

## TIPS & TOOLS FOR HOME BUYERS

### Viewing Homes - See What's Out There

Are you ready to pound the pavement and see what homes are available? This step can be either incredibly fun or incredibly exhausting. But with an expert REALTOR® at your side, you'll be able to find your dream home much more effectively. Here are some helpful tips.

#### Read and see all about it

- Start reading real estate ads in local papers.
- Visit the areas you're considering to get a feel for them.
- Make note of surrounding schools, shopping and recreational areas.
- Keep an eye out for not-so-great things like large industrial areas, railway tracks and airports.
- Visit during the day and at night.

#### Open houses, come on in

'Open houses' are a great way to see inside the homes of your potential neighborhood. If a REALTOR® is hosting the open house, he or she probably knows the local market inside and out, and will be happy to answer your questions – don't be afraid to ask!

#### Welcome to the wonders of REALTOR.ca

REALTORS® have access to incredible house-hunting tools called MLS® Systems, which are operated by real estate boards across Canada. You can view publicly available information about MLS® listings at [REALTOR.ca](http://REALTOR.ca). Your REALTOR® can start sending you listings of potential homes right away. Most listings will have multiple photos, and some even have moving 360-degree views! And with the interactive mapping feature, you'll be amazed how fast and easy it is to zero in on your favourite few homes.

#### Stay objective when visiting potential homes

Walking through a potential home is a thrill, but try not to lose your head. Don't let a giant kitchen island or swanky hot tub distract you from your real goal, finding a home that meets all your needs and fits your budget.

Arm yourself with the Manitoba Real Estate Association House Hunting Checklist available online at [manitobarealestate.com](http://manitobarealestate.com) and bring it with you to homes you're serious about buying. Good luck and happy hunting!