of the people, the health of the environment, equity in housing, income, and opportunity, and food security, in addition to raw production.

- Which of these approaches is more likely to reflect the well being of current and future national, provincial, or local populations, and their ability to achieve personal fulfillment in seeking and finding truth?
- What else can or should be done to ensure that Manitoba’s economy serves the people, rather than the other way around? Is it reasonable to demand continuous economic growth, or might it be preferable to seek sustainable contentment?

Businesses and Corporations

For decades, corporate lobby groups and business schools have taught that the only legitimate object of a business corporation is to make money for its shareholders. More recently, some business voices have begun to advocate a broader role for corporations, to include service of its employees, its customers, and the community, and protection of the environment, as part of a corporation’s proper role.

- Which of these object definitions is more consistent with church teachings? Should anything be done to encourage development of a corporate and business culture that aims to serve people, communities, and future generations, in addition to profits? If so, what?

The Individual & Society: Civil Rights & Obligations

Civil Liberties | Human Rights | Responsibilities: Participation & Subsidiarity

Catholic Teaching

Civil Rights & Obligations

Each member of society is invested with a certain number of rights. With them come responsibilities.

Each of us, for example, is destined to use all the time, talent and resources entrusted to us during our lifetime - including all the circumstances and advantages of our birth(s) - to accomplish the Lord's work of seeking the truth and leading others to it. Because others very often do not all enjoy the same benefits entrusted to us, a large part of our work for the Lord is to ensure that all within our reach are able to care for themselves and fulfill their own duties to the Lord, within the limits of the capacities entrusted to them. See, for example, Matthew, chapter 25.

Racism & Discrimination

The unity of the human family is **not yet becoming a reality**. This is due to obstacles originating in materialistic and nationalistic ideologies that contradict the values of the person integrally considered in all his various dimensions, material and spiritual, individual and community. **In particular, any theory or form whatsoever of racism and racial discrimination is morally unacceptable.** -433, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Conscience & Religion

The Catholic Church emphasizes, among other rights, **the right to religious freedom**. Emphasis is given to the paramount value of the right to religious freedom: **"all men are to be immune from coercion** on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such wise that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits". The respect of this right is an indicative sign of "man's authentic progress in any regime, in any society, system or milieu." -320, 321 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Where euthanasia, socially-assisted death, and abortion are legalized, it is critical that healthcare providers whose deepest moral convictions tell them that such procedures are wrong, not be forced to participate. Catholic teaching says workers should be safeguarded from suffering any affront to conscience or personal dignity.

It is a grave duty of conscience to avoid cooperating, even formally, with practices contrary to the Law of God.

Freedom of Speech: truth, the press & the media

Information is among the principal instruments of democratic



Human Rights

The party states, as matters of principle, that:

- governments should safeguard civil and political rights, but also have a responsibility to protect economic, social, and cultural rights
- related to subsidiarity, the province's economic model should include a guaranteed local food supply of safe and healthful food

The party has provided no further official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- civil liberties
- human rights
- responsibilities: participation & subsidiarity



The party's constitution states that:

- the party is committed to the dignity of individuals as the cardinal principle of a democratic society, and as the primary purpose for all political organization and activity in such society. In accordance with this philosophy, the Manitoba Liberal Party subscribes to the fundamental rights and freedoms of all persons and commits itself to the protection of these fundamental values.

The party has provided no further official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- civil liberties
- human rights
- responsibilities: participation & subsidiarity



The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- civil liberties
- human rights
- responsibilities: participation & subsidiarity



participation. **Participation without an understanding of the situation of the political community, the facts and the proposed solutions to problems is unthinkable.**

It is necessary to guarantee a real pluralism in the dissemination of information, ensuring that there are many forms and instruments of information and communications. Special attention must be given to the phenomenon of the news media being controlled by just a few people or groups. This has dangerous effects for the entire democratic system... The media must be used to build up and sustain the human community in its different sectors: economic, political, cultural, educational and religious. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice and solidarity. **The essential question is whether the current information system is contributing to the betterment of the human person;** that is, does it make people more spiritually mature, more aware of the dignity of their humanity, more responsible or more open to others, in particular to the neediest and the weakest.

A further aspect of great importance is that **new technologies must respect legitimate cultural differences.** In the world of the media the intrinsic difficulties of communications are often exacerbated by ideology, the desire for profit and political control, rivalry and conflicts between groups, and other social evils. Moral values and principles apply also to the media.... 414-416, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Gender Equity

The feminine genius is needed in all expressions in the life of society. The first indispensable step in this direction is the concrete possibility of access to professional formation. The persistence of many forms of discrimination offensive to the dignity and vocation of women is due to a **long series of conditioning that penalizes women**, who have seen themselves relegated to the margins of society and even reduced to servitude... An urgent need to recognize effectively the rights of women in the workplace is seen **especially under the aspects of pay, insurance and social security.** –295, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Property

Private property and other forms of private ownership of goods “assure a person a highly necessary sphere for the exercise of his personal and family autonomy and ought to be considered as an extension of human freedom ... stimulating exercise of responsibility, it constitutes one of the conditions for civil liberty.” -171, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Church’s social doctrine requires that ownership of goods be equally accessible to all, so that all may become, at least in some measure, owners. **The world exists for everyone, because all of us were born with the same dignity.** Differences of colour, religion, talent, place of birth or residence, and so many others, cannot be used to justify the privileges of some over the rights of all. As a community, **we have an obligation to ensure that every person lives**

The party states, as a matter of principle, that it supports promotion of security in the rule of law with protection of personal and property rights and freedoms

Rights & Freedoms

The party advocates:

- to remove restrictions on Sunday and Holiday shopping, (i) repealing the Retail Businesses Holiday Closing Act to give Manitobans more freedom to choose when they shop; (ii) ensuring that local governments maintain the right to impose restrictions on shopping in their community if they choose; and (iii) continuing to mandate no shopping on Remembrance Day from 9am to 1pm

Responsibilities: participation & subsidiarity

To grow Manitoba’s Community Foundation Network, the party advocates:

- extending provincial participation in Endow Manitoba’s 24 Hour Giving Challenge until 2026
- creating a \$5 million fund to permanently support the growth of community foundations through training and development, technology support, and investment management services

The party has provided no further official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- civil liberties
- human rights
- responsibilities: participation & subsidiarity

with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development. -176, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Not to share our wealth with the poor is to rob them and take away their livelihood. The riches we possess are not our own, but theirs as well... Other rights having to do with the goods necessary for the integral fulfilment of persons, including that of private property or any other type of property, should in no way hinder [this right], but should actively facilitate its implementation. *Fratelli tutti*, -188-120

Human Rights

The Church also recognizes a number of Human Rights, including “**the right to life**, an integral part of which is the right of the child to develop in the mother’s womb from the moment of conception; **the right to live in a united family** and in a moral environment conducive to the growth of the child’s personality; the right to develop one’s intelligence and freedom in seeking and **knowing the truth**; the right to share in the **work** which makes wise use of the earth’s material resources, and to derive from that work the means to support oneself and one’s dependents; and the right freely **to establish a family**, to have and to rear children through the responsible exercise of one’s sexuality. The Church also emphasizes rights to **adequate housing; clean water, and secure, nutritious food; education and access to culture, transportation, basic health care.** – 151-166 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Individual Responsibilities

“In human society to one man’s right there corresponds a duty in all other persons: the duty, namely, of acknowledging and respecting the right in question.” “**Those, therefore, who claim their own rights, yet altogether forget or neglect to carry out their respective duties, are people who build with one hand and destroy with the other.** - 156 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Subsidiarity

Subsidiarity is the principle that **each element of society should serve its proper purpose, and support others in serving theirs.** One consequence of this principle is that **each individual, and smaller groups of people, should be allowed to make for themselves all the decisions that can responsibly be left to them**, rather than to larger groups or greater authorities. This is **one of the fundamental social teachings of the Church**, since it helps to ensure that each individual is empowered to find his or her own way to God.

Families, Individuals, and Civil Society

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the **family, groups, associations, local territorial realities**; in short, for that aggregate of economic, social, cultural, sports-oriented, recreational, professional and political expressions to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve

effective social growth. **This is the realm of civil society...** This network of relationships strengthens the social fabric and constitutes the basis of a true community of persons, making possible the recognition of higher forms of social activity.

The political community is established to be of service to civil society, from which it originates... This vision is challenged by political ideologies of an individualistic nature and those of a totalitarian character, which tend to absorb civil society into the sphere of the State. The political community and civil society are **not equal in the hierarchy of ends**. The political community is essentially at the service of civil society and, in the final analysis, the persons and groups of which civil society is composed.

The State must provide an adequate legal framework for social subjects to engage freely in their different activities and it must be ready to intervene, when necessary and with respect for the principle of subsidiarity, so that the interplay between free associations and democratic life may be directed to the common good. -185, 417, 418 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Subsidiary governments: provinces, municipalities, territories, & Indigenous peoples

The principle of subsidiarity is opposed to various forms of centralization, bureaucratization, and welfare assistance, and to the unjustified and excessive presence of the State in public mechanisms... Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also **it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do**. -185, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Priority of civil society

The political community and civil society, although mutually connected and interdependent, are not equal in the hierarchy of ends. **The political community is essentially at the service of civil society** and, in the final analysis, the persons and groups of which civil society is composed. Civil society, therefore, cannot be considered an extension or a changing component of the political community; rather, it has priority because it is in civil society itself that the political community finds its justification.

The State must provide an adequate legal framework for social subjects to engage freely in their different activities and it must be ready to intervene, when necessary and with respect for the principle of subsidiarity, so that the interplay between free associations and democratic life may be directed to the common good. Civil society is in fact multifaceted and irregular; it does not lack its ambiguities and contradictions. It is also the arena where different interests clash with one another, with the risk that the stronger will prevail over the weaker. 418, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The political community is responsible for regulating its relations with civil society according to the principle of subsidiarity. It is essential that the growth of democratic life begin within the fabric of society. The

activities of civil society — above all volunteer organizations and cooperative endeavours in the private-social sector, all of which are succinctly known as the “third sector”, to distinguish from the State and the market — represent the most appropriate ways to develop the social dimension of the person, who finds in these activities the necessary space to express himself fully. The progressive expansion of social initiatives beyond the State- controlled sphere creates new areas for the active presence and direct action of citizens, integrating the functions of the State. This important phenomenon has often come about largely through informal means and has given rise to new and positive ways of exercising personal rights, which have brought about a qualitative enrichment of democratic life. 419, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Points to Ponder: Rights & Responsibilities; Subsidiarity

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbours, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

Civil Rights & Liberties

Privacy

As the world continues to recover from the COVID pandemic and related economic uncertainty, concerns have been raised regarding federal and provincial tracking, retention, and use of private information, including for example information required for vaccine passports.

- To what extent is the collection and use of such information by governments appropriate, and to what extent should it be limited? How important is the right of privacy during a time of perceived emergency such as a pandemic, and to what types of personal information does it apply?

Freedom of Thought and Expression

In several provinces parties have expressed concern about the possible suppression of free speech and thought, particularly in the contexts of post-secondary education, academia, and legislative processes, citing principles of expression published by the University of Chicago as examples to be applied. These principles are copied below.

- are the University of Chicago principles fair and equitable?
- are the principles adequate to protect freedom of speech and thought?
- should application of the principles be limited to academia, education, and legislation?
- should the principles be subject to any limitations? If so, to what extent, and by whom?

[The University of Chicago] guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the University, the University of Chicago fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the University community “to discuss any problem that presents itself.”

Of course, the ideas of different members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although the University greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. The University may restrict expression that violates the law, that falsely defames a specific individual, that constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, that unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or that is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of the University. In addition, the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the University. But these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the University’s commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

In a word, the University’s fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose.

Civic & Individual Responsibilities

It is clear that the nation and our provinces owe their citizens great respect for each of a broad range of human rights. But with rights come responsibilities. What responsibilities do individuals have toward others, including their communities, provinces, the nation, and the world? For example, to what extent are citizens called to:

- live sustainable lifestyles, for example by conserving energy, avoiding waste, and ensuring that they minimize their impact on future generations?
- participate in society, for example through informed voting, continued engagement with candidates and elected representatives, and keeping up responsibly with the news?

– lend a hand to their neighbours, for example by volunteering at home or within the community, in addition to voluntarily paying taxes?

In addition to human and civil rights, many parties speak of things Canadians and others “deserve.” How do the parties determine what citizens do or do not deserve? Do they apply predictable, objective criteria in making such determinations, or can such determinations sometimes seem arbitrary and unfair, or, in the context of elections, opportunistic? What criteria should be applied?
– as lists of our defined rights expand, how do we reconcile conflicts between them? And how should they be enforced, and by whom?

Government, Civil Society, and other Social Institutions

- The Church teaches that each of us is a lost child of God, whose mission in life is to find our way home to our Creator; and that the purpose of all social institutions, including government, schools, health care, media and the press, and cultural institutions is to support and enable us in doing so, primarily by enabling and encourage us to see the truth. To what extent is necessary for a society to have an agreement on the purpose(s) of social institutions, and by extension the meaning of life, in order to define the roles of those institutions. To what extent should that agreement be expressed in its national culture?
– to what extent, if any, should powers or responsibilities of federal, provincial, or local governments be expanded, reduced, or redistributed in order to ensure that individuals, public interest groups, and service organizations have opportunities to employ their lives and talents in the service of others, and the common good? To what extent should those powers be shared with non-governmental entities? What roles should other social institutions – for example, the Church, schools, and civic organizations – play in increasing social and civic equity and caring for all?

Solidarity

Supporting the Marginalized | Indigenous Peoples | Rural Communities | Immigration & Newcomers

Solidarity is found in a commitment to the good of one's neighbour. **The good of one is the good of all**, and the other is as important as the self. Injustice done to another is an injustice that affects everyone. – 193, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Support for the Marginalized and the Vulnerable

Some people are born into economically stable families, receive a fine education, grow up well nourished, or naturally possess great talent. They will certainly not need a proactive state; they need only claim their freedom. Yet the same rule clearly does not apply to a disabled person, to someone born in dire poverty, to those lacking a good education and with little access to adequate health care. **If a society is governed primarily by the criteria of market freedom and efficiency, there is no place for such persons, and fraternity will remain just another vague ideal.** Pope Francis – *Frattelli tutti*, 109

So many needy brothers and sisters are waiting for help, so many who are oppressed are waiting for justice, so many who are unemployed are waiting for a job, so many peoples are waiting for respect. How can it be that even today there are still people dying of hunger? Condemned to illiteracy? Lacking the most basic medical care? Without a roof over their head? **The scenario of poverty can extend indefinitely, if in addition to its traditional forms we think of its newer patterns. These new patterns often affect financially affluent sectors and groups which are nevertheless threatened by despair at the lack of meaning in their lives**, by drug addiction, by fear of abandonment in old age or sickness, by marginalization or social discrimination... –5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Disabilities, Mental Health & Addictions

Persons with disabilities are fully human subjects, with rights and duties: “in spite of the limitations and sufferings affecting their bodies and faculties, **they point up more clearly the dignity and greatness of man.**” Persons with disabilities are to be helped to participate in every dimension of family and social life at every level accessible to them and according to their possibilities... **They too need to love and to be loved**, they need tenderness, closeness and intimacy according to their capacities. – 148, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Indigenous Peoples & Reconciliation

The relationship of Indigenous peoples to their lands and resources **deserves particular attention**, since it is a fundamental expression of their identity. These peoples offer an example of a **life lived in harmony** with the environment that they have come to know well and to preserve. Their extraordinary experience, which is an irreplaceable resource for all humanity, runs the risk of being lost



The party states, as matters of principle, that:

- it seeks to promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence and peace. It encourages and support mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation among all peoples and within and among nations
- equality and fairness need to replace domination and control. Full and equal participation by all Manitobans is needed in the decision making processes of society. Individuals, families and communities have access to the resources of the society
- all have the right to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health and spiritual well-being

Supporting the Marginalized

The party advocates:

- increased services for individuals with disabilities and their families, including (i) reduced wait times for residential services for families with adult children with intellectual disabilities; (ii) increased availability of support services for children living with disabilities; and (iii) establishment and implementation of an updated FASD strategy with a focus on enhancing prevention and intervention services for people with FASD
- increased support for mental health services, including (i) commitment of 10% of health funding to mental health supports and services; (ii) promoting easy access to effective mental health supports and services across Manitoba, including enhancing integration with primary care and other health care providers, increased technological approaches, and additional collaborative approaches; (iii) initiatives to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health; (iv) expanded mental health prevention and promotion initiatives with a focus on healthy childhood development and early intervention; and (v) ensuring that LGBTQ2S+ individuals have access to appropriate and informed mental health services
- increased support services for substance abuse and addictions, including (i) increased residential addictions treatment beds, which will make it easier for people to get immediate treatment at their points of readiness; (ii) implementation of an evidence-based meth response program that puts people's well-being first, including promoting harm reduction by establishing safe use sites, establishing protective care sites, hiring additional addictions counsellors, and creating additional treatment spots; (iii) enhancing effective, holistic, community-based initiatives to support people experiencing substance abuse and addictions problems, with a focus on mental well-being as well as spiritual and physical well-being; (iv) initiatives to reduce the stigma surrounding substance abuse and addictions; and (v) expanded awareness and prevention services related to substance abuse and addictions

Indigenous Peoples

The party states that:

- the historic and ongoing repression of Indigenous Nations are reprehensible breaches of Indigenous rights and human dignity. The Green Party of Manitoba believes we have a duty to ensure that the health and wellness, human security, justice, culture and equality of Indigenous Peoples is recognized, upheld and protected, as rights, on an equitable basis
- these injustices also rob Canadian settler society from a prosperity that can only be achieved through a vision of mutual benefit, where different peoples can share lands and resources, while respecting and sustaining their differences. To get there, we must recognize Indigenous Nations as the original occupants of this land, with rights to sovereignty and self-determination, and as true and equal partners, have a central role in moving Manitoba to its best possible future

To work towards reconciliation, the party advocates:

- recognizing Indigenous Nations as Nations, and endeavoring to reform government practice to behave in accordance with this recognition, by: (i) recognizing the right of Indigenous Nations to sovereignty and self-determination; and (ii) recognizing and respecting Indigenous constitutional rights as the original occupants of this land
- taking direction from Indigenous Calls to Action, including: (i) implementing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that are within provincial jurisdiction; and (ii) pushing for implementation of the National Inquiry's Calls for Justice
- engaging in meaningful consultation and collaboration with Indigenous Nations, including: (i) working with Indigenous Nations to understand how colonialism shapes our structures, institutions, legislation and policies, and meaningfully moving towards indigenization of our institutions; (ii) working with Indigenous Nations to ensure that culturally appropriate services are offered across all sectors, including healthcare, education, and justice; and (iii) pursuing participant driven processes as a means of meaningful consultation with Indigenous Nations on all provincial infrastructure projects

together with the environment from which they originate. – 471, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

The Canadian Catholic Church supports the work of the Truth and Reconciliation commission. **We are called to support thriving Indigenous communities in Canada**, rooted in their unique cultures and traditions.

Northern & Rural Communities

Looking after the common good means making use of the new opportunities for the redistribution of wealth to the benefit of the underprivileged that until now have been excluded or cast to the sidelines of social and economic progress. **Too often, social services and infrastructure development suffer from neglect in rural areas.** – 299, 300, 363, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Agricultural labour merits special attention... considering the many problems that need to be met in the context of an ever more globalized economy as well as its growing significance in safeguarding the natural environment. Radical and urgent changes are therefore needed in order to restore to agriculture — and to rural people — their just value as the basis for a healthy economy... – 363, 299 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*.

Refugees, Immigrants & Newcomers

Ideally, unnecessary migration ought to be avoided; this entails creating in countries of origin the conditions needed for a dignified life and integral development. Yet **until substantial progress is made in achieving this goal, we are obliged to respect the right of all individuals to find a place that meets their basic needs** and those of their families, and where they can find personal fulfilment. Our response to the arrival of migrating persons can be summarized by four words: **welcome, protect, promote and integrate.** – Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, 129

In the modern world, where there are still grave inequalities between rich countries and poor countries, and where advances in communications quickly reduce distances, **the immigration of people looking for a better life is on the increase.** These people come from less privileged areas of the earth and their arrival in developed countries is often perceived as a threat to the high levels of well-being achieved thanks to decades of economic growth. In most cases, however, immigrants fill a labour need which would otherwise remain unfilled... **Institutions in host countries must keep careful watch to prevent the spread of the temptation to exploit foreign labourers**, denying them the same rights enjoyed by nationals, rights that are to be guaranteed to all without discrimination. – 297, 298, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

We are called to welcome immigrants and refugees with generosity and good will, as if they were Jesus Christ himself. *Matthew, Chapter 25*

- reforming Child and Family Services, by: (i) hiring additional child welfare workers in order to decrease caseloads to a maximum of 20 per worker; (ii) providing enhanced training for child welfare workers, including training on best-practice risk assessment procedures, culturally appropriate supports, and the legacy of residential schools; and (iii) ensuring that supports are available to youth in care until the age of 25
- providing support to keep children and youth in their communities and with their extended families, by: (i) providing adequate resources to enable Indigenous communities and child-welfare organizations to keep families together where it is safe to do so; (ii) reducing the number of children in care by shifting resources to the support of families and extended families; (iii) increasing the annual fund available to families to purchase support services; (iv) implementing changes to the Adoption Act that would permit subsidized legal guardianship; instituting custom adoption practices to allow the child to be raised by a relative according to the customs of the community; and (v) helping families of children who are taken into care to regain custody when possible
- increased investment in restorative justice and alternative courts, including: (i) development and funding a restorative justice program, as an alternative to the traditional justice system; (ii) supporting the development of a court system designed specifically for individuals with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)
- supporting the promotion of Indigenous language and culture, by (i) supporting Indigenous-led organizations to provide safe, no-barrier, permanent, and meaningful access to Indigenous cultures and languages; and (ii) supporting quality youth programming that promotes Indigenous culture, language, and the transfer of intergenerational knowledge

Northern & Rural Communities

The party states that:

- it envisions strong, vibrant communities that are able to provide the services their residents need and value, including health care, education, services for seniors, support for small businesses, and ecologically sustainable agriculture
- such communities will be most possible when people in them have meaningful opportunities to participate directly in the local decision making that affects their lives

To support the development of vibrant rural and northern communities, the party advocates:

- increasing the level of input and autonomy of rural and northern communities, by (i) in partnership with communities, undertake a thorough review of the Municipal Act to ensure that it appropriately supports local decision making; and (ii) undertaking meaningful consultation with communities regarding government initiatives that will significantly affect them
- maintaining and strengthening existing rural and northern services, by (i) making every effort to maintain existing services in rural and northern communities, and working to enhance services where possible; and (ii) supporting the efforts of communities to provide accessible and affordable sporting and other recreational opportunities to their children and youth
- improving transportation services to and from rural and northern communities, by (i) restoring bus service to rural and northern communities by working with communities to develop an appropriate model; and (ii) establishing a transportation commission (using Saskatchewan as a model) to ensure that all options are explored
- increasing the availability and affordability of telecommunication services, by ensuring that rural and Northern broadband includes local service providers, to increase competition — and therefore the quality and affordability — of phone and internet service for rural and Northern Manitobans
- supporting the development of small businesses in rural and northern communities
- supporting rural and northern communities in transitioning to a green economy

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- immigration & newcomers



Indigenous Peoples & Relations

The party advocates:

- as a meaningful step in reconciliation, returning the \$338-million in federal child benefits to First Nations children in CFS that was taken away by two preceding provincial governments
- negotiating further restitution for the damage caused by the 2000s scoop

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” 23 Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, citing Lev. 19:33-34

Immigrants & Newcomers

The party advocates:

- being more welcoming to new Canadians and Manitobans by ensuring that their education and credentials are recognized so they can get to work earning more

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- support for the disabled
- rural communities



Indigenous Peoples & Relations

In order to promote good jobs and sustainable growth, the party advocates:

- working with Indigenous communities to seek consensus before major projects (including Manitoba Hydro projects) begin, and creating job opportunities for Indigenous peoples by putting Resource Revenue Sharing into a Jobs Fund for Indigenous communities, starting by negotiating a fair deal on a gaming fund
- supporting the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, starting by reforming the child welfare system to recognize the right of Indigenous children to grow up in Indigenous households
- establishing a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Committee of Cabinet led by Indigenous women, who will work with families to implement recommendations coming out of the National Inquiry

Northern & Rural Communities

The party advocates:

- improving health care for northern Manitobans health care by reinstating the obstetrics program in Flin Flon and Lifelight, hiring more midwives in northern communities, and partnering with the Federal government on new hospital-level health centres in northern First Nations communities
- restoring the ACCESS bursary for rural, northern and Indigenous students
- improving investments in provincial roads, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure, and working with industry to create a Centre of Excellence for Infrastructure Innovation
- supporting mining jobs in northern Manitoba by granting multi-year mining permits

Immigration & Newcomers

The party states that:

- partnering with the Federal Government to enhance English-language services for newcomers while phasing out the \$500 application fee for the Provincial Nominee Program

The party has provided no official statement regarding its policies or positions regarding:

- support for the marginalized



The party states that, as a matter of principle,

- it is committed to building a province where compassionate care for those in need and meaningful support for those who are unable to support themselves are available to all

Support for the Vulnerable

Disabled People

The party advocates:

- transitioning Manitobans with disabilities currently receiving EIA benefits to a new alternative income program better suited to their actual needs
- supporting an employment-first approach where employment is the primary goal for working age adults with an intellectual disability
- creating a new Advisory group of employers and advocates to develop the employment potential of persons with disabilities
- committing to complete implementation of all five Accessibility for Manitobans Act standards implemented by the end of 2020
- continuing to improve funding models for respite, day services, home share, supported independent living and other services to ensure Manitoba's frontline workers are compensated for their service
- focusing on a client-first approach to improve care and prioritize individuals with the highest need so long waits do not add to their hardship
- defining transparent performance standards and develop a means of tracking and reporting on the wait times on an annual basis

Victims of Abuse

To better support victims of domestic and sexual abuse, the party advocates:

- implementing legislation similar to "Clare's Law" to ensure women can access information about their partner's past history of domestic violence
- extending eligibility under the Employment Standards Code for leave to all victims of sexual violence
- enhancing shelters for victims of domestic abuse, including better crisis lines and integrated tracking

Northern & Rural Communities

The party advocates:

- to enhance connectivity across the province, (i) developing an innovative broadband strategy, in partnership with municipal and federal partners, to expand connectivity, support job creation, and encourage Manitobans with state-of-the art broadband and digital technologies to provide excellence in health care and educational services; (ii) leveraging Manitoba Hydro Telecom's 'dark fibre' to enhance connectivity across Manitoba; and (iii) exploring substantial cost reductions per metre of fibre by streamlining broadband access, as part of our permitting and approval processes, via existing conduits

Indigenous Peoples and relations

The party advocates:

- establishing a \$20 million Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF) to encourage mineral exploration and economic development
- engaging a minimum of eight First Nations in a new provincial mineral development protocol process, with a goal to have protocols formalized by the end of 2024
- continuing to work with the federal government on a proposal to support Indigenous capacity building and participation in the mining sector
- continuing to support collaborative approaches that will increase Indigenous participation in all sectors, including resource-based partnerships such as the Nisokapawino Forestry Management Corporation and the consortium of four First Nations on the east side of Lake Winnipeg
- ensuring representation from Indigenous communities on both the Community Economic Development Fund and the soon to be launched Rural Economic Development Agency
- continuing to make the transfer of Treaty Land Entitlement lands a priority. Since May 2016, 85,785 acres of land have been transferred to Canada for reserve creation, accounting for approximately 6% of entitlement acres

Immigrants & Newcomers

The party states that:

- new Manitobans are waiting far too long for recognition of their credentials, meaning that means newcomers who are doctors, nurses, engineers, lawyers, midwives and 25 other self-regulated professions can't practice their chosen profession
- between 2015-2017, more than 3,000 internationally educated New Manitobans applied to practice in their chosen profession, but only 470 were successful in registering

The party advocates raising timeliness of foreign credential recognition with the Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM) by:

- accelerating the one year standard for credential recognition to require an interim assessment within six months
- amending Manitoba's Fair Registration Practices in Regulated Professions Act to include provisions that ensure respect for the New West Partnership and other domestic trade agreements Manitoba is a party to in respect of credential recognition decisions

Points to Ponder: Solidarity

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

“It is always important,” as Archbishop Donald Bolen of Regina has said, “to listen to the voices of the suffering, to be guided by them in how we respond and to be ready to engage with them in moving forward.” (Catholic Register 18 July 2021)

- What does it mean to listen to, and to be guided by, the voice of someone who is suffering?
- Who, in Manitoba and around the world, is suffering now?
- How can such voices be gently and respectfully heard, and interpreted within the context of the moral framework of the listener, so that a healthy, positive, and loving response can be determined?

Indigenous Rights & Reconciliation

– How can all the levels of Manitoba government and the Church work together to facilitate reconciliation of every level of Manitoba society with Indigenous peoples, so that all Manitobans can benefit from right relationship and experience growth as a society?

Mental Health & Addictions

At the national level, several parties have proposed decriminalization of drug sales and drug possession, in order to focus on the treatment of addiction as a health care issue.

- Is it possible, by decriminalizing drug sales and drug possession, to both relieve an overburdened criminal justice system and help more individuals heal and recover from addictions? If so, what might a helpful approach look like?
- Is it possible, through review of criminal legislation, education, and focused health care initiatives, to give individuals further freedom to “develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny?” (quoting *St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year (Centesimus Annus) #39*)
- Is there any way to ensure that such measures are accompanied by effective mechanisms to address the root causes of and eliminate drug abuse, for example through educational initiatives at all levels of society?

Refugees & Newcomers

- What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure that refugees and newcomers are safe, healthy, and enabled to flourish in Manitoba?
- To what extent should immigration policies be driven by economic, as opposed to humanitarian, priorities?

Northern & Rural Communities

- What is being done, and what, if anything, should further be done to ensure vibrant, healthy rural life in Manitoba? Of those measures, what should be done at the federal level? By Manitoba? By businesses, residents, and civil associations in rural areas?
- Northern areas are also of concern. What special circumstances are faced by those living in the North, and how should their needs best be assessed?

Good Government: Democracy, Justice & Peace

Role & Purpose of Government | Stewardship & Reform | Intergovernmental relations | Public Safety

Catholic Teaching

The Proper Role of Government

In accordance with its understanding of the purpose of human life, the Church teaches that the proper role of government is to provide **a legal and economic framework in which the common good can flourish**, in order that the people may accomplish their mission: that is, so that the people may use the freedom God has given them to seek the truth and thereby return to Him.

An **authentic democracy** is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of **a convinced acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures**: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life. **If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost** and its stability is compromised.

The Church's social doctrine sees ethical relativism, which maintains that there are no objective or universal criteria for establishing the foundations of a correct hierarchy of values, **as one of the greatest threats** to modern-day democracies. – 407, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Institutions and democracy

The Magisterium recognizes the validity of the principle concerning the division of powers in a State: "it is preferable that each power be balanced by other powers and by other spheres of responsibility which keep it within proper bounds. This is the principle of the 'rule of law', in which the law is sovereign, and not the arbitrary will of individuals". – 408, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Responsibilities of the State include:

- ensuring that all individuals are enabled to achieve their full potential, by maintaining a framework capable of **providing all the material, moral, and spiritual goods necessary for the common good**
- harmonizing the different interests of sectors of society with the requirements of justice, including particularly the **reconciliation of private ownership of goods with the common good**
- **ordering society not only in accordance with the desires of the majority**, but the effective good of all the members of the community, including minorities
- 168, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*



Role & Purpose of Government

The party states, as a matter of principle, that:

- people must be able to participate in the political, economic, and environmental decisions that affect them

The party further states that:

- the primary role of government is to work collaboratively to find the best solutions to the critical issues we are facing
- Manitobans want the government to operate with genuine openness and transparency, putting the concerns of ordinary people ahead of partisan political interests

Stewardship & Reform

The party states that

- currently, Manitoba's winner-take-all voting system allows political parties to govern with a majority without having won a majority of the votes. This is not fair to the majority of the voters and is not how representative government should work
- it believes that a proportional representation voting system will give every vote more meaning and result in a more representative and accountable legislature
- it also seeks to strengthen democracy in Manitoba through increased accountability measures, greater citizen participation between elections, and greater fairness and stability regarding elections

The party advocates:

- introducing proportional representation and greater MLA prerogative by: (i) implementing a mixed-member proportional electoral system that is more representative and accountable to the people of Manitoba; (ii) allowing for more "free votes" in the Legislature so that MLAs can more directly represent the wishes and views of their constituents; and (iii) enacting measures to ensure that private members bills receive full consideration in the legislative process
- encouraging greater consultation and accountability between elections, by (i) requiring the premier, within each twelve month period following the forming of government, to hold at least two town hall meetings; (ii) requiring each government department, within each twelve month period following the forming of the department, to hold at least one public forum to explain and answer questions regarding its major initiatives; and (iii) implementing significant new public programs or legislation/regulations only after first undertaking meaningful public consultation
- increasing youth participation in the democratic process by (i) encouraging the youth vote through creating more meaningful opportunities for youth to participate in the democratic process, through social media campaigns, and through making the opportunity to vote as accessible as possible to those who vote for the first time; and (ii) lowering the voting age to 16
- respecting fixed terms and election dates, including respecting existing legislation that sets the term of the governing party at four years, with the date of the election occurring upon the completion of the four years, unless the government falls in a non-confidence vote
- to ensure greater respect by Members of the Legislative Assembly for the legislative process, (i) requiring its party members in the Legislature to model a more respectful presence during legislative processes; and (ii) proposing that the Legislature adopt tougher sanctions, to be administered by the Speaker, for disrespectful and unduly disruptive behaviour
- to encourage greater fiscal responsibility and accountability in government, (i) requiring the public release of a full costing of all significant new government initiatives before they are implemented; (ii) undertaking significant new public expenditures or taxation measures only after first undertaking meaningful public consultation; and (iii) requiring that reasons for not implementing recommendations submitted by the Office of the Auditor General be made public on a timely basis

Intergovernmental Relations

The party states, as matters of principle, that:

- the people most affected by a situation must have the authority to solve it; distant administrations cannot respond adequately
- it supports a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions to a democratic, less bureaucratic system where power is returned to local

The Role of the Church

When the Church's Magisterium intervenes in issues concerning social and political life, it does not fail to observe the requirements of a correctly understood autonomy, for "the Church's Magisterium does not wish to exercise political power or eliminate the freedom of opinion of Catholics regarding contingent questions. Instead, it intends — as is its proper function — to instruct and illuminate the consciences of the faithful, particularly those involved in political life, so that their actions may always serve the integral promotion of the human person and the common good. The social doctrine of the Church is not an intrusion into the government of individual countries. It is a question of the lay Catholic's duty to be morally coherent, found within one's conscience, which is one and indivisible". 571, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Stewardship of Office

Public administration at any level — national, regional, community — is to be **oriented towards the service of citizens**, serving as steward of the people's resources, which it must administer **with a view to the common good**.

Tax revenues and public spending take on crucial economic importance for every civil and political community. The goal to be sought is public financing that is itself capable of becoming an instrument of development and solidarity. **Just, efficient and effective public financing will have very positive effects on the economy**, because it will encourage employment growth and sustain business and non-profit activities and help to increase the credibility of the State as the guarantor of systems of social insurance and protection that are designed above all to protect the weakest members of society.

Public spending is directed to the common good when certain fundamental principles are observed: the payment of taxes as part of the duty of solidarity; a reasonable and fair application of taxes; precision and integrity in administering and distributing public resources.

In the redistribution of resources, public spending must observe the principles of solidarity, equality and making use of talents. It must also pay greater attention to families, designating an adequate amount of resources for this purpose. **In the democratic system, political authority is accountable to the people.** 355, 408, 412, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Democratic Reform

Representative bodies must be subjected to effective social control. This control can be carried out **above all in free elections which allow the selection and change of representatives**. The obligation on the part of those elected to give an accounting of their work — which is guaranteed

communities

- with respect to trade agreements and institutions, it would seek to implement a system of fair trade where regional production is consumed by the region first and the balance would be traded outside the region for goods and services that are not provided locally

Public Safety

The party states that:

- a sense of security is a fundamental need that must be met for individuals and communities to thrive
- to fully respect the right of all Manitobans to feel safe and secure in their communities, a holistic and preventative approach to public safety, that focuses on tackling the root causes of crime, must be taken
- building strong communities is the first and best line of defence in long-term crime prevention. Factors such as poverty, addiction, and social exclusion contribute to rising crime rates
- an effective public safety strategy must focus first on ensuring that people receive the support they need to prosper in their communities. This involves addressing the social and economic inequities in our province, such as reducing poverty rates by introducing a universal basic income, and increasing support for community-based social programming
- true justice occurs when the most effective measures are taken to ensure that punishments for crimes do not make offenders more likely to reoffend. This will be accomplished by developing a restorative justice program that focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community
- it supports alternatives to the traditional court systems where appropriate, as well as alternatives to incarceration, such as restitution, community service and community-based sentencing (see the Report of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry of Manitoba), and post-release interventions that have proven success rates of improving the outcomes of individuals leaving incarceration and thus reducing recidivism rates

To ensure the safety of Manitobans, the party advocates:

- support measures that address demonstrated social and economic risk factors, including (i) implementation of poverty reduction measures such as providing a Basic Income to protect Manitobans from economic risk factors associated with crime; (ii) ensuring greater access to quality mental health and addictions services to reduce drug-related crime; (iii) promoting culturally appropriate Indigenous programming focused on building resilience and overcoming intergenerational trauma and the legacy of colonialism
- support for youth and family focused community programming, including (i) evidence-based crime prevention initiatives that focus on early childhood social development and building healthy relationships; (ii) you access to quality, structured recreation and arts programming; and (iii) support programming that focuses on promoting healthy family relationships and helping parents build skills and access resources
- greater support for initiatives generated at the community level, including: (i) community-based safety initiatives; and (ii) regular consultation with safe community organizations to ensure community-appropriate responses to crime intervention
- developing and funding a restorative justice program, including: (i) appointing a Manitoba restorative justice advisory council; (ii) a restorative justice program that focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large; policies respecting the use of restorative justice programs; and (iii) funding restorative justice programs to a level that represents at least 5% of the total budget of the Department of Justice
- increased reliance on alternative courts, including increased investment in mental health courts, drug treatment courts, and FASD courts to more effectively support offenders and reduce involvement in the criminal justice system
- support for pre- and post release programs to reduce recidivism, including: (i) appropriate and culturally relevant services to inmates on issues such as substance abuse, family and domestic violence, and overcoming the experience of having been sexually abused; (ii) pre- and post-release interventions that focus on education, employment and reintegration into society



Role & Purpose of Government

The party's constitution states that:

- the party is committed to the dignity of individuals as the cardinal principle of a democratic society, and as the primary purpose for all political organization and activity in such society. In accordance with this philosophy, the Manitoba Liberal Party subscribes to the fundamental rights and

by respecting electoral terms — is a constitutive element of democratic representation.

Among the deformities of the democratic system, political corruption is one of the most serious. If there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political action, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. **A democracy without values easily turns into totalitarianism.** – 406-412, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Cooperation and respect between parties

Political parties have the task of fostering widespread participation and making public responsibilities accessible to all. **Political parties are called to interpret the aspirations of civil society, orienting them towards the common good...** An authentic democracy is not merely the result of a formal observation of a set of rules but is the fruit of a **convincing acceptance of the values that inspire democratic procedures: the dignity of every human person, the respect of human rights, commitment to the common good as the purpose and guiding criterion for political life.** If there is no general consensus on these values, the deepest meaning of democracy is lost and its stability is compromised. – 407, 413, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Subsidiary governments: provinces, municipalities, territories, & Aboriginals

The principle of subsidiarity is opposed to various forms of centralization, bureaucratization, and welfare assistance, and to the unjustified and excessive presence of the State in public mechanisms... Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also **it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do.** - 185, *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

Peace & Good Order

Trade

The Church has time and again called attention to aberrations in the system of international trade, which often, owing to protectionist policies, **discriminates against products coming from poorer countries** and hinders the growth of industrial activity in and the transfer of technology to these countries.

The continuing deterioration in terms of the exchange of raw materials and the widening of the gap between rich and poor countries has prompted the Church to point out **the importance of ethical criteria** that should form the basis of international economic relations: the pursuit of the common good and the universal destination of goods; equity in trade relationships; and attention to the rights and needs of the poor in policies concerning trade and international cooperation.

Economic and social imbalances in the world of work must be addressed by restoring a just hierarchy of values and placing **the human**

freedoms of all persons and commits itself to the protection of these fundamental values

- in order to promote the political, economic, cultural and general well-being of Manitobans, it recognizes that human dignity in a democratic system requires that all citizens have access to full information concerning the policies and leadership of the party; the opportunity to participate in open and public assessment of such policies and leadership; and the means to alter such policies and leadership, as they deem desirable

Stewardship & Reform

The party states that:

- some of the perks available to rural and northern MLAs in Manitoba are richer than what's afforded or allowed to Members of Parliament in Ottawa
- the Federal Government bars MPs from claiming expenses on a second home
- Manitoba MLAs who live 50km outside of Winnipeg are eligible for tax-free allowances to cover their personal and living expenses when they have to travel to the legislature from their home community. Winnipeg MLAs are not eligible
- upholding the rule of law by strengthening conflict of interest rules for politicians, and push for an inquiry in to the bribery and contracts around the Winnipeg Police HQ

The party advocates:

- ending the practice of subsidizing second mortgages for rural and northern MLAs, in the form of Temporary Residence Expenses: up to a maximum of \$1368 per month for costs related to rental accommodation or for costs related to a second-owned home. The monthly rental benefit is indexed, so it goes up automatically every year

Public Safety

The party states that:

- a recent Globe and Mail investigation found that transnational criminal organizations are laundering their funds from human trafficking through numbered companies across Canada, including Manitoba, whose laws on corporate disclosure allows criminals to hide

The party advocates:

- making the streets safer and cracking down on human trafficking by cutting off criminals' source of funds, by implementing a transparent and searchable public registry of beneficial ownership of corporations



Purpose and Role of Government

In order to promote good jobs and sustainable growth while meeting social needs, the party advocates seeking better alignment of social enterprises and government procurement

Stewardship of Office

The party advocates:

- continuing to index Personal Income Tax brackets and Basic Personal Amount to inflation
- maintaining the timeline to balance the provincial budget established in the Manitoba Budget of 2019
- asking the top 1% of income earners – individuals earning over \$250,000 – to contribute a bit more, and using those funds to invest in public services for all Manitobans
- cancelling \$23 million in unnecessary provincial contracts, and using the savings to fund vital public services

Public Safety

The party advocates:

- making communities safer by introducing meaningful, effective, evidence-based measures to combat addictions, including a Safe Consumption Site, Managed Alcohol Program, and new facilities

dignity of workers before all else. – 370, 321, 364 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*

“Opening up to the world” is an expression that has been co-opted by the economic and financial sector and is now used exclusively of openness to foreign interests or to the freedom of economic powers to invest without obstacles or complications in all countries. Local conflicts and disregard for the common good are exploited by the global economy in order to impose a single cultural model. This culture unifies the world, but divides persons and nations, for “as society becomes ever more globalized, it makes us neighbours, but does not make us brothers”.

We are more alone than ever in an increasingly massified world that promotes individual interests and weakens the communitarian dimension of life. Indeed, there are markets where individuals become mere consumers or bystanders. As a rule, the advance of this kind of globalism strengthens the identity of the more powerful, who can protect themselves, but it tends to diminish the identity of the weaker and poorer regions, making them more vulnerable and dependent. In this way, political life becomes increasingly fragile in the face of transnational economic powers that operate with the principle of “divide and conquer”.

Pope Francis, *Fratelli tutti*, 12

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

In order to protect the common good, the lawful public authority must exercise the right and the duty to inflict punishments according to the seriousness of the crimes committed. The State has the **twofold responsibility** to discourage behaviour that is harmful to human rights and the fundamental norms of civil life, and to repair, through the penal system, the disorder created by criminal activity...

Punishment does not serve merely the purpose of defending the public order and guaranteeing the safety of persons; it becomes as well an **instrument for the correction of the offender**. There is a **twofold purpose** here. On the one hand, encouraging the reinsertion of the condemned person into society; on the other, fostering a justice that reconciles, a **justice capable of restoring harmony** in social relationships disrupted by the criminal act committed. – 402 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*



The party states, as a matter of principle, that it is committed to:

- efficient and effective government with a credible fiscal plan to ensure the long-term success and viability of essential services
- economic growth and job creation through private enterprise, entrepreneurship and commercial competitiveness fostered by creation of an even playing field for all
- government that is respectful of and responsive to the will of the people it serves; committed to both the responsibilities and the spirit of democracy

Stewardship & Reform

Taxes & Revenues

The party states that:

- it committed in 2019 to a gradual return to balance with nearly \$7 billion in cumulative new investments over 4 years and lower taxes for Manitobans
- its plan anticipated naturally growing revenues and increasing investments in needed public services
- its plan prioritized investments in health, education and families
- in its 2023 budget, it has prioritized: (i) help for Manitobans; (ii) safer streets; (iii) health care; (iv) support for communities; and (v) future opportunities, including:
 - * \$5500 in total savings for the average two-income family by 2024
 - * \$311 million in tax relief through an increase to the Basic Personal Amount in 2023, saving the average two-income family more than \$1,000 in 2023, compared to 2022
 - * \$160-million to increase income tax bracket thresholds to \$47,000 and \$100,000 in 2024
 - * combined, the Basic Personal Amount and tax bracket enhancements will save the average two-income family more than \$1,250 in 2024
 - * increasing the School Tax Rebate to 50 per cent on farm and residential properties, saving the average homeowner \$774 in 2023
 - * \$190-million to reduce payments charged to Manitoba Hydro, saving Manitoba Hydro and ratepayers more than \$4-billion over 2023-2024
 - * increases to the minimum wage in April and October, bringing it to \$15 per hour
 - * Family Affordability Package and the Carbon Tax Relief Fund payments provided the average family with \$825 since fall 2022 to combat rising costs

Tax Reform

As part of a ‘Five-Point Guarantee’ during the prior election, the party promised:

- a \$2,020 tax rollback, to lower taxes for working families
- a \$2 billion health care funding guarantee

The party further advocates:

- to increase tax fairness for small businesses, reducing by 50% the tax interest surcharge from 6 to 3 percent for taxpayers for tax owing on provincially administered taxes
- reducing registration fees on passenger vehicles by reversing a 30% hike implemented in 2012

Democratic Reform

The party advocates:

- ending taxpayer subsidies to lazy political parties by eliminating Manitoba’s election campaign subsidy, while maintaining current supports for individual candidates

Social Services

To improve delivery of government-sponsored social services, the party advocates:

- supporting at least five more social impact bonds (SIB)
- refocusing the responsibilities of the Social Impact Office to centralize and modernize various strategies including SIBs, social finance, social enterprise, and social impact procurement

Veterans Services

To provide more support for veterans, the party advocates:

- directing Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries to adjust the revenue sharing agreement with veterans organizations from 20:80 to 25:75 until completion of the provincial Gaming Review
- introducing legislative amendments to harmonize municipal property tax exemptions across the province for Manitoba’s more than 70 local veterans’

chapters

- providing \$500,000 more on an annual basis, through these changes, for services that support veterans

Inter-governmental Relations

The party states that:

- Manitoba municipalities are key partners in fueling the provincial economy

In order to further stimulate private sector capital investments across Manitoba, party advocates:

- acting on recommendations of the 2019 Review of Planning, Permitting and Zoning in Manitoba, thereby significantly bolstering provincial GDP, municipal tax base and job creation potential, especially in Winnipeg, every day unnecessary permitting delays are reduced
- partnering with the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to create a capital region growth plan that will deliver better infrastructure at lower cost, more investment and improved development planning
- establishment of a collaborative process with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to strengthen provincial-municipal growth and partnership opportunities, with a balanced discussion of both revenues and expenditures
- establishment of a Municipal Audit and Accountability Program to provide third party value-for-money audits for willing municipalities wanting to improve services without raising taxes
- investing \$5 million to help municipalities identify ineffective spending and innovative solutions, based on a return on investment analysis

To support municipalities, the party's 2023 budget 2023 includes investments of:

- \$217-million in total municipal operating funding – \$47-million more than last year and the largest increase in a decade
- \$268.5-million in capital expenditures to build, renovate and expand more schools
- \$100-million in new funding for school divisions
- more than \$81-million to Community Living and Children's disability Services agencies for a funded average wage of \$19/hour, bringing the total budget for disability services to an historic \$640-million this year
- \$76.1-million to reduce regulated parent fees for child care to \$10 per day
- \$8.7-million to support recycling, composting and waste diversion initiatives
- \$50-million for the Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund
- \$10-million to support a new Parks Capital Plan

Extra-Provincial Trade

In order to reduce barriers to internal trade, the party advocates:

- expanding existing markets and pursuing new export opportunities with a new targeted trade strategy; enhancing trade, investment and labour mobility; removing trade barriers to the movement of goods, services investment and people within and between provinces
- working collaboratively with community partners and consulting with industry partners
- to open the provincial cannabis market, implementing a phased approach to retail that leverages the best of the public and private sectors and offers unique opportunities for participation by indigenous businesses, opening 46 stores with an immediate goal of providing 90% of Manitobans with access to cannabis retail within a 30-minute drive, and moving toward an open retail market in 2020
- guarding against the risks that cannabis legalization poses, especially to our youth
- collecting a social responsibility levy on all retail sales to keep Manitobans safe through public education and other efforts
- liberalizing beer, wine and liquor distribution and sales, bringing more selection and lower prices to Manitobans, including (i) exemption of craft distillers, cideries and brewers from markup for on-premise brew pub, distillery and cidery sales; (ii) continuing to promote the reduction of interprovincial barriers to liquor sales; and (iii) working with the local craft beer industry and distillers to further reduce red tape and barriers to growth

Public Safety

To address escalating addiction and crime rates in Winnipeg and across the province, the party advocates:

- modern education for children, including (i) development of a modern anti-addictions curriculum, emphasizing the role of peer pressure, social media and cultural influences, with evidence-based lessons; and (ii) engaging students with these modernized, age-appropriate learning outcomes related to substance abuse and prevention, starting in Grade 3
- providing more treatment services, faster, based on a comprehensive overhaul of mental and health addictions within the province; and (i) adding 12 new treatment and waiting spaces for those suffering from meth psychosis and other mental health and addictions issues at the Health Sciences Centre's emergency room; (ii) creating a new sobering centre; and (iii) adding supportive housing, a new RAAM clinic and a new recovery and drop-in centre
- dedicating \$10 million to help police fight gangs and criminals across Manitoba
- directing the Manitoba Police Commission to offer advice on the best ways to improve safety in downtown Winnipeg, including the use of foot patrols,

- surveillance cameras, improved lighting, emergency communications equipment and better coordination with the private sector
- launching a Crime Stoppers ad blitz in Winnipeg, Brandon and rural Manitoba including more cash for drug tips
- responding to drug intelligence with greater support for tactical enforcement by the Winnipeg Police Service
- putting drug dealers on the run by providing more resources for the Public Safety Investigations Unit
- cracking down on crime by improving the sharing of criminal intelligence between RCMP and municipal police forces and supporting joint forces operations
- making it easier to turn seized drug money and assets into resources for police by expanding civil forfeiture
- supporting community-based crime prevention programs that mobilize government and community resources to help at-risk Manitobans

The party's 2023 budget includes investments of more than \$100-million to address challenges of violent crime and homelessness across Manitoba, including:

- \$51.8-million for Manitoba's Violent Crime Strategy over two years, with \$34.6-million allocated in 2023
- more than \$51-million for Manitoba's Homelessness Strategy
- \$3.6-million for the Downtown Community Safety Partnership to build a safer, more inviting downtown Winnipeg for businesses and residents
- \$100,000 to support ongoing operations of the Winnipeg Bear Clan Patrol Inc.
- \$9.4-million for 1,000 new treatment spaces for providers of substance use and addictions treatment services across Manitoba
- \$1-million to support expansion of crisis stabilization unit beds and tele-psychiatry services to expand access to Manitobans living in rural and remote communities
- \$1.5-million in child and youth mental health services to improve access and reduce wait times
- investing \$600,000 for flexible-length community residential withdrawal management beds in Brandon

Points to Ponder: Good Government

Consider asking your local candidates, elected representatives, and the parties, the following questions, and discussing their answers with your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and fellow parishioners:

The Role and Purpose of Government

The Church has definite ideas about the purpose of life and the proper roles of civil society, government, and other social institutions in fostering and supporting such lives.

- are those ideas shared by most Manitobans, or would they agree if helped to understand our positions?
- are any values held in common by most Manitobans? If so, what are they, and how do they inform the proper role of government and other social institutions? For example, what do we owe each other, and what does the answer mean for government, charities, schools, etc.?
- is it possible to meaningfully or responsibly define a role for government – and therefore a party's platform – without reference to the purpose of life or other social institutions? Should Catholics look to political parties to share their views on the purpose of life and the proper role of government as a part of their platforms?

Respect & Good Governance

- it is a common practice among many of our political parties, in framing their platforms and policy statements, to focus at least as much on what's wrong with the other parties as they do on what's right about themselves. How can we, as citizens and voters, help encourage parties to look for common ground, speak positively about and respectfully to one another, and voice their suggestions for improvement in respectful and collaborative terms?
- we have found, in our conversations with candidates and even the most partisan party adherents, that the greatest number of people agree on far more points of right, wrong, good, and bad than they disagree on. Is it possible for us to start conversations by assessing our points of agreement, and the things we have already achieved, before leaping to differences and deficiencies that might tend to distance us from one another?
- the Church is clear on the conviction that elected leaders should seek to serve the common good, bringing with them to their work deep feelings of humility and deep commitments to wisdom. How can we, as citizens and voters, encourage wisdom, humility and respect in those we elect, rather than selfishness and exclusion?

Democratic Reform & Stewardship

- it is very often the case that party members and candidates – including particularly rank-and-file members and staff members – are very good people, who sacrifice much in order to contribute to a better world. And it seems too seldom that we thank them, or have anything other than criticism to offer. What can we, as individuals, do to thank and support these selfless people?

In its most recent Annual Report for Public Accounts - for the year ended March 31, 2022 - the provincial government reported that "the Province's summary financial position as at March 31, 2022 is a net loss of \$704 million, an improvement of \$1,420 million over the previous year's deficit of \$2,124 million and an improvement of \$893 million over the 2021/22 projected Budget deficit of \$1,597 million.... the notable recovery from Budget is due to a substantially stronger than expected improvement in a number of economic sectors in Manitoba, following the COVID-19 pandemic." (https://www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20222023/public-accounts-2022.pdf)

- is that statement consistent with the promises and undertakings made by the governing party in its current campaign materials?
- does it suggest a sense of fiscal responsibility on the part of the governing party?

The same report provides the chart shown below of sources and relative magnitude of revenues received from various sources, and total expenditure made by the province in the same year. Does this chart reflect good governance, with suitable priorities and attention to fiscal responsibility?

Manitoba Revenues and Expenditures, 2021/22

Millions of Dollars

Total Revenue (Not Including Debt Financed): 19,107

Total Expenditures: 19,811

