

# letspayfair.com

April 16, 2007

Dear Premier Doer:

Recently the Manitoba Government unveiled a provincial budget that did not address the current method of funding our children's education. The government had a chance to deliver a solution in this budget. It did not. It failed to deal with education funding and property taxes. As a result education taxes are going to become an election issue.

Property owners have been asking the government for the last few years to make meaningful change to the way education is funded, but the plans proposed by the Province will not make any difference to property tax bills over the long run.

In the provincial budget, the Manitoba Government said it will increase funding for education from general revenues from the current contribution of 71 per cent to 80 per cent. However, to get that 80 per cent figure the province bundled several things together including the costs for building schools, contributing to teacher pension funds and tax credits. So when you build a new school it may look like you increased education funding on your books, but it has not taken any pressure off a homeowner or business owner's property tax bill.

And as experience shows us any further tax credit gets easily eaten up by school boards under pressure to find funds to teach children.

The Education Financing Coalition wants education taxes off property and believes that the government has the fiscal capacity to make this change. We address these items and others at the **letspayfair.com** website under SEND A LETTER.

We know that 80 per cent of citizens we polled last year said they want meaningful debate on education taxes in this election. The discussion begins at **letspayfair.com**.

Signed Executive Members Education Financing Coalition

Keystone Agricultural Producers  
Manitoba Chambers of Commerce  
Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce  
WinnipegREALTORS® Association  
Manitoba Real Estate Association

C. All Manitoba MLAs