



MEDIA RELEASE

"THE VOICE OF MANITOBA FARMERS"

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Poll Says: Get Education Tax Off Property

Winnipeg – A new survey of Manitobans confirms what Manitoba Chambers of Commerce have been saying all along – it's time to get education off the property tax bill, says Chamber President Graham Starmer.

"Manitobans are clear. Taxpayers want the province to take over education funding," Starmer said.

"If there was ever any doubt the survey released by the Manitoba Real Estate Association today confirms it. It's time the Manitoba government acted on our call to pay for education with a more equitable system," said David Rolfe, President of Keystone Agricultural Producers.

The survey commissioned by the Manitoba Real Estate Association was conducted by Probe Research this fall, it shows that more than 6 out of every 10 Manitobans (62%) agree that funding of Manitoba's public education system should come from the province's general revenues. That number jumps 10 percent (72%) for Manitobans 55+.

There was little difference in attitudes on this question between those residing in Winnipeg and those in rural Manitoba (61% of Winnipeg respondents would like the education levy taken off property taxes compared with 63% outside of Winnipeg). Only just over one in ten (13%) say this funding should continue to come from municipal property taxes.

"This survey confirms what the Education Coalition has been telling the Manitoba government all along. It's time for a change," says Rolfe. "Farmers have appreciated the province's recent move to add another 10% rebate on farmland, but a rebate is not the solution."

Rolfe is one of the 200,000 Manitobans who've joined the Education Finance Coalition, a group of 40 different organizations calling on the province to pay for more of education funding through other revenues.

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