

2016 Manitoba Provincial Election Priorities from Dietitians of Canada

Dietitians of Canada is calling on provincial parties to commit to addressing key food and nutrition related issues in order to effectively meet the health care needs of Manitobans, improve health outcomes and achieve long term health system savings

☑ Election Priority #1: Increase the number of frontline dietitian positions to ensure Manitobans have enhanced access to evidence-based and cost-effective dietetic interventions

Registered dietitians translate scientific evidence into practical diet and lifestyle solutions to promote health and prevent and manage chronic diseases. Increasing the number of frontline dietitian positions specifically in long term care, home care and primary care is urgently needed to support the increasingly complex nutritional care Manitobans require and to achieve health system savings due to significant improvements in health outcomes associated with dietetic intervention.

Ask Your Candidate – How will your party commit to increasing the number of frontline dietitian positions specifically in long term care, home care and primary care?

☑ Election Priority #2: Develop, implement and monitor a coordinated food and nutrition strategy

To maximize impact of provincial initiatives and realize significant return on investment, an inter-ministerial, inter-sectoral food and nutrition strategy that will identify and monitor specific goals and outcomes related to improving health indicators, reducing food insecurity and increasing food literacy especially among the most vulnerable populations is recommended.

Ask Your Candidate – Will your party commit to developing, implementing and monitoring a coordinated food and nutrition strategy?

☑ Election Priority #3: Increase Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) to ensure Manitobans have sufficient income to pay for basic needs including food

Individual and household food insecurity is much more than a food problem – it is the result of income being too low or unsteady. As such, food insecurity is ultimately reduced by addressing the underlying problems of poverty or material deprivation. Increasing EIA, which must include analysis of evidence-based data on the current cost of healthy eating, is recommended. Monitoring of food insecurity rates including in northern and remote communities to verify the measurable impact of improved EIA support is also needed.

Ask Your Candidate – Will your party commit to increasing EIA as well as regularly monitoring food insecurity rates?

Did you know...

- The number of children in Manitoba with type 2 diabetes is 12 times higher than any other province in Canada.
- Over half of Manitobans live with a chronic disease. Manitobans living with one chronic disease use up to 8 times more health care dollars than those without a chronic disease.
- Manitoba's rapidly growing aging population is at greater risk for acute and chronic diseases and require higher levels of nutritional care.
- 45% of older adults admitted to hospitals are malnourished and cost the health care system 60% more than well-nourished patients, and up to 60% of long term care residents are moderately to severely malnourished.
- 12% of Manitoban households experience food insecurity. Food insecurity is one of the most sensitive predictors for ill health.