



Statement from The Manitoba Real Estate Association (MREA) on Manitoba's Budget 2026

Winnipeg, March 24, 2026

The Manitoba Real Estate Association (MREA) welcomes Budget 2026 and the Manitoba government's continued focus on affordability and supporting Manitoba homeowners during a time of rising cost-of-living pressures.

"We are encouraged to see Budget 2026 acknowledge the real affordability challenges facing Manitobans, including the growing cost pressures on homeowners, renters, and families across the province," said MREA Political Action Committee Chair Stewart Elston. "Measures that help reduce everyday expenses and support household stability are especially important as housing affordability remains top of mind for Manitobans."

MREA is encouraged that the government is focusing on the impact that the Education Property Tax has on Manitobans. The decision to increase the Homeowners Affordability Tax Credit to \$1,700 per year, while targeting support for those who need it most through a progressive, value-based approach, is a positive step forward. "Property taxes are a significant and ongoing cost of homeownership, and this enhanced credit is a critical step in the right direction for Manitoba homeowners," said Elston.

MREA also welcomes additional affordability measures announced in Budget 2026, including increased renter tax credits, free transit passes for youth in several Manitoba communities, and steps aimed at easing grocery costs. "Affordability is about more than just housing," added Elston. "Reducing transportation and food costs helps improve overall household affordability and supports financial stability for families who are saving for a home or working to stay in one."

Housing affordability remains top of mind for Manitobans. Recent polling conducted by MREA shows that 58% of Manitobans say the availability of affordable housing is "very important," reflecting growing concern about whether people can find a home they can afford. "While cost-of-living supports are essential, long-term affordability will depend on addressing the upfront and structural barriers to homeownership," said Elston. "Increasing housing supply and reducing barriers to ownership must remain a priority."

MREA looks forward to continued dialogue and collaboration with the Manitoba government. "We value the government's ongoing partnership and remain committed to working together to advance practical solutions that support affordability, strengthen housing stability, and help Manitobans achieve and maintain homeownership," Elston concluded.

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