

Budget 2023 - BMCC Takeaway

Mar 9, 2023

BMCC was invited to the Minister of Finance, Honourable Cliff Cullen, Government of Manitoba's 2023 Budget Speech at the Manitoba Legislature on Tuesday March 7. The Minister provided an updated accounting of provincial finances and laid out the Progressive Conservative Government's spending plan for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year, as Manitoba heads into a provincial election this fall.

Budget Theme:

1. Historic Help for Manitobans
2. Safer Streets
3. Healing Health Care
4. Stronger Communities
5. Opportunities Ahead

Nearly \$2-billion in new funding.

BMCC Takeaway:

Budget 2023 has focused on tax competitiveness to make up for the cost of inflation on families and businesses in Manitoba, mental health and community safety.

For Individuals Taxes:

- a) A significant increase to the Provincial Basic Personal Amount, from \$10,145 in 2022 to \$15,000 in 2023.
- b) An increase to both the lowest and highest tax brackets beginning in 2024. The lowest tax bracket will now apply to the first \$47,000 of income earned (up from \$34,431 in 2022). The highest tax bracket will now apply only on income earned over \$100,000 (up from \$74,417 in 2022).

For Businesses Taxes:

- **Budget 2023 increases the payroll tax exemption threshold to \$2.25 million, eliminating payroll taxes for 150 employers. A promise to eliminate the tax in future years**
- **The government doubles its investment in the venture capital fund from \$50 million to \$100 million a great encouragement for other venture capital funds to invest in Manitoba.**
- **An increased loan capacity through Manitoba Industrial Opportunities Program (MIOP) and Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF), which will benefit businesses throughout the province.**

Other:

- **Large investments in housing, addictions, health and mental health were outlined in the budget and we await specific strategies from the government.**

Still to come:

- a) **In 2023, with a highly unpredictable workforce and labour shortages across the country, a competitive economic landscape is linked to our ability to compete for talent. We await details on how budget 2023 will address labour shortage in Manitoba.**
- b) **The number of Black business owners has increased (66,880 Black business owners) but income inequalities are still persisting, according to new data from Statistics Canada. Regardless of the type of business, those owned by Black people are on average smaller than those owned by White people or other racialized individuals.**

There is nothing on equity and anti-black racism in the 2023 budget. We are seeking avenues to advocate for specific programming and commitments on equity in the workplace and the business sphere in Manitoba for the black community.