

Policies of the Green Party of Manitoba

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Agriculture & Food

Conventional farming systems degrade soil and seeds, and undermine the farming communities. Greens want to stabilize and strengthen agriculture with organic farming research, support for family farms, and humane treatment of animals, in conjunction with reduced dependence on the GMOs, factory farms and pesticides which compromise food quality.

Sustainable Agriculture

Approved 2015

Revised 2018

Whereas:

- agriculture is the province's largest use of land, with an important impact on the economy and on climate change;
- Manitoba agriculture faces economic, environmental, and sustainability challenges, which include increased farm costs, decreased farm incomes, declining rural communities, and increasing food quality concerns;
- organic agriculture aims to reduce the pesticide presence in food, reduce water pollution, and improve animal welfare;
- regenerative agriculture aims to capture carbon in soil and in above ground biomass for the purpose of enriching the soil, restoring biodiversity, improving water cycles, removing carbon from the atmosphere and reducing climate change;
- local food systems aim to provide jobs and increase food quality by rebuilding smaller scale food processing and by reducing food distribution miles;
- a decline in public funding for research into best farm management practices and seed variety has allowed the patenting and monopolization of seeds and raised the cost of seeds;
- wetland drainage increases flood water velocity and flow and downstream damage; and
- habitat destruction removes important pest control and pollinator shelter from the agricultural landscape, increasing the reliance on chemical pesticides while increasing soil erosion;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- local, organic and regenerative agriculture systems;
- minimization of pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use;
- an increase in public research funding;
- supporting rights of farmers to save their seeds without payment of seed royalties;
- a reduction in absentee land ownership;
- stronger laws for the humane treatment of livestock; and
- the restoration of wetlands and natural shelterbelts.

Food Handling Regulations

Approved 2006

Be it resolved:

The Green Party supports amending the "Food and Food Handling Establishments Regulation" of the *Public Health Act* thus:

- change the definition of a "temporary food service establishment" (which is currently defined as an establishment held in conjunction with an event of no more than 14 days) to provide an exemption to farmers' markets, and therefore not limit their duration; and
- strike down Sections 15(3), 35(2), 37e and 38b, which state that temporary and mobile food service establishments be required to provide "only single-service eating and drinking utensils". These establishments would still be subject to providing utensils that are clean and free from contamination as per the regulations.

Genetically Modified Crops

Approved 2009

Whereas:

- growing numbers of genetically modified (GM) crops are being approved in North America without scrutiny, testing or oversight;
- these crops rely on the use of ever more harmful chemicals; and
- it has been conclusively shown that such chemicals are a factor in the destruction of valuable crop pollinators such as bees;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports approving new GM crops in the province only after such crops have undergone independent, thorough safety evaluations.

Child Protection and Development

The earlier a person receives care and learning, the more effective it is. Inadequate early care can doom a child to a life of struggle. Greens see early childhood education and care as a means to ensure all children get a chance to develop healthy minds and bodies.

Child Welfare Service Delivery

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- the number of children in care of child welfare agencies has almost doubled in the last 10 years (5,782 in 2003/4 to 10,323 in 2017/18);
- the cost of providing child welfare services has more than quadrupled in the last 10 years, rising from \$130.8 million in 2003/04 to \$543.1 million in 2017/18;
- the Hughes Inquiry recommended that the Metis, First Nations Southern and Northern, and General child welfare authorities be funded to a level that supports the implementation of the differential response model, including caseloads of 20 families per worker, an increase in the \$1,300 annual fund for family enhancement services, and the extension of services to age 25;
- the permanent wards of the child welfare system constitute 69% of all children in care, and face poor educational and employment outcomes and much higher odds of involvement in the criminal justice;
- providing these permanent wards with either adoptive homes or subsidized legal guardianship or custom adoption would reduce the risk of poor outcomes and result in savings to the child welfare system; and
- federal funding of child welfare services on reserves is 22% less than provincial funding;

Be it resolved:

- the Green Party of Manitoba supports reducing the number of children in care by shifting resources to the support of families and extended families;
- the Green Party of Manitoba supports the following changes to the delivery of child welfare services in Manitoba:
 - the full implementation of the differential response approach to assessing the safety and risk of children, using the Structured Decision-Making tool in all of the Authorities, which ensures short-term and long-term improvement to the child's well-being;
 - hiring sufficient additional child welfare workers in each of the Authorities to achieve caseloads of 20 family services cases per worker;
 - training those workers to properly administer the Structured Decision-Making tool and to prepare and implement an adequate plan for delivering the required supports and services to the family to enable it to adequately care for its children;
 - increasing the annual fund available to families to purchase support services;
 - implementing changes to the Adoption Act that would permit subsidized legal guardianship and improvements to adoption;
 - instituting custom adoption practices;
 - equalizing provincial and federal funding of child welfare services on reserves by increasing the federal amount; and
 - helping families of children who are taken into care to regain custody when possible.

Child Care Services

Approved 2013
Revised 2019

Whereas:

- high quality early learning and childcare (ELCC) services promote children's holistic development and support their parents;
- ELCC services are essential for women's equality, help reconcile work and family, encourage social cohesion, social justice and solidarity, and are a recommended call for action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
- universal childcare services help to reduce poverty, support the labour market, and promote a green and sustainable economy;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- a long-term vision of universally accessible, high quality, affordable early learning and childcare services for all children and families who wish to use them; and
- working towards implementing this vision taking into consideration the recommendations of the Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Commission 2016.

Early Childhood Education (pre-kindergarten)

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- learning starts at birth;
- initial school readiness gives students the best chance of long-term educational success; and
- educational success in the early grades (K to 3) greatly increases the likelihood of graduating from high school;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- mandating school divisions, in collaboration with Healthy Child Manitoba and parents/caregivers and the early childhood development community, to develop and implement early childhood education and development programming and initiatives; and
- providing funding to school divisions for early childhood education and development programming and initiatives.

Crime Prevention

The Green approach to crime focuses on tackling causes instead of simply addressing symptoms. Greens want to promote public safety by ensuring that punishments for crimes do not make offenders more likely to re-offend.

Restorative Justice

Approved 2001
Revised 2015

Whereas:

- the crime severity index, the rate of criminal code violations (excluding traffic), and the charge rates for adults and youth dropped between 1998 and 2014 in Manitoba, but the incarceration rates for both groups rose between 2004 and 2013;
- the cost of adult and youth corrections services increased by 9.2 per cent per year between 2004/05 and 2014/15. Between 2014/15 and 2017/18, the annual increase was 2.1 per cent;
- In 2017/18, the annual cost of incarceration for youth and adults was \$87,954 per person while the annual cost of providing adult probation and youth supervision services was \$3,636 per person.
- the budget for the Justice Initiative Fund, which finances crime prevention and restorative justice programs, has declined from 0.5% of the total Department of Justice budget in 2004/05 to 0.4% in 2015/16. In 2016, the Fund was disbanded and replaced by 'crime prevention' funding which was 0.3 per cent of the 2017/18 total budget.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- appointing a Manitoba restorative justice advisory council;
- developing policies respecting the use of restorative justice programs;
- funding restorative justice programs to a level that represents at least 5% of the total budget of the Department of Justice.

Democratic Reform

The Greens recognize that there is an inherent lack of democracy in our current electoral system, allowing candidates and parties with a minority of votes to be elected. We want to strengthen democracy and extend participation in the electoral system through increased fairness and stability.

Proportional Representation

Approved 2004

Revised 2017

Whereas:

- the first-past-the-post system often results in less than 50% of those voting electing a majority government;
- such an outcome causes many voters, especially younger voters, to feel like they are not properly being represented in the legislature;
- proportional representation is an electoral system that awards a proportion of seats in a representative (legislative) body that is proportional to the number of votes a party wins in an election;
- a mixed member system can combine the major attributes of both the first-past-the-post and the proportional representation electoral systems; and
- changing the fundamental aspects of an electoral system is something best done in a careful and incremental manner;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- mixed member proportional representation as the method of achieving democratic representation, as follows:
 - the existing 57 first-past-the-post seats in the Manitoba Legislature to be allocated 50 seats using the first-past-the-post system and 7 seats using the largest remainder method to create a more proportional legislature;
 - the largest remainder seats will be filled by candidates who ran in the election for their respective parties who received the highest percentage of votes compared to other candidates in their party;
 - the minimum election threshold for gaining a seat to be 4%;
- consultation with the public and other political parties regarding implementing these changes; and
- implementing this policy without holding a referendum.

Fixed Election Dates

Approved 2004

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports fixing the length of the governing party's term at four years, unless the government falls in a non-confidence vote.

Youth Suffrage

Approved 2005

Whereas:

- older adolescents are capable of understanding complex political and social issues;
- young people have at least as great a stake in determining who governs them as older people do;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports lowering the voting age to 16 for provincial elections.

Education

Real learning requires an emphasis on developing young minds, not on marks. Greens want an education system that focuses on equity of educational opportunity, while encouraging a student's natural desire to learn.

Testing & Evaluation

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- testing narrows the range of what is taught in school and how it can be taught by making testability a necessary criterion in establishing a curriculum;
- testing promotes the idea that education is little more than a competition for marks, with winners and losers;
- test performance is a poor measure of what students are learning;
- testing and evaluation tend to discourage students who get low marks from further effort;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- minimizing the role of testing and formal evaluation in school, instead giving teachers the means to make meaningful assessments of their students' progress; and
- discontinuing standardized tests.

Teaching for Critical thinking

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- what is taught in school can only really be learned – not just memorized for the test and forgotten – when students are actively engaged in the subject matter and see it as meaningful in their future;
- good teachers can guide and inspire students best by ongoing interaction, rather than presenting a static lesson to a class;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports shifting the focus of education through the following:

- promoting habits of critical thinking which would enable students to evaluate the reliability and accuracy of information sources, as well as to formulate rationally supported ideas and communicate them clearly; and
- centring the curriculum on participation in projects and problem-solving in order to incorporate diverse subject matter and teach a variety of skills, with ongoing emphasis on writing and arithmetic.

Indigenous Students

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- Indigenous students often feel marginalized and alienated from public schooling;
- the Indigenous community is the youngest and fastest growing community in Manitoba; and,
- Indigenous students as a group have much lower academic achievement levels than non-Indigenous students;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- preparing and implementing a plan to improve the educational experiences of Indigenous students by ensuring that:

- Indigenous students feel welcomed and belong in public schools through the implementation of culturally appropriate educational programming and services;
- Indigenous students are academically successful; and
- actions are taken by all schools to engage parents/caregivers of Indigenous students in the education of their children.

Public Schools Financing

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- Manitoba is the only province in Canada where school boards have retained the power to tax locally in order to meet divisional budgets;
- local education taxes make up approximately 33 per cent of the operating budgets for public schools;
- the 36 school divisions in Manitoba have a widely varying revenue generation capacity with the per pupil value of assessed property in 2018/19, ranging from a low of \$111,404 in the Frontier School District to a high of \$911,122 in the Fort La Bosse School District. This results in very different levels of taxation required to provide the same level of expenditure per pupil. For example, Fort La Bosse and Winnipeg school divisions spend \$13,209 and 13,091, respectively per pupil but Fort La Bosse's mill rate is 7.7 while Winnipeg's is 14.6);
- the current equalization support program only covers 64% of the additional expenses provincial grants do not cover; and
- businesses are taxed twice to pay for public school education – once by school divisions via the special levy and again by the provincial government via the education support levy;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party supports:

- having the provincial government assume complete responsibility for the financing of the public school system in Manitoba by removing the power of property taxation by the school divisions and replacing the foregone revenues with a system of financing that would provide an equitable level of funding to each school division, based on objective criteria of student need and a standardized level of service based on student need;
- the \$851.9 million in additional revenues required to completely finance public schools being raised through an increase in the personal income tax rates, but being overall revenue neutral to the tax payer given that the \$851.9 million in education property taxes raised in 2018/19 would be eliminated;
- the education support levy on commercial properties of \$180.4 million being removed and replaced with a revenue neutral increase in corporate income taxes.

Professional Development for Teachers and School Administrators

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- educational research indicates that the two biggest in-school factors affecting student academic achievement are: (i) teacher competency and (ii) strong school leadership; and
- to create the best possible learning environments in schools it is important that teachers, school administrators and school division administrators work well together as a team;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports all school divisions, in collaboration with teachers and school administrators, developing annual professional development plans for teachers and school administrators.

Foundational Skills

Approved 2019

Whereas:

to acquire important life skills;

to be academically success throughout their school career;

to be effectively engaged in higher-order learning; and
to be effective life-long learners;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- placing a greater emphasis on the teaching of foundational skills in numeracy and literacy, especially in the early years (K-4); and
- reducing 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, regardless of where in the province the student is attending school.

Education of children living in poverty

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- Manitoba has a significant percentage of children and youth living in poverty;
- research and experience indicate that children and youth living in poverty are more likely to experience academic and other difficulties in school; and
- are less likely than students not living in poverty to graduate from high school;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- school divisions putting into place educational programming and services that are designed to specifically address the academic needs of children and youth living in poverty;
- putting into place programming and services that are designed to specifically address the in-school social needs of children and youth living in poverty;
- ensuring actions are taken by all schools to engage parents/caregivers of students in poverty in the education of their children.

Environmental Awareness Education

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- local, regional and global eco-systems are being ever more severely stressed, degraded and compromised by population growth and non-sustainable economic activity;
- a vast majority of climate scientists agree that dramatic (perhaps catastrophic) climate change is inevitable if individuals and societies continue utilizing carbon-based energy sources to the same extent in the future as is presently the case ;
- the well-being of future generations depends on there being a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable low-carbon economy; and
- it is urgent that today's student learn as quickly as possible how to transition as quickly as possible to a low-carbon economy;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- requiring that all future curriculum development be done from the perspective of teaching students to be ecologically aware and literate;
- encouraging each school to develop and implement an education for sustainability school plan; and
- requiring faculties of education to incorporate into teacher education and training what teachers need to know to teach students to be ecologically literate and live sustainably.

Access to Post-Secondary Education

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- most parents want their children to acquire some post-secondary education and training;
- an ever increasing number of jobs require some post-secondary education and training;
- significant post-secondary student debt is becoming ever more prevalent; and
- the prospect of significant post-secondary student debt can be a barrier to students aspiring to post-secondary education and training, especially students from low income circumstances;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- the Department of Education ensuring that students in need of financial assistance receive at least 50% of eligible assistance as non-repayable financial assistance; and
- the repayment of all assistance which is received as a loan be through an Income Contingent Repayment plan, based on the ability to pay.

School Instruction Time Allocation & Management

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- research indicates that the amount of instructional time correlates with higher student achievement;
- increased instructional time in Chicago schools had been determined to be an important factor leading to significant increases in student achievement;
- schools should know best what the needs of their students are in terms of the allocation of available instructional time; and
- schools and school divisions in Manitoba currently do not have the authority to alter the hours or days of instruction;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- school divisions being able to establish their own schedule of the hours and days of instructional time within the provincially determined number of school days in a calendar year; and
- schools, under the guidance of school divisions, being able to allocate available instructional time during the school day.

Out-of-class tutoring

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- many students struggling academically would often benefit from in-school out-of-class extra help;
- many schools are not resourced to provide such help;
- research indicates that falling behind academically is especially problematic and difficult to remedy; and
- many parents cannot afford to hire private tutors to provide such help;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- requiring all schools to make available in-school out-of-class tutoring services to all students and, in particular, for struggling students; and
- providing funding to school divisions specifically in support of in-school out-of-class tutoring services.

Energy Responsibility

Climate change is the biggest threat the world now faces. Greens recognize the urgency of replacing oil and gas infrastructure in public and private spheres with clean and efficient energy systems.

Carbon Tax

Approved 2013

Revised 2015, 2019

Whereas:

- climate change due to global warming threatens to unleash massive changes in weather that will seriously compromise the health and well-being of all forms of life;
- large increases in the price of fossil fuels are required to reduce the demand;
- a carbon tax based on the CO₂ equivalent of fossil fuels leads to increases in the price of fossil fuel that are directly related to its global warming potential;
- where carbon taxes have been implemented, there are reductions in fossil fuel use; and
- the recycling of revenues from a carbon tax in the form of investments in sustainable infrastructure and rebates to households and the lowering of payroll taxes results in both equitable and efficient results for households and the economy;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports emissions reductions, favouring:

- an output-based carbon tax on large industrial emitters that will reduce carbon emissions;
- a tax on the sale of a broad range of carbon-based fuels, based on their carbon equivalent emissions, that is sufficiently high to reduce consumption of those fuels to targeted levels;
- these taxes being revenue neutral, disbursed in full on:
 - spending on public and private green infrastructure;
 - cash transfers to households and non-profits;
 - reductions in payroll and/or income taxes; and
- the government of Manitoba providing an annual full accounting of the revenues raised and disbursed.

Energy East Pipeline

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- the proposed Energy East pipeline would carry diluted bitumen and other petroleum products across Manitoba through an existing natural gas line that is more than forty years old;
- the TransCanada natural gas lines have a long history of rupture and explosion, including one in Otterburne, Manitoba, in the winter of 2014;
- leaks and spills from the Energy East pipeline would endanger water supplies across Manitoba, including the Winnipeg Aqueduct, and present a serious risk of a deadly bitumen explosion and fire ignited from an explosion in any one of the five natural gas lines that all run in a parallel corridor within about 30 meters of the proposed Energy East pipeline;
- the Energy East line will offer very little benefit to Manitoba in terms of long-term employment;
- development of this line will promote the expansion of the extraction of bitumen from the tar sands that will add to our global burden of greenhouse gases and inhibit a transition away from fossil fuels that is necessary to avoid climate disaster; and
- components of the project require provincial licensing and approval;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports the transition away from fossil fuels so that pipelines and transport of oil via rail or road are no longer required;

Be it further resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba:

- will oppose the Energy East project through its role as an intervenor in the NEB hearings and by any other means at its disposal;

- opposes the transportation of diluted bitumen via pipeline or rail;
- supports increasing penalties for oil spills and pollution of waterways under the Manitoba Oil and Gas Act and Manitoba Water Protection Act;
- will seek to ensure that any and all clean-up costs be borne by the company or companies, responsible; and
- supports strengthening legislation to hold corporate directors and/or managers accountable for permitting corporate activities that result in oil spills, water contamination and/or, pollution.

Fracking Ban

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- hydraulic fracturing has occurred in all of Manitoba's 3,600 active oil wells;
- the Province of Manitoba currently has no regulations that would require oil companies to report the type and amount of fracking chemicals used, nor the amount of fresh water used in the process; and
- among the possible dangers inherent in fracking is the permanent contamination of groundwater with toxic chemicals.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports a ban on fracking.

Garbage Dumps & Wind Turbines

Approved 2011

Whereas:

- most garbage dumps are located in undesirable locations, suitable for little else than disposal of garbage;
- approval for dumps is a lengthy and complex process; and
- a similar lengthy approval process is required for the installation of wind turbines;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports the principle of accelerated approvals for wind turbine installation on already degraded sites such as garbage dumps, when such sites are suitable for wind turbine development.

Environmental Impact Assessments

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- our individual and collective well-being is directly related to the well-being of the natural world;
 - it is imperative that the natural environment be better preserved and protected in the future than has been the case in the past;
 - to do so will mean better and more consistently assessing all individual and collective actions in terms of their ecological and environmental impact, and
- democratic governments have an inherent responsibility to ensure that appropriate measures to preserve and protect the natural environment are taken on behalf of their electorate.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- mandating environmental impact assessments, independent from the industry but paid for by the proponents, of all current and future fossil fuel exploration and production activities;
- requiring mitigation procedures for the safe disposal of all solid, liquid and gaseous waste streams for both current and new projects; and
- ensuring that new production begins only upon the completion of the impact assessment on all waste streams.

Energy & Housing

Approved 2011

Whereas:

- numerous events have shown that macro power grid systems are not 100% reliable and are prone to catastrophic outages (Quebec ice storm, Ontario power outage);
- micro grid technologies are well established and affordable. Under micro power systems each house is an independent power producer, and a power-thrifty home owner will never have to purchase power from a utility provider; and
- micro power systems are available “off-the-shelf”, extremely reliable, and in most cases allow for a reliable supply of power to the building if a catastrophic macro grid power outage should occur;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports requirements that building permits for new residential housing units include the installation of a 3 KW capacity micro power system based on renewable energy sources.

Back-metering Electricity

Approved 2006

Whereas:

- home owners and businesses are able to generate power from solar-panels, small-scale wind-turbines, or other alternative energy sources that they not need; and
- currently in Manitoba there is no provision to allow for paying for excess power being returned to the electricity grid;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party supports facilitating the individual and small-scale production of green energy systems by allowing back-metering.

Street Lighting & Light Pollution

Approved 2009

Whereas:

LED street lights use considerably less energy than halogen street lights.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- transitioning from older designed street lights to newer energy efficient LED street lights; and
- policies that would reduce excessive lighting and light pollution.

Green Economy

The Greens advocate a fundamental shift in the focus of our economic structure away from one that champions wealth accumulation for the few, a system that can only exist at the expense of the well-being of all others and of the physical environment.

Balanced Budgets

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- the overall debt in Manitoba is over \$24 billion as of March 31, 2018;
- the Manitoba government has run up consecutive annual deficits since 2009/10 with no plan to run surpluses for the foreseeable future;
- interest expenses consumed \$952 million in the 2017/18 fiscal year, despite historically low interest rates;
- the current government has reduced the Manitoba fiscal stabilization fund from a high of \$864 million in 2008/09 to \$123 million in 2017/18;
- the real per capita GDP has grown by 0.7% per year between 2009/10 and 2017/18 while real per capita government revenues have increased by only +0.1% per year while real per capita expenditures have risen by +0.4% per year;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports balancing the Manitoba budget through:

- replacing social assistance and income-tested benefits with a tax-based Guaranteed Annual Income;
- eliminating selected tax expenditures, including the fuel tax discount on marked fuels, the PST exemption on farm pesticides, as well as corporate business tax credits;
- limiting the overall increase in expenditures by all departments to the per cent change in the real per capita GDP;
- increasing own-source revenues by an amount equal to the loss in federal revenues; and
- adding to the fiscal stabilization fund by 2.0% of revenues during years of revenue increases along with using the stabilization fund in years of revenue decreases, to balance the budget on an annual basis.

Bank of Manitoba

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- the Canadian economy is plagued with debt saturation and exposure to global financial volatility, which is an artificial problem that distracts from more pressing ecological considerations;
- with electronic credit as the dominant global currency medium, it presents credit creators ("banks") with an opportunity to derive benefits that were once solely available to the central banks of federal governments; and
- a citizen treasury branch can be mandated to re-invest that reward into the local economy and into public services rather than have it drained into a private bank, where it may be paid out as a bank dividend to bank shareholders rather than invested into roads, schools, and hospitals;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party supports investigating the feasibility of a Manitoba-owned public bank, modelled on the Bank of North Dakota and the Alberta Treasury Branch (ATB Financial), so that banking profits can be reinvested in public services and fiscal stability can be maintained.

Flow-through Shares

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- flow-through shares are a special type of share issued by oil and gas or mineral exploration companies that allows certain tax deductions;
- the purchase of these shares provides an incentive for financing qualifying exploration ventures in Canada by effectively shifting the tax deduction from the company doing the exploration to the purchasers of the flow-through shares; and
- the existence of these shares gives preferential treatment to the oil and gas industry over alternative energy industries;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- the creation of investment in alternative energy development by allowing for 100% of the intangible costs associated with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, such as feasibility studies and pre-construction development expenses, to be included in any provincial tax incentives; and
- that to be eligible for flow-through shares, there be no baseline requirements of depreciable assets.

Canada-European Trade Agreement

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- the Canada-European Trade Agreement contains many non-trade clauses which will hurt the citizens, the existing businesses, and the economy in Canada;
- CETA contains clauses which allow an investor to sue the citizens of Canada if any law is passed which reduces that investor's expectation of profit; and
- CETA requires the consent of the provinces;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba opposes the Canada-European Trade Agreement.

Gambling

Approved 2001

Whereas:

The Green Party of Manitoba recognizes that small-scale gambling with limited pots can be a source of entertainment; however, large-scale and addictive gambling operations are unhealthy for individuals, families, and communities.

Be it resolved:

- the Green Party of Manitoba opposes using large gambling operations to raise government revenue;
- the Green Party of Manitoba supports:
 - a freeze on the development of new casinos, with existing casinos to be phased out over a ten-year period;
 - banning video lottery terminals; and
 - distributing 50% of the annual revenue from existing casinos to First Nations communities as grants to be used to develop sustainable alternative economic projects.

Manitoba *Liquor Control Act*

Approved 2011

Whereas:

- the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission is the sole importer of liquor into the province as per the Manitoba *Liquor Control Act* ;
- the Manitoba *Liquor Control Act* allows only private wine stores and beer vendors (attached to a motor hotel or similar facility), and the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission sets the retail price for liquor sold in the province; and
- the regulations for commercial liquor licenses are onerous and outdated;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports amending the Manitoba *Liquor Control Act* :

- to allow private liquor retailers to import directly from wholesalers and producers;
- to allow private liquor retailers to set their own retail prices in their establishments;
- to allow private beer stores not attached to a motor hotel and similar facility, and private enterprises to sell other spirits; and
- to harmonize commercial liquor licences to one licence which allows a restaurant or hospitality enterprise to serve liquor;

Be it further resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports changing federal laws to allow for the importation of liquor across provincial boundaries.

Health Care

A cornerstone of the Greens' approach to health care is prevention. This involves not only promoting improved diets and ways of living, but also tackling stress, in particular the stress caused by living in poverty. Since stress is a significant detriment to a person's health, the ongoing stress caused by poverty creates tremendous demand on the health care system.

Reducing costs of delivery

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- provincial health care costs have increased by 4.43% per year over the last 10 years (2007/08 to 2017/18), compared to 2.91% per year for non-health care expenditures, and 3.98% per year for the provincial GDP;
- such growth crowds out provincial government expenditures on other services and is unsustainable;

- health care delivery in Manitoba can be more economical. Over 80% of physician visits can be dealt with by another (and cheaper) health professional; and
- Manitoba's Aging in Place program, which is focused on keeping seniors in their own homes for as long as possible, saves the high cost of care home placement and hospital stays;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- working with other provinces to jointly purchase pharmaceuticals;
- making greater use of inter-professional care at health clinics, such as physician assistants; and
- providing greater supports for the Aging in Place program.

Healthy Living Promotion

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- of the \$6.1 billion spent on health care in Manitoba in 2017/18, only \$3.6 million was spent on seniors & healthy aging and primary health care;
- obesity and diabetes are big cost items, due primarily to lifestyle choices, which can be influenced by public policy; and
- recent studies have shown that a high sales tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, snack foods and sweetened baked goods leads to their reduced consumption;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- an increase in the existing provincial sales tax rate on "junk food", with this tax at least 20% of the retail price of the product; and
- using the proceeds of this tax to increase the funding on health promotion to 2% of total health care spending (\$100 million) by focusing on best-practice programs.

Family Planning

Approved 2004

Whereas:

Women have the right to receive an abortion in the health care facility of her choice without financial or other penalty.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- full public funding for abortion services;
- requiring every regional health authority to offer abortion services within its geographical boundaries;
- less invasive family planning programs, including education;
- fully funded conception planning under Medicare and Pharmacare; and
- requiring Manitoba pharmacies to sell contraception and abortion products, such as the 'morning after pill' and the 'abortion pill'.

Reducing Road Accidents

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- any loss of life or severe injury in traffic is preventable;
- people make mistakes, therefore an effective road safety system must take human fallibility into account;
- traffic-related death and injury are often the result of ineffective public policy;
- the Swedish Vision Zero Initiative and Dutch Sustainable Safety Vision laws have been successful in saving lives and reducing road collisions;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports the development, by Manitoba Infrastructure and Transportation and Manitoba Public Insurance, of a road safety strategy based on the principal that human life and health take priority over other objectives of the road traffic system, taking the Swedish Vision Zero Initiative and Dutch Sustainable Safety Vision as their guides.

Preventive Health Care

Approved 2001

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- including alternative treatments and therapies under Manitoba Health coverage; and
- mandating stricter pollution control measures.

Housing & Homelessness

Stable living quarters in well-built housing is a must for everyone; however, homelessness and insecure housing is increasing in the province. The Greens wants to see the expansion of adequate, affordable housing in Manitoba through exploring a number of innovative ways to provide these units.

Affordable and Social Housing

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- the 2016 Census shows that living in unaffordable housing is mainly confined to low income households and that subsidized housing dramatically lowers the risk of unaffordable housing;
- the Manitoba government currently has four separate programs for making housing more affordable to low income renter households;
- the GPM's Guaranteed Annual Income (GAI) proposal provides a guarantee to all low income households which currently experience a housing affordability problem that exceeds the value of current rent subsidies; and
- the average cost of constructing, maintaining and administering the delivery of new social housing units was \$400,000 in 2017;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- replacing the current set of rent subsidy programs with a GAI and using the direct and administrative costs of the current rent subsidy programs to help finance the GAI;
- looking for more economical ways of providing social housing, including building smaller housing units, using inexpensive but durable materials and furnishings, purchasing and renovating existing housing, and contracting with non-profit housing agencies like Westminster Housing Co-op to build and operate units.

Homelessness

Approved 2019

Whereas:

- homelessness is on the rise across the industrialized world and is a growing concern in Manitoba;
- significant community efforts are being made by organizations in Manitoba, such as End Homelessness Winnipeg, to end homelessness;
- unlike most other European countries, Finland has significantly reduced homelessness through its Housing First national policy; and
- the economic cost of homelessness is high due to related public spending on health, social and judicial services;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- the federal government's commitment to a national policy to prevent, reduce and end homelessness;
- working with community members and organizations to mitigate and ultimately end homelessness in Manitoba; and

- developing a comprehensive strategy to end homelessness in Manitoba by 2025, based on research regarding what has worked elsewhere and on consultation with community members and social service workers in Manitoba.

Green Renovations

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- the lack of adequate, affordable housing is frequently identified as a top priority for reducing poverty in Manitoba;
- the Province of Manitoba currently offers a number of financial incentives to improve and increase the stock of affordable housing units; and
- green building practices and materials offer cost savings in the long run through efficiencies, and healthier living spaces due to reduced indoor pollution. As a result, green construction and renovation contribute to the affordability of houses and apartments;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports offering significantly larger financial incentives for the renovation of modest residences, and making these incentives contingent upon the incorporation of clearly established green building standards.

Laneway Housing

Approved 2011

Whereas:

- most Manitoba cities have a shortage of affordable housing and/or affordable rental accommodation;
- encouraging the construction of laneway housing units can reduce this problem; and
- laneway housing helps to reign in urban sprawl, allows for denser and more mixed neighborhoods, and decreases the per-unit cost of utility servicing;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports establishing policies to allow the implementation of laneway housing where economically feasible.

Income Security

Having a stable source of income sufficient to provide for one's needs is necessary to enable people to be healthy and to fully participate in their communities. Income security is pivotal to the Greens' vision of a just and equitable society.

Guaranteed Annual Income (Universal Basic Income)

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- income poverty has increased in Manitoba since 2008 and is particularly high among non-elderly single persons and single parent households;
- a form of guaranteed annual income, the Old Age Pension and Supplement, has helped to substantially reduce poverty rates over the last 40 years;
- Manitoba has a patchwork system of income supports for non-elderly low-income households that provide an inadequate level of benefits and are expensive to operate;
- the federal Employment Insurance program provides inadequate protection to adults who experience job loss; and
- a secure source of income can reduce the demand for costly health, justice, and child welfare services;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba, within one term of forming the government, will implement a guaranteed annual income for all Manitobans, to replace most non-refundable and refundable income tax credits and all income-tested benefits currently administered by the provincial government.

Living Wage

Approved 2001
Revised 2017

Whereas:

- single non-elderly adults have the highest poverty rates and greatest depth of poverty of all demographic groups in Manitoba;
- of all demographic groups, working-age single adults are the most dependent on wage earnings to escape poverty;
- minimum wage rates should be set at a level that allows workers to escape poverty; and
- the Market Basket Measure (MBM) threshold of poverty is the most accurate measure of the cost of living for low-income Manitobans;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- Manitoba's minimum wage rate be set at that level that allows a single working-age adult working full time, full year to achieve an after-tax income equal to the weighted average MBM low income threshold for Manitoba; and
- annually indexing this wage rate to the most current MBM threshold. For October, 2019, the minimum rate would be \$13.70 an hour.

Pension Protection in Case of Bankruptcy

Approved 2013

Whereas:

Pension benefits and the capital and earnings of the pension trust funds created by workers' contributions and the contributions of their employers are vulnerable to being lost to employees in cases of employer bankruptcy.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba support revising bankruptcy laws so as to prevent any employer in bankruptcy from gaining possession of the Pension Trust Fund, its capital, and its earnings which that employer administers in trust.

Protection of Pension Benefits

Approved 2013

Whereas:

Current trust law allows employers to control workers' pension funds.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- enacting new legislation to prohibit any employer or trustee from taking possession of the Pension Trust Fund or the earnings thereof which it administers in trust; and
- 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.

Labour

The Greens see fair treatment of workers as a key element in a green economy.

Respecting the *Labour Relations Act*

Approved 2009

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- encouraging collective bargaining; and

- removing references to discrimination based on union activities from the *Labour Relations Act* and placed them under the *Manitoba Human Rights Act*, to be administered by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission.

Thirty-five Hour Work Week

Approved 2003

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports changing the standard hours of work in Manitoba from 40 to 35 hours a week.

Farm Workers

Approved 2013

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports extending minimum employment, labour, safety and workers' compensation protections to farm employees.

Natural Resources

The Greens want to halt the increasing deterioration of our natural resources, and to stop their inappropriate exploitation.

Restoring Lake Winnipeg

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- Lake Winnipeg has been declared the world's "Threatened Lake of the Year for 2013" by the Global Nature Fund, an international environmental protection foundation;
- excess phosphorus is entering the lake from inadequately treated sewage and from agricultural run-off, causing toxic blue-green algal blooms which are poisonous to vertebrates, including humans, and which choke out other life forms and undermine the balance of the lake's food web; and
- lax sewage treatment regulations and agricultural run-off and are the main culprits creating the lake's problems;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports increased efforts to reduce phosphorus run-off into Lake Winnipeg, which would include:

- mandating the strengthening and enforcement of manure management regulations for hog barns, chicken barns and feedlots in the Red River Basin to eliminate manure run-off;
- mandating proper sewage treatment and water testing by all municipalities in the Lake Winnipeg watershed to eliminate the contamination of waterways; and
- banning mining of peat lands, which are the filter for Lake Winnipeg;

Be it further resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba urges the Province of Manitoba to take a stronger lead in pressing the federal government and other government bodies responsible for the Lake Winnipeg watershed to take urgent action towards establishing and maintaining effective stewardship for the lake.

Watershed Management & Wetland Restoration

Approved 2015

Whereas:

- Manitoba is experiencing higher levels of precipitation year-round, likely due to climate change;
- the disappearance of wetlands over the last century and the construction of drainage ditches has resulted in higher and faster flows of water off the land into rivers and lakes which, in turn, flood their banks and cause damage to property and the lands flooded;
- the restoration of wetlands on privately owned farmland would reduce the likelihood and degree of flooding in rivers and lakes; and

- farmers would require financial incentives to convert some of their farmland back to wetlands;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- policies and practices that provide farmers with incentives to create and maintain wetlands on their property, including:
 - reducing the current farmland municipal assessment portioning rate of 26% on farmland converted and maintained as wetlands, and increasing it on land left in production; and
 - providing farmers with grants to build water control and dam structures.

Potable Water Conservation

Approved 2011

Whereas:

- treated potable water is a valuable commodity;
- in most residences 50% of the treated potable water is used to supply water for toilets – a tremendous waste of resources; and
- water reclamation systems are available “off-the shelf” and, in addition, rainwater can easily be diverted for toilet flushing purposes.

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports mandating that all building permits for residential, commercial, institutional and industrial buildings include a water reclamation system so that only minimal amounts of treated water are used for toilet flushing.

Ecological Sanitation

Approved 2004

Whereas:

- sewer and wastewater systems are inherently capital and energy intensive;
- these cause public health and ecosystem deterioration, and produce no useful product; and
- ecological sanitation systems exist that cause none of sewer and wastewater systems' problems but rather correct them.; their infrastructures cost far less, and they produce a useful agricultural end product;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports moving toward ecological sanitation by implementing low-cost, on-site, excreta recycling technologies giving primacy to dry, composting toilets.

Water Protection

Approved 2004

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- federal government initiatives to ban bulk water exports;
- legislating watershed reserves for the protection of domestic water sources and, within those watersheds, banning logging, road building, pesticide use, grazing, and industrial development;
- banning the privatization of municipal water and wastewater services;
- banning the deposition of untreated human and livestock sewage into waterways; and
- requiring the phase-out of chlorination water treatment systems, replacing them with ozonation, ultra-violet sterilization, sand filtration and other safer water purification systems.
- making vigorous efforts to protect surface and ground water by increasing enforcement of existing laws and regulations, and adopting ecological sanitation technologies to process manure.

Fracking Ban

Approved 2013

Whereas:

- hydraulic fracturing has occurred in all of Manitoba's 3,600 active oil wells;
- the Province of Manitoba currently has no regulations that would require oil companies to report the type and amount of fracking chemicals used, nor the amount of fresh water used in the process; and
- among the possible dangers inherent in fracking is the permanent contamination of groundwater with toxic chemicals;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports a ban on fracking.

Provincial Parks and Manitoba's East Shore Wilderness

Approved 2004

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- keeping provincial parks pristine, protected, and free of industry;
- developing a comprehensive conservation plan for Manitoba's East Shore wilderness area in full consultation with the area's First Nations communities; and
- preserving First Nations' livelihoods by including large contiguous tracts of land kept free of industrial development.

Land Use & Conservation

Approved 2002

Whereas:

Irresponsible land use planning, degradation of land through human activity, and changes in land quality and availability due to climate change mean that land must be managed so as to ensure sustainable human development and safeguard biodiversity;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- restructuring our towns and cities in such a way as to maximize resource conservation;
- giving priority to technologies which promote reuse and recycling of materials and products over the production of goods from newly generated resources.

Transportation

Transportation is expensive and is a major source of atmospheric pollution. Greens want to bring back rural bus service, shift freight off of highways and onto railways, and increase vehicle fuel efficiency.

Fare-free Public Transit

Approved 2011

Revised 2015

Whereas:

- public transit use is an effective way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation;
- fare-free transit has been successful in dramatically increasing ridership in other cities, with a corresponding reduction in automobile use;
- fare-free transit will reduce the long-term costs of road expansion and maintenance;
- public transportation improves air quality and stimulates activity in our local economy;
- the largest operating costs for public transportation are salaries and benefits;
- fare-free transit systems will reduce transit labour costs by 5% – 15%; and
- the total operating costs for Winnipeg transit are funded by: the Province of Manitoba 23.5%, the City of Winnipeg 27.0%, and collected fares 49.5%;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- introducing fare-free public transportation service in Manitoba;
- improved public transit, including increased frequency of buses, operating hours, and number of routes;
- encouraging all cities in Manitoba with public transit systems to provide fare-free transit by committing to change the funding formula for operating expenses for any city that adopts a fare-free transit system to: the Province of Manitoba 60%, municipal funding 40%, fare collection 0;
- encouraging the federal government to reallocate the existing public transit non-refundable tax credit directly to the urban centers that provide fare-free transit systems;
- additional funding required by the Manitoba government to come from proceeds from a new carbon tax; and
- converting the current public transit fleets to zero carbon emission vehicles.

Intercity Bus Service

Approved 2009

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports:

- changing the structure of the Motor Transport Board to ensure that groups in need of inter-community bus service, small businesses, and rural interests are all represented;
- encouraging competition and greater ridership, while maintaining rigorous safety standards;
- encouraging the use of smaller and/or freight only vehicles for routes that are currently considered unprofitable, taking into account economic and environmental impacts;
- considering alternative business plans, such as the one proposed by Boudin Bus Lines, instead of bailouts;
- coordinating bus service with rail service;
- establishing a transportation commission (using Saskatchewan as a model) to ensure that services are provided to all communities;
- providing transitional grants for truly uneconomical routes (using Quebec as a model) to allow continued service while a local solution is being developed;
- encouraging a joint federal-provincial approach to the issue of the declining bus industry in Canada;
- encouraging a switch to more fuel-efficient vehicles, and vehicles more appropriate for low-use routes within a specified time frame; and
- restoring VIA Rail Canada services where possible.

Airship Fleet for Remote Communities

Approved 2009

Whereas:

- airships may provide a cost-effective transportation option to remote northern communities;
- the high cost of transportation in these remote communities results in exorbitantly high costs for food and poor access to medical services;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports the development of airship transportation and services.

Fuel Efficient Vehicles

Approved 2005

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports encouraging fuel-efficient transportation by:

- mandating that the provincial government purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles;
- providing Manitobans with rebates and other incentives to buy fuel efficient cars, such as hybrids;
- implementing an eco-tax on less fuel-efficient vehicles to be used to subsidize public transit; and
- phasing in buses that use hydrogen fuel cells and/or other alternative fuels.

Waste Management

The Greens want to see Manitoba's part in the global waste crisis come to an end. We want to introduce measures to stem the production of garbage through incentives and disincentives, including bans and enhanced producer responsibility.

Solid Waste Reduction

Approved 2017

Revised 2019

Whereas:

- waste reduction measures in Manitoba are inadequate, given the low overall waste diversion rates (26% of residential and 13% ICI in 2016), the inadequate incentives to households and businesses for diverting waste from landfills and, for many items diverted from the landfill, the lack of local opportunities for recycling them into reusable products;
- Manitoba has a multitude of product-specific programs for diverting waste, but lacks an overarching vision and firm goals;
- Manitoba has no comprehensive system of household and commercial organic waste pickup and composting for organics which results in methane gas emissions at landfills that contribute to climate change; and
- waste reduction programs contribute to reducing climate change, protecting health, creating green jobs and result in cost savings in the long term;

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports the development of a maximum waste diversion program for the province that includes the following initiatives:

- implementing a system of high environmental handling fees and adequate rebates to consumers for returning recyclable items;
- implementing a province-wide municipal organics diversion programs from both the residential and the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sectors;
- rewriting the business plans for those Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) currently operating in Manitoba who are not achieving high diversion rates;
- requiring the PROs to include the industrial, commercial and institutional sectors in their recycling programs;
- requiring PROs to design and implement incentives and disincentives for both the residential and commercial sectors to minimize waste disposal;
- setting the tipping fees and WRARS levy for garbage dumps higher than the fees charged by material recovery facilities for accepting recyclable materials, so as to incent the ICI sector and municipalities to recycle; and
- identifying those materials that cannot be recycled and work towards banning them from use by consumers.

Deposit Return System for Glass Food Containers

Approved 2004

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba supports mandating a deposit-return system for all glass food and beverage containers.

Radioactive Waste Storage

Approved 2001

Be it resolved:

The Green Party of Manitoba opposes the importation and storage of high-level radioactive waste created outside of Manitoba and brought into the province.