

Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy

Annual Report

2019 – 2020



Pursuant to The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, this document reports on the status of indicators of poverty reduction and social inclusion in the 2019/20 fiscal year.

This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.

For alternate format requests, please contact povertyreduction@gov.mb.ca.

This publication can also be found online at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/povertyreduction>

Message from the Poverty Reduction Committee Co-Chairs

As co-chairs of Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Committee, we are pleased to share the 2019/20 annual report on Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy.

Released in 2019, [Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#) is informed by community consultations to address the root causes of poverty in Manitoba. Through this annual report, our government is reporting on key targets and 13 indicators to measure success in reducing poverty and social exclusion. The measurement framework provides a transparent way to assess the outcomes of our poverty reduction initiatives.

The investments that our government has made in families and communities across the province continue to show positive results. The most recent low-income data for 2018, released in February 2020, shows that the poverty rate among Manitobans is 9.3 per cent, a decrease of 22.5 per cent compared to the baseline year of 2015. The impact has been even more significant for children. The low-income rate was 11.3 per cent among children in 2018, a decrease of 31.1 per cent, compared to 2015.

It is important to stay informed on how the most vulnerable Manitobans are doing, particularly in light of the recent coronavirus pandemic that can exacerbate issues that lead to poverty. Given recent challenges, our government is reaffirming our commitment to support the guiding vision in Pathways to a Better Future that all Manitobans have resources, opportunities and access to achieve a better quality of life.

Our government will continue to work with community partners to help reduce poverty for all Manitobans.

Sincerely,



Honourable Heather Stefanson
Minister of Families
Committee Co-Chair



Honourable Kelvin Goertzen
Minister of Education
Committee Co-Chair

Message des coprésidents du Comité de réduction de la pauvreté

À titre de coprésidents du Comité de réduction de la pauvreté du Manitoba, nous sommes heureux de transmettre le rapport annuel 2019-2020 de la stratégie manitobaine de réduction de la pauvreté.

Publié en 2019, le rapport [S'engager vers un avenir meilleur : Stratégie manitobaine de réduction de la pauvreté](#) se fonde sur les consultations communautaires tenues pour traiter des causes profondes de la pauvreté au Manitoba. Dans ce rapport annuel, notre gouvernement rend compte des principaux objectifs et des 13 indicateurs servant à mesurer la réduction la pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale. Le cadre de mesure fournit un moyen transparent d'évaluer les résultats de nos initiatives de réduction de la pauvreté.

L'investissement que notre gouvernement a réalisé dans les familles et les collectivités à l'échelle de la province continue de fournir des résultats positifs. Selon les données les plus récentes concernant le faible revenu en 2018, publiées en février 2020, le taux de pauvreté chez les Manitobains est de 9,3 %, ce qui constitue une baisse de 22,5 % par rapport à 2015, l'année de référence. Les répercussions ont été encore plus notables chez les enfants. Le taux de faible revenu était de 11,3 % chez les enfants en 2018, représentant une baisse de 31,1 % par rapport à 2015.

Il est important de se tenir informé sur la situation des Manitobains les plus vulnérables, particulièrement compte tenu de la récente pandémie de coronavirus qui peut aggraver les enjeux menant à la pauvreté. Étant donné les défis récents, notre gouvernement réaffirme son soutien à l'égard de la vision directrice de S'engager vers un avenir meilleur, qui consiste à ce que tous les Manitobains disposent des ressources, des possibilités et des ouvertures nécessaires pour avoir une meilleure qualité de vie.

Notre gouvernement continuera à travailler avec les partenaires communautaires afin d'aider à réduire la pauvreté pour l'ensemble de la population de la province.



Heather Stefanson
Ministre des Familles
Coprésidente du Comité



Kelvin Goertzen
Ministre de l'Éducation
Coprésident du Comité

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Progress in 2019/20

The Manitoba government remains firmly committed to reducing poverty. This means helping Manitobans access opportunities and supports they need to thrive, as well as breaking down barriers for those facing obstacles to full inclusion and participation in society. This commitment was entrenched in law in 2011 through The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, which sets out requirements for a long-term provincial strategy, the establishment of indicators and measurement, and annual reporting of progress.

During the 2019/20 fiscal year, the Manitoba government was engaged in system transformation in several areas, ranging from child welfare to health care. Manitoba launched its first landmark Social Impact Bond, and continued to strengthen partnerships between all levels of government and community-based service providers. This annual report shares highlights of how government is working to create better outcomes for Manitobans living in poverty, and presents data on thirteen indicators used to measure progress.

Poverty Reduction Committee

Under The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act, the Poverty Reduction Committee, comprised of community members and provincial ministers responsible for poverty-related policies, programs and services, oversees the implementation of the strategy, provides advice and facilitates community involvement in strategy development.

As of March 31, 2020, members of the Poverty Reduction Committee were:

- Honourable Heather Stefanson, Families (co-chair)
- Honourable Kelvin Goertzen, Education (co-chair)
- Honourable Eileen Clarke, Indigenous and Northern Relations
- Honourable Ralph Eichler, Economic Development and Training
- Honourable Cathy Cox, The Minister responsible for the Status of Women
- Mr. Bob Lagassé, MLA for Dawson Trail
- Ms. Zully Trujillo
- Dr. Jennie Wastesicoot

Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy

[Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy](#), launched in March 2019, is a multi-year, whole-of-government strategy that is focused on outcomes and a vision where “all Manitobans have resources, opportunities, and access to achieve a better quality of life.” The strategy is woven around six priority areas and uses a reconciliation-focused approach that is embedded in each pathway. This comprehensive strategy is grounded in the understanding that reducing poverty is a shared responsibility. The Manitoba government plays an important role alongside community, Indigenous, business, and government partners.

The strategy focuses on six priority areas including:

- Investing in Manitoba's future prosperity through supports to children and youth,
- Working together to improve health outcomes and standard of living,
- Promoting economic inclusion through employment, education and training,
- Facilitating partnerships and supporting community-based organizations,
- Strengthening client-centred service delivery, and
- Making positive change through social innovation.

Highlights of Actions Taken in 2019/20

This section provides an overview of government activities and investments to create the conditions for strong, sustainable economic growth and to move the needle forward on reducing poverty in Manitoba.

Enhancing Opportunities for Early Learning and Child Care

A system of accessible early learning and child care (ELCC) services is an essential component of a successful poverty reduction strategy.

The Canada-Manitoba Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, launched in February 2018, invested nearly \$47 million from 2017/18 to 2019/20 to create 1,400 new, targeted and newly funded child care spaces, along with other initiatives aimed at building and growing the ELCC system in Manitoba. This is in addition to the annual investments in ELCC by the Manitoba government to directly support facilities as well as workforce education and training.

In the second year of the Canada-Manitoba bilateral agreement, Manitoba met and exceeded a number of stated targets, including:

- Provided operating subsidies for 744 new unfunded expansion spaces across the province.
- Provided operating funding to 48 new infant and preschool spaces, created through federal/provincial partnered capital projects.
- Supported the completion of 10 capital projects adding 284 new child care spaces to the provincial total.
- Provided block operating grant to 36 larger rural and Northern centres (over 40 spaces) to support increased financial stability.

Investments under the [Manitoba Action Plan](#) will improve licensed services in underserved communities and for vulnerable populations, using innovative approaches that target families and children most in need of child care services.

Key achievements from the provincial early learning and child care program during 2019/20 include:

- Funded 195 new home-based family child care spaces for a net gain of 43 funded spaces compared to the previous year.
- Supported the development of the first 74 space child care centre developed under the Child Care Centre Development Tax Credit. Issued a Letter of Eligibility to initiate development of a second centre under the program.
- In partnership with the Public Schools Finance Board, supported the development of ELCC centres included as part of the construction of new schools and provided operating grant funding to new school-based centres.

Transforming Child Welfare in Manitoba

The Manitoba government remains committed to Child and Family Services (CFS) transformation to achieve better outcomes for children – fewer children in care, stronger partnerships with families and communities, better co-ordination of services and greater public accountability. Key activities in 2019/20 include:

- Implemented single envelope funding for all CFS authorities to allow flexibility, and to redirect funding to prevention, with the overall goal of reducing the overall number of children in care.
- Delivered Family Group Conferencing service through Ma Mawi Chi Itata Inc., assisting families involved with CFS mandated agencies to address family concerns and develop care plans to reunify their family.
- Implemented funding for CFS authorities to develop training curricula for foster parents caring for Indigenous children that focuses on cultural sensitivity and connections.

- Partnered with the Métis Child and Family Services Authority on a three-year project, with the Métis Community Addiction Response Team to provide mental health and addiction services to families in Winnipeg and Dauphin at risk of child apprehension.
- Launched Granny's House, a one-year pilot project to provide short-term, culturally safe and community-led care to children and families who could otherwise be at risk of becoming involved in the child welfare system.
- Expanded StreetReach programming in Thompson and enhanced the community mobilization hub.

Elevating Manitoba's Standard of Living

The Manitoba government has made changes to the Basic Personal Amount (BPA), Personal Income Tax Brackets and Provincial Sales Tax to help more Manitobans keep more money in their pockets. In the 2019 tax year, the BPA increased to \$9,626, which represents an increase of \$492 since 2016. Indexing the BPA has removed an estimated 3,800 Manitobans from the tax rolls and saved all residents more than \$18.4 million.

Effective July 1, 2019, Manitoba's sales tax rate was reduced from eight per cent to seven per cent, and effective January 1, 2020, sales tax was eliminated on the preparation of wills.

Legislative amendments to index Manitoba's minimum wage to the previous year's inflation rate every October 1 is a consistent approach that provides Manitobans with predictable increases to improve living standards and purchasing power for workers.

Creating Better Health Outcomes for Manitobans

Improving the health and well-being of Manitobans living in poverty is another key pathway of the provincial poverty reduction strategy.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL), the regional health authorities and Shared Health, are working together to deliver integrated services across the province. As part of the health system transformation underway, key considerations have been included in the Clinical and Preventive Services Plan, including working in partnership with communities and other stakeholders to enhance social inclusion and improve access, gaps in care and minimize poorer health outcomes faced by many Manitobans.

Expanding Mental Health and Addictions Support

MHSAL is continuing to implement the 125 evidence-based recommendations of the 2018 [VIRGO report](#). Manitoba announced a number of mental health and addictions initiatives including:

- Expanded the NorWest Youth Hub to provide additional counselling and psychology services, primary care visits and mental health support group sessions.
- Increased access to withdrawal management services by establishing flexible-length residential services in Brandon, piloting mobile services in Winnipeg and increasing beds at Main Street Project and Riverpoint Centre..
- Expanded walk-in mental health services and specialized trauma counselling at Klinik Community Health Centre and The Laurel Centre.
- Enhanced mental health and addiction services for newcomers with moderate to severe post traumatic stress disorder.
- Re-established the Community-Emergency Department Violence Intervention Program to assist youth presenting with violence-related injuries by providing wraparound care in the community.
- Enhanced access to mental health assessments and treatment for children and youth through Health Sciences Centre Children's Hospital.
- Increased supports for Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinics, which provide help and referrals for people with substance use and addiction.
- Provided peer support services in the Winnipeg Crisis Response Centre and Dauphin Health Centre.
- Increased support for mental health and addictions training and educational programs for staff and the public.
- Provided capital funding for the Bruce Oake Recovery Centre to relieve pressure on other publicly funded services.

Expanding Food Security

In 2019/20, the Manitoba government provided \$978,000 to the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba (CNCM) to provide nutrition supports for children and youth in Manitoba schools. Over the year, CNCM supported the delivery of over 4.5 million meals and snacks to approximately 30,500 students in 271 nourishment programs.

In 2019/20, \$634,800 was provided to the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative (NHFI) to support local and regional community-based organizations contributing to the development of culturally-relevant, healthy northern food systems, while improving health and well-being.

Helping Children and Youth Succeed in School

Education is a cornerstone of development and a key pathway to access opportunities that prevent, mitigate and reduce poverty. Some key actions taken by Manitoba Education in 2019/20 include:

- Expanded the Community Schools Program which integrates education, public health, social and recreational programming in schools to create hubs in high needs areas. Community hubs employ Community Connectors that work to engage students and their families.
- Delivered Families and Schools Together (F&ST) programming through Family Dynamics, a mental health and early intervention program, to build family resiliency and decrease the likelihood of future drug addiction by children or current drug use by parents.
- Provided \$385,000 to organizations operating summer learning programs that target students at greater risk of learning loss (Frontier College; Pembina Trails School Division; Newcomer Youth Educational Support Services Coalition; University College of the North).
- Enhanced school-based mental health and addictions supports to youth that are delivered by clinical teams with psychiatric nurses, addictions support workers, and High Fidelity Wraparound Inter-Agency (HFWI) facilitators in school divisions to support students with moderate mental health and addictions needs. The Manitoba government has committed \$4.4 million over three years for the initiative.
- Continued annual funding of \$945,000 for Intensive Newcomer Support for proposal-based projects in school divisions that provide early specialized educational programming for students with disrupted or no schooling, which helps them to transition to regular programming leading to Grade 12 graduation and beyond.
- Partnered with the Education Over Poverty program (Walter and Maria Schroeder Foundation) to improve outcomes for students living in financial hardship. For example, in 2019/20, government provided \$600,000 in infrastructure and equipment upgrades, including two portable classrooms over two years, for Sisler High School, \$57,800 for Sisler's CREATE program, and committed \$100,000 annually over two years from the Skills Strategy Equipment Fund grant.

Closing Education Gaps between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Students

The Manitoba government provides education and training supports to Indigenous youth previously in contact with the CFS system through a number of programs, including the Advancing Futures Bursary, Futures Forward, Youth in Care Tuition Waiver Post-Secondary Initiative, and Work2It. In 2019/20 these programs served 945 individuals as follows:

- Advancing Futures Bursary: 154
- Tuition Waiver: 122
- Futures Forward: 593
- Work2It: 76

Manitoba Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy

In 2019/20, Economic Development and Training held consultations to inform the development of a Skills, Talent and Knowledge Strategy. The strategy will build on the feedback to help the labour market rebound from the effects of the pandemic, accelerate Manitoba's economic recovery and growth, and promote positive outcomes for students, individuals and businesses.

Promoting Employment and Training Opportunities

The Manitoba government works with low-income Manitobans to promote wellness, stability and increased independence by providing a variety of employment and training opportunities. These range from life skills, pre-employment and job-readiness classes to skill development, wage subsidy and self-employment supports.

Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) uses an employment and training assessment tool to identify participant strengths, how they align with the labour market and what steps are required to prepare for success in employment. Upon completion of the assessment, participants work with staff to create an actionable plan to assist them in preparing for and moving into employment.

Jobs On is a rapid employment engagement service model for EIA participants assessed as closest to the labour market. In 2019/20, Jobs on 9th was launched in Brandon and served more than 170 participants, while Jobs on Market in Winnipeg served more than 2,550 participants.

Promoting Economic Inclusion of Newcomers

The Manitoba Provincial Nominee Program is the main tool for nominating skilled economic immigrants to meet Manitoba's labour and economic development needs. Through partnerships with post-secondary institutions, industry, and employers, the program facilitates better career paths that lead to stronger labour market outcomes for new immigrants in Manitoba. Revenue generated from the applications is reinvested in programming and resources to support settlement and integration of all newcomers and their families.

Manitoba's Immigrant Integration Program funds settlement, employment, and community supports to facilitate and improve the social and economic integration of newcomers to Manitoba. Investments expand and enhance settlement services for non-permanent residents, including refugee claimants, temporary foreign workers, international students, and some citizens, and support vulnerable newcomers with multiple barriers or specialized needs. The funding also addresses unmet needs of at-risk or underserved newcomer youth and families who are facing unique challenges in the settlement and integration process, through targeted integration supports that lead to improved social and economic outcomes. Immigration Manitoba continues to fund core labour market services that support the successful economic integration of newcomers.

The Newcomer Services Working and Advisory Group was formed as a cross-departmental initiative to improve the integration and labour market outcomes of newcomers to Manitoba. Members coordinate and share information about newcomer programs across areas, identify and address service gaps and barriers to labour market attachment, and work towards the continual improvement of integration and labour market services provided to newcomers.

Improving Access to Services and Service Navigation

Community Living disABILITY Services (CLDS) recognizes that individuals need to have equitable access to programs and services in order to reduce poverty. CLDS has improved access to services and service navigation through the centralization of the program's intake process in Winnipeg. This client-centered model provides a single access point for individuals to learn about CLDS. It also reduces barriers by ensuring that clear and transparent guidelines are communicated to all program applicants.

Once an individual is determined eligible for services, the centralized intake team communicates the next steps of the process, which includes a needs-based assessment. Individuals can then access the financial, community, employment and housing supports they need. Individuals who are determined ineligible for CLDS are provided with information on how to appeal the decision and where applicable, are directed to other government programs and services that may be able to provide assistance. The centralized intake team in Winnipeg is currently working with offices in rural and northern regions to standardize the intake process across Manitoba.

Building Strong Partnerships in the Housing Sector

In June 2019, the Manitoba government partnered with the Government of Canada on a joint commitment to housing by signing a [10-year funding agreement](#) under the National Housing Strategy (NHS) to increase access to housing, reduce housing need and achieve better housing solutions across the spectrum. Manitoba's 2019/20 allocation under the NHS bilateral agreement was \$13.06 million. Funding under this bilateral agreement provides affordability support, and allows for the preservation of housing and new capital investment; 2019/20 marked the first year of the agreement.

In 2019/20, Manitoba Housing focused on building the capacity of non-profit housing providers and supporting locally developed solutions by transferring housing management to local organizations that were well-equipped to support vulnerable tenants. For example, Wabung Abinoonjiiag, an Indigenous community-based organization, and Manitoba Housing are working to establish a unique partnership that will support more women and children who have experienced family violence to access appropriate social housing.

Manitoba Housing also provided funding to End Homelessness Winnipeg for an additional three years to continue working with community partners across sectors and increase services to prevent and reduce homelessness in the city.

Promoting Quality of Life in Manitoba Communities

In 2019/20, the Department of Municipal Relations invested over \$20 million in community development projects and initiatives. Support for these projects helped strengthen local capacity, leverage funding, enable community economic growth, and promote quality of life in our communities. In addition, new commitments supported strategic partnership initiatives with The Winnipeg Foundation to fully realize the \$10 million Endow Manitoba Fund to grow rural community foundations in Manitoba.

The Building Sustainable Communities Program fosters thriving sustainable communities. Grant assistance in partnership with other funders, will leverage investments to provide a high quality of life for Manitobans. Community development projects that help to build thriving, sustainable communities are eligible.

These include but are not limited to projects in the following areas:

- Planning activities that inform community or regional decision making about priorities and plans for future development
- Capacity building of organizations with the intent of acting on identified community issues, realizing on development opportunities, enhancing charitable giving and volunteerism, and improving community well-being and stability
- Community or regional initiatives that enable communities or regions to initiate local actions that address identified needs or opportunities
- Capital infrastructure that supports new community, culture and recreation development, as well as projects that extend, improve or enhance existing public use community facilities and spaces

In 2019/20, 227 projects were approved under the Department of Municipal Relations' Building Sustainable Communities Program. These projects support non-profit and community-led organizations and represent a provincial commitment of \$7.79 million.

Advancing the Path to Reconciliation

The Manitoba government is committed to advancing reconciliation and developing a Reconciliation Strategy that will build upon meaningful engagement with Indigenous nations and Indigenous Peoples. Guided by legislation, this work is led by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Relations. Annual progress reports, [The Path to Reconciliation Annual Report](#), are available to the public in English, French, Cree, Dene, Inuktitut, Ojibwe, Dakota, Oji-Cree and Michif.

Keeping Indigenous Women and Girls Safe

Manitoba has taken many steps regionally and nationally to address the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Funding is provided to several activities aimed at the issue of MMIWG and violence against Indigenous women and girls, For example, continued annual core funding support of \$95,000 from the Department of Indigenous and Northern Relations for Manitoba Moon Voices Inc., to support leadership and advancement for/by Indigenous women and gender diverse people in Manitoba.

Each year, the Manitoba government invests about \$15 million in initiatives related to sexual exploitation through Tracia's Trust, including:

- Restoring the Sacred, a culturally based peer mentorship program for Indigenous people ages 14 to 21 who are relocating to Winnipeg to continue their education;
- Educational opportunities for people with lived experience in sexual exploitation to achieve a post-secondary certificate or diploma in child and youth care;
- Regional teams located throughout Manitoba to increase public awareness on the issue of sexual exploitation;
- Specialized placement resources for sexually exploited youth; and
- Youth shelter resources.

Through Tracia's Trust, the Province also operates StreetReach, a collaborative team that helps identify children and youth at risk of being victimized in the sex trade, and returns them to a place of safety.

Creating a Manitoba with Full Inclusion and Participation of Manitobans with Disabilities

Manitoba is committed to evolving as an inclusive society. The [Accessibility for Manitobans Act](#) (AMA) outlines a clear and proactive process to identify, remove and prevent barriers in key areas of daily living. In November 2015, Manitoba enacted the Customer Service Standard Regulation, the first of five standards to be developed. On May 1, 2019, Manitoba enacted a second accessibility standard targeting employment.

By removing barriers to employment, people with disabilities and Manitoba employers will benefit from a broader pool of skilled and diverse employees. Under this standard, by May 1, 2020, all employers (with at least one employee) must:

- Create emergency response information for employees with disabilities; and
- Seek their agreement in informing and assigning individuals who agree to assist.

The standard also requires Manitoba employers to provide reasonable accommodations at all stages of employment, during recruiting, hiring and on-the-job, including barrier-free training and advancement, as well as during a return to work. These obligations have progressive deadlines, affecting government by May 2020, the public sector by May 2021, and the private sector by May 2022.

In 2019/20, government focused public awareness activities on the Accessible Employment Standard Regulation (AESR). The DIO created an overview and checklist of the standard, posters, a social media campaign to promote accessibility accommodations and the business case for hiring people with disabilities. To support employer compliance, a Workplace Emergency Response Information Toolkit and Guide to Create and Individuals Accommodation Process and Policy geared to public sector organizations were created. These tools are available in English and French at accessibilityMB.ca. Regular workshops, webinars and [Accessibility News](#) help employers get and stay informed.

Restoring the Sacred Bond

In 2019/20, the Department of Families assisted the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC) in launching the Restoring the Sacred Bond, Indigenous Doula Social Impact Bond Pilot Project. This project will link 200 expecting mothers working with a SFNNC CFS agency assessed to be high risk of infant apprehension, and connects them to Indigenous Doulas to provide intense supports. This initiative provides preventative care for expecting Indigenous mothers through a culturally appropriate lens as called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls for Action and National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice.

Establishing Manitoba's Social Innovation Office

In 2019/20, the Manitoba government created the Social Innovation Office (SIO) to serve as the innovation hub for all of government. The SIO uses innovation processes to create unique and impactful solutions to complex social problems often experienced by vulnerable populations utilizing social financing tools such as social impact bonds (SIBs), social procurement and social enterprise. In its first year, the SIO began coordinating three new SIBs in the departments of Justice and MHSAL.

In 2019/20, the SIO also facilitated solutions labs and innovation sprints on behalf of other departments bringing subject matter experts together to develop solutions; provided consultation to other departments on social finance methodology and processes; provided social innovation training opportunities to departments; and utilized Quick Turnaround research projects to inform the innovation processes.

Poverty Reduction Indicators

The key target of Manitoba's poverty reduction strategy is to reduce the rate of child poverty by 25 per cent by 2025, compared to the baseline year of 2015. This is measured using Statistics Canada's Market Basket Measure of low income, which is also Canada's Official Poverty Line.

The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act requires government to establish poverty and social inclusion indicators to measure the progress of the strategy. Based on consultations and the federal measurement framework, Pathways to a Better Future identifies 13 indicators to track progress in the areas that are strongly related to poverty such as employment, education, skills, training, child care, child welfare, health, housing and income inequality.

Data on Manitoba's 13 indicators of poverty reduction are presented in this section. Where available, baseline data is from 2015. On an annual basis, the Manitoba government will publish the most recent data to measure the progress of the Poverty Reduction Strategy indicators.

Market Basket Measure

The Market Basket Measure (MBM) is Canada's Official Poverty Line and is included in Manitoba's 13 new poverty reduction indicators as Manitoba's preferred measure of poverty.

The MBM is a measure of low income with a threshold tied to the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standard of living. It includes the costs of food, clothing, footwear, transportation, shelter and other expenses such as personal care items or household supplies.

In 2018, Statistics Canada launched a comprehensive review as part of the regular review of the MBM methodology. The existing "2008 base MBM" series will be replaced with a new "2018-base MBM" series, reflecting the results of this comprehensive review, to be completed before the end of 2020.

The low income data presented in this Annual Report is based on the current 2008-base MBM series. Data in the next year's annual report will reflect results from Statistics Canada's new 2018-base MBM series.

Currently, the MBM does not include data for First Nation individuals or households living on reserve.

Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators

Manitoba's child poverty rate has improved substantially since 2015 from 16.4 per cent to 11.3 per cent in 2018, while Manitoba's overall rate has improved from 12 per cent to 9.3 per cent.

Table 1 provides information on the 13 indicators of poverty reduction. There is progress or stability on nine of the indicators.

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators				
Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
<p>Market Basket Measure (Canada's Official Poverty Line)</p> <p>The cost of a basket of goods and services that individuals and families need in order to meet their basic needs and achieve a modest standard of living in communities across Canada.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poverty rate (All Persons) - Child poverty rate <p>Source – Statistics Canada (Canadian Income Survey)</p>	<p>12.0% (2015)</p> <p>16.4% (2015)</p>	<p>9.3% (2018)</p> <p>11.3% (2018)</p>	<p>22.5 per cent decrease</p> <p>31.1 per cent decrease</p>	<p>progress</p> <p>progress</p>
<p>Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)¹</p> <p>The percentage of youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment, education or training.</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey)</p>	<p>10.7% (2015)</p>	<p>11.3% (2020)</p>	<p>5.6 per cent increase</p>	<p>regress</p>

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators				
Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
<p>Availability of licensed child care</p> <p>The percentage of children (ages 12 and under) for whom there is a regulated child care space.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Families)</p>	<p>18.2%</p> <p>(2014/15)</p>	<p>19.0%</p> <p>(2019/20)</p>	<p>4.4 per cent increase</p>	<p>progress</p>
<p>Children in Care</p> <p>The percentage of children who are in the care of a child and family services agency.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Families)</p>	<p>10,714 children</p> <p>3.5 per cent of Manitoba children</p> <p>(March 31, 2017)</p>	<p>9,849 children</p> <p>3.2 per cent of Manitoba children</p> <p>(March 31, 2020)</p>	<p>8.1 per cent decrease</p> <p>8.6 per cent decrease</p>	<p>progress</p>
<p>Premature mortality rate²</p> <p>Deaths occurring before the age of 75 measured by number of years of life lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Health, Seniors and Active Living)</p>	<p>52.3 years of life lost</p> <p>(2014/2015)</p>	<p>55.4 years of life lost</p> <p>(2017/2018)</p>	<p>5.9 per cent increase</p>	<p>regress</p>
<p>Poverty entry rate</p> <p>The proportion of Manitobans who entered low income in the second year who were not in low income in the first year.</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	<p>3.9%</p> <p>(2014/2015)</p>	<p>4.2%</p> <p>(2016/2017)</p>	<p>7.7 per cent increase</p>	<p>regress</p>
<p>Poverty exit rate</p> <p>The proportion of Manitobans who exited low income in the second year who were in low income in the first year</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	<p>25.2%</p> <p>(2014/2015)</p>	<p>25.1%</p> <p>(2016/2017)</p>	<p>0.4 per cent decrease</p>	<p>stable</p>

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators				
Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
<p>Core Housing Need³</p> <p>The proportion of households in housing that is below one or more of the adequacy, suitability, and affordability standards.</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	11.3% (2006)	11.4% (2016)	0.9 per cent increase	stable
<p>Employment</p> <p>The percentage of people aged 15 and over who are employed</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada (Labour Force Survey)</p>	64.4% (2015)	63.0% (2019)	2.2 per cent decrease	regress
<p>High school graduation</p> <p>Manitoba's student-tracked high school graduation rate that follows individual students in public and funded independent schools from Grade 9 and calculates the percentage who graduate on time.</p> <p>Source – Government of Manitoba (Education)</p>	77.3% (June 2015)	81.9% (June 2019)	6.0 per cent increase	progress
<p>Income inequality (Palma ratio)⁴</p> <p>The ratio of the richest 10 per cent of the population's share of after-tax income divided by the share of the poorest 40 per cent.</p> <p>Source – Statistics Canada</p>	1.09 (2015)	1.04 (2018)	4.6 per cent decrease	progress
<p>Literacy (reading skills)⁵</p> <p>Average scores of 15-year old Manitobans in Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in Reading</p>	498 (2015)	494 (2018)	0.8 per cent decrease	stable

Table 1: Manitoba Poverty Reduction Indicators

Indicator	Baseline	Most recent data	Percentage change	Trend
Numeracy (math skills)⁵ Average scores of 15-year old Manitobans in Program for International Assessment (PISA) in Mathematics.	489 (2015)	482 (2018)	1.4 per cent decrease	stable
¹ Percentage of youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) during the first quarters of years 2015 or 2020.				
² Deaths occurring before the age of 75 measured by the number of years lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years. The number of years lost is the difference between the age at time of death and age 75. The data were adjusted for age and sex to allow for fair comparisons among areas with different population characteristics.				
³ Data on core housing need is from census and available after five years. The 2011 core housing need data is not comparable with 2016. The 2011 data was based on National Household Survey while 2006 and 2016 data were based on the census. Therefore, the 2006 data is used as a baseline.				
⁴ Ratio is derived from data from Statistics Canada's "Table 11-10-0193-01 Upper income limit, income share and average of adjusted market, total and after-tax income by income decile." (accessed: July 16, 2020)				
⁵ Data on literacy (reading skills) and numeracy (math skills) is available every three years from Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). The baseline data was changed from 2012 data to 2015 data when the 2018 PISA became available.				

Disaggregated Indicator Data

Certain demographic groups are disproportionately affected by poverty. For a deeper understanding of poverty in Manitoba, the tables in this section show disaggregated data for some indicators where data is available.

Low Income Rate

The Manitoba government is committed to improving the lives of Manitobans who are more vulnerable to experiencing poverty.

While Manitoba's overall low income rate has gone down substantially between 2015 and 2018, the low income rates for Indigenous (off-reserve) individuals and persons in youth-led families have regressed. Seniors and women had 2018 low income rates that were better than the provincial rate.

Table 2 shows low income rates for various population groups in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 using the Market Basket Measure.

Table 2: Market Basket Measure Low Income Rates (Per Cent), Manitoba, Select Groups, 2015 - 2018¹

Population Group	2015	2016	2017	2018	Per Cent Change	
					2015 to 2018	2017 to 2018
All Manitobans	12.0	9.4	8.7	9.3	-22.5	6.9
Children	16.4	11.9	9.5	11.3	-31.1	18.9
Seniors	4.8	2.5	3.8	3.3	-31.3	-13.2
Persons in Lone Parent Families	41.3	36.9	23.3	26.1	-36.8	12.0
Women	11.5	8.9	9.1	8.8	-23.5	-3.3
Men	12.6	9.8	8.3	9.8	-22.2	18.1
Indigenous (off-reserve)	21.6	23.2	16.9	24.6	13.9	45.6
Persons with Disabilities	16.7	13.2	12.4	12.7	-24.0	2.4
Persons in Youth-led Families ²	30.6	35.9	29.1	33.1	8.2	13.7
Single Individuals (45-64 years)	30.6	31.0	29.3	27.0	-11.8	-7.8

¹Source – Statistics Canada, Canadian Income Survey, 2008-base Market Basket Measure (MBM) series.

²Age of primary income earner is 24 years or less.

Not In Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) is a well established indicator that has been reported by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for many years.

Understanding and monitoring the NEET rate among youth is important as it may indicate problems in the educational system and the labour market. It may also indicate trends in the attitude of young adults towards work.

Manitoba's NEET rate indicator is aligned with Canada's poverty indicator for youth engagement, defined as the proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 years who are not in employment, education or training. The Canada NEET rate is reported by Statistics Canada in Canada's official poverty dashboard.

Although Manitoba's NEET rate (11.3 per cent) in first quarter of 2020 (1Q2020) was higher than the 2015 baseline rate of 10.7 per cent, it showed a 0.7 percentage point improvement from 12 per cent in first quarter of 2019 (1Q2019).

Manitoba's NEET rate in 1Q2020 was better than the Canada overall rate (11.7 per cent). Manitoba's NEET rate was second best (lowest) among the provinces in 1Q2020, a significant improvement from the eighth rank in the previous year.

	1Q2015	1Q2016	1Q2017	1Q2018	1Q2019	1Q2020
Canada NEET rate (per cent)	10.9	10.9	9.8	10.1	9.5	11.7
Manitoba NEET rate (per cent)	10.7	11.8	11.8	12.1	12.0	11.3
- Number of persons (000)	17.5	19.2	19.4	20.0	20.0	18.9
- Rank (1 is best)	3	5	6	8	8	2

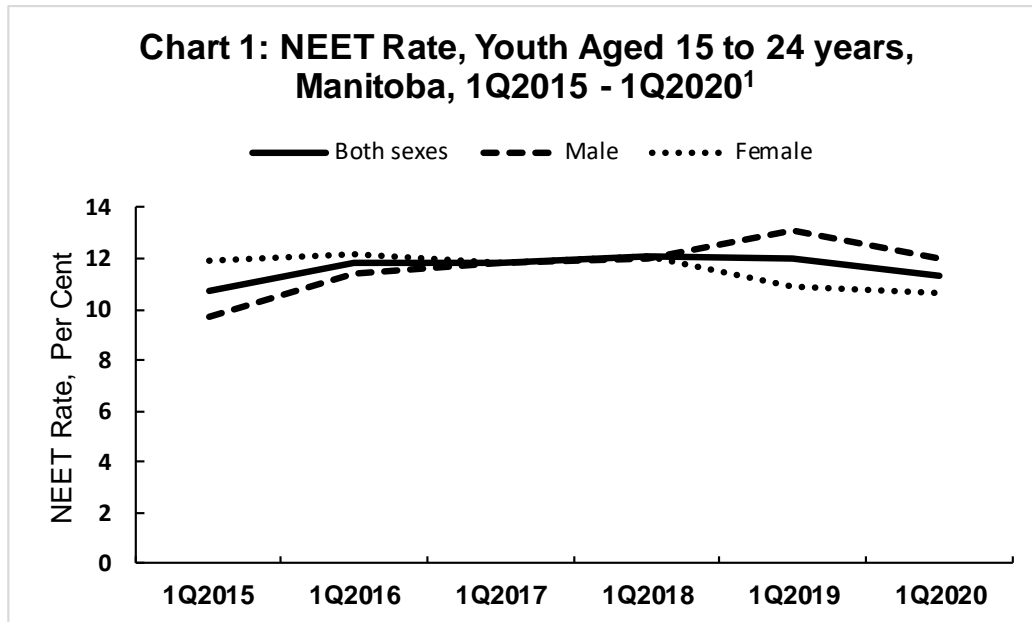
¹Statistics Canada, custom data for first quarter of 2015 to first quarter of 2020.

Table 4: Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) rate (per cent), Canada and provinces, 1Q2015 to 1Q2020¹

	1Q2015	1Q2016	1Q2017	1Q2018	1Q2019	1Q2020
Canada	10.9	10.9	9.8	10.1	9.5	11.7
AB	9.6	11.3	10.9	11.6	10.1	12.2
BC	11.7	10.0	9.1	9.5	8.8	12.4
MB	10.7	11.8	11.8	12.1	12.0	11.3
NB	14.4	16.1	14.5	15.0	12.1	12.0
NFLD	13.5	15.1	16.7	11.8	13.6	16.2
NS	11.3	12.3	11.3	12.1	10.5	14.0
ON	10.4	10.4	9.6	9.8	9.7	11.1
PEI	13.6	13.9	16.4	10.1	11.0	11.6
QC	11.4	11.2	8.4	8.7	8.1	11.6
SK	11.3	12.0	11.8	11.6	9.2	13.3

¹Statistics Canada, custom data for first quarter of 2015 to first quarter of 2020.

In Manitoba, the NEET rate among females aged 15 to 24 years improved to 10.6 per cent in 1Q2020, better than the 2015 baseline rate (11.9 per cent). It has been lower than the male NEET rate since 1Q2019.



¹Statistics Canada custom data, first quarter of 2015 to first quarter of 2020.

Availability of Licensed Child Care

Availability of licensed child care measures the percentage of children (ages 12 and under) in Manitoba for whom there is a regulated child care space. Between 2014/15 and 2019/20, the availability of licensed child care increased by 4.4 per cent from 18.2 per cent to 19.0 per cent.

Table 5 shows the breakdown of availability of child care spaces by age group.

Table 5: Percentage of children for whom there is a regulated child care space			
Age Group	2014/15	2019/20	Per cent increase
0 to 5 years	26.1	26.8	2.7
6 to 12 years	11.3	12.1	7.1
Total 0 to 12 years	18.2	19.0	4.4

Premature Mortality

The premature mortality indicator refers to deaths occurring before age 75 measured by number of years of life lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years. The number of years lost is the difference between age at time of death and 75. This measure is higher, or worse, among Manitobans in the lower income quintiles.

Table 6 shows the number of years of life lost per 1,000 population, by income quintile in 2014/15 and 2017/18.

Table 6: Premature mortality, Manitoba, by income quintile, rural and urban, 2014/15 to 2017/18¹			
Income quintile	2014/15	2017/18	Difference
Lowest - Rural	76.4	76.5	0.1
Second - Rural	57.5	58.1	0.6
Third - Rural	44.8	45.0	0.2
Fourth - Rural	48.9	49.3	0.4
Highest - Rural	40.5	41.0	0.5
Lowest - Urban	82.6	82.5	-0.1
Second - Urban	51.9	52.7	0.8
Third - Urban	41.1	41.7	0.6
Fourth - Urban	29.2	29.3	0.1
Highest - Urban	26.9	27.3	0.4
Manitoba overall	52.3	55.4	3.1

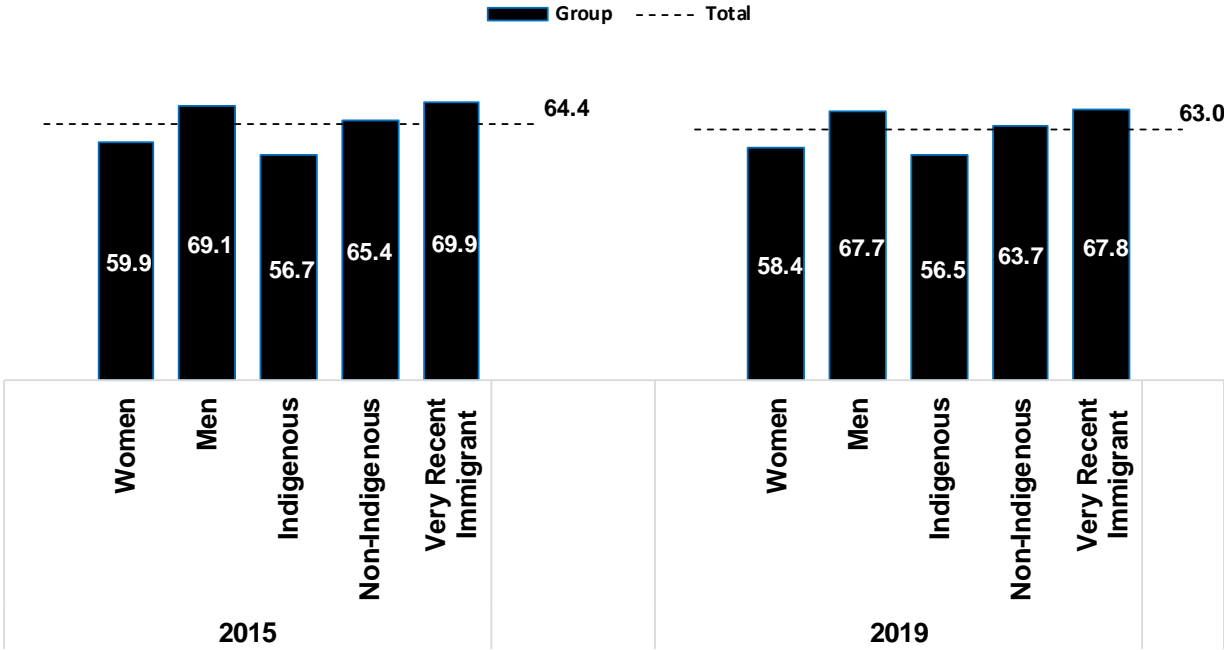
¹Deaths occurring before age 75 measured by the number of years of life lost per 1,000 population aged 1 to 74 years. The number of years lost is the difference between age at time of death and age 75. The data were adjusted for age and sex to allow for fair comparisons among areas with different population characteristics.

Source – Government of Manitoba (Health, Seniors and Active Living)

Employment

The employment rate varies across population groups in Manitoba. The employment rates of women and Indigenous sub-populations are lower than the overall Manitoba employment rate. Men, very recent immigrants (landed within five years prior) and non-Indigenous Manitobans have higher employment rates than the provincial average rate.

Chart 2: Employment Rate (%) by Select Group, Manitoba, 2015 and 2019



Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey

Core Housing Need

Winnipeg had a higher core housing need (12.1 per cent) than the provincial average in 2016. From 2006 to 2016, there was a significant increase in Core Housing Need for Steinbach (from 5.0 per cent to 11.7 per cent). Improvement was seen in Winkler (from 9.6 per cent to 6.7 per cent), Portage la Prairie (from 9.1 per cent to 8.9 per cent), Brandon (from 8.4 per cent to 7.7 per cent) and Thompson (from 9.8 per cent to 9.1 per cent). Winnipeg's core housing need increased from 10.4 per cent in 2006 to 12.1 per cent in 2016.

	2006	2016	Per Cent change
Manitoba	11.3	11.4	0.9
Winnipeg	10.4	12.1	16.3
Winkler	9.6	6.7	-30.2
Steinbach	5.0	11.7	134.0
Portage la Prairie	9.1	8.9	-2.2
Brandon	8.4	7.7	-8.3
Thompson	9.8	9.1	-7.1

¹Source – Statistics Canada, Census

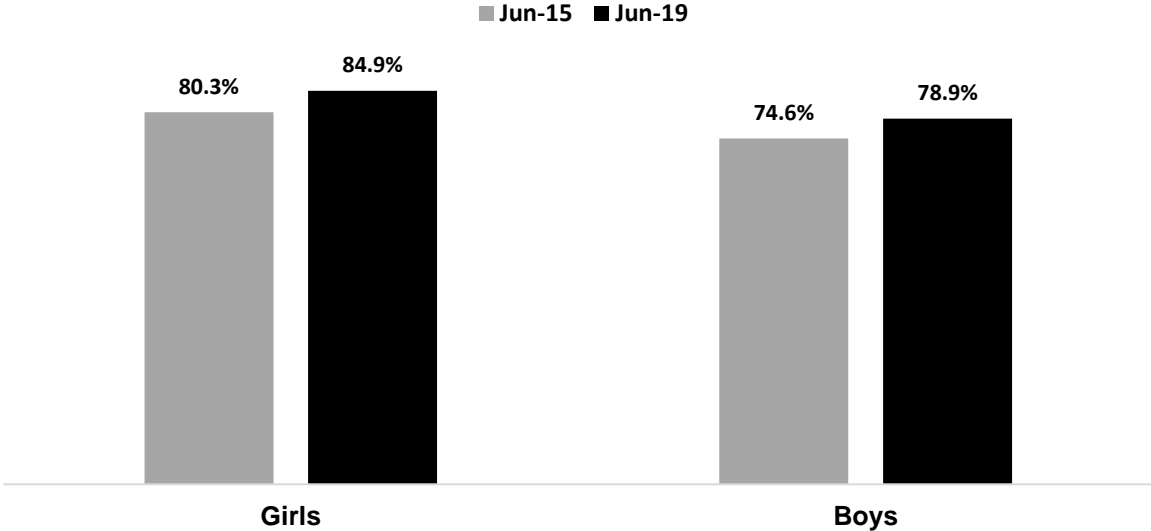
In 2016, a higher proportion of women (10.9 per cent) were in core housing need than men (9.5 per cent). Twenty-one per cent of the Indigenous (off-reserve) population were in core housing need while only 8.5 per cent of the non-Indigenous population were in core housing need.

Table 8: Number of persons and per cent of population in core housing need, by select group, Manitoba, 2016¹		
	Number	Per Cent
Women	62,015	10.9
Men	52,410	9.5
Indigenous Identity (off-reserve)	32,210	21.0
Non-Indigenous Identity	82,215	8.5
¹ Source- Statistics Canada, 2016 Census		

High School Graduation Rate

High school graduation rate is higher among girls than boys. Both groups experienced an increase in graduation rate from June 2015 to June 2019.

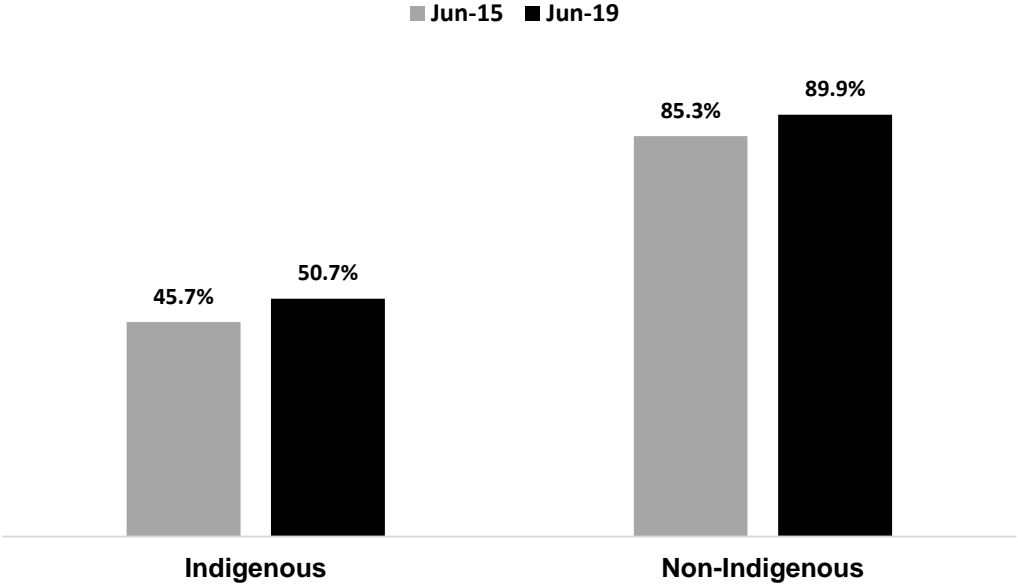
Chart 3: High School Graduation Rate, Girls and Boys, June 2015 and June 2019¹



¹ Student-tracked high school graduation rate that follows individual students in public and funded independent schools from Grade 9 and calculates the percentage who graduate on time, adjusted for attrition. Source - Government of Manitoba (Education).

The high school graduation rate among Indigenous children is lower than the rate for non-Indigenous children. The graduation rate for Indigenous children improved from 45.7 per cent in June 2015 to 50.7 per cent in June 2019.

Chart 4: High School Graduation Rate, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous, June 2015 to June 2019¹



¹ Student-tracked high school graduation rate that follows individual students in public and funded independent schools from Grade 9 and calculates the percentage who graduate on time, adjusted for attrition. Source - Government of Manitoba (Education).

Web: www.gov.mb.ca/povertyreduction

Email: povertyreduction@gov.mb.ca

Available in alternate formats upon request

