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Nine out of ten Manitobans say COVID-19 has not hindered their home buying plans: poll

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Manitoba Real Estate Association (MREA) and WinnipegREALTORS® have commissioned a public opinion survey to ask Manitobans if the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their plans to enter the real estate market.

“The survey results tell us the majority of Manitobans have confidence in the real estate market despite the COVID-19 pandemic,” said MREA President Glen Tosh. “These findings reflect a significant rebound in housing market activity we have seen in Manitoba beginning in May, with momentum that has continued in June.”

According to the survey, only one-in-ten Manitobans (11%) say they are now less likely to purchase a home because of COVID-19, with the vast majority (84%) saying the pandemic has no bearing on their homebuying intentions and a small number (4%) saying they are more likely to buy a home now.

“Confidence in the market and the increased level of activity is testament to the success Manitoba has had to date in preventing the spread of COVID-19,” said WinnipegREALTORS® President Catherine Schellenberg. “The Manitoba and Winnipeg real estate markets were in very good shape prior to COVID-19 and the numbers now show a recovery is well underway.”

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in May, there was a notable increase in residential sales activity in Manitoba – up nearly 70% compared to April of this year. In fact, the total number of sales in the province in May was only 21 per cent lower compared to May 2019, which is the highest single month of sales on record.

Moreover, in WinnipegREALTORS® mid-month June report, we are now seeing sales gains compared to the same period last year. The 16% increase in MLS® sales is in line with similar percentage increases to what occurred in the first two and one-half months this year prior to the onset of COVID-19.

“The real estate market in Brandon has certainly rebounded as the survey indicates, said Brandon Area REALTORS® President, Mandy King. “As their businesses ramp back up, REALTORS® in the

Brandon area continue to adhere to safe business practices in alignment with the Manitoba Government's health protocols.”

From June 2 to 11, a random and representative sampling of 1,000 adults residing in Manitoba was conducted by Probe Research on behalf of MREA and WinnipegREALTORS®. See attached survey summary.

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