

GET EDUCATION OFF PROPERTY TAXES, SAYS POLL

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Winnipeg - Get education off property taxes, says poll by the Manitoba Real Estate Association and the Winnipeg Real Estate Board.

A significant majority of Manitobans want the provincial government to change the way it funds education, according to a survey recently commissioned by The Manitoba Real Estate Association and The Winnipeg Real Estate Board.

"Manitobans are fed up with education taxes showing up on their property tax bill. Taxpayers want the province to take over education funding," says Lorne Weiss, Chair of the Manitoba Real Estate Association's Political Action Committee.

The Probe Research survey conducted this fall 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, rather than from property taxes. That number jumps 10 percent (72%) for Manitobans 55+.

"This confirms what real estate agents have suspected for a long time, Manitobans no longer want the value of their property to determine if they can afford school taxes. Our retired seniors in particular find it a burden. For them and for REALTORS® this is a quality of life issue," says Weiss.

Only just over one in ten (13%) say this funding should continue to come from municipal property taxes.

Weiss said not too long ago the Manitoba government told REALTORS® that the public did not care enough about the issue to warrant any changes in the way education is funded.

"Clearly something's changed. The survey says...get education off property taxes," Weiss adds.

Ruthe Penner, President of the Winnipeg Real Estate Board agrees, "The public has spoken. It is time for the Government to act."

There was little difference in attitudes in the survey results between those residing in Winnipeg and those in rural Manitoba (61% of Winnipeg respondents would like this education levy taken off property taxes compared with 63% outside of Winnipeg). Similarly, results did not vary to any great degree when comparing views on this issue between homeowners and those currently residing in rental accommodations.

More information about the survey conducted by Probe Research [view the FACT SHEET](#).

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