

Make Poverty History (MB) report on EIA Rental Allowance campaign

We wanted to report back to you on the results of our campaign to increase the EIA rental allowance to 75% of median market rent in Budget 2013. We also want your feedback on the campaign and input on the direction for MPPM into the future. Please attend a meeting on June 14 at Winnipeg Harvest from 1 to 4 pm. Please RSVP to manitoba@makepovertyhistory.ca

First Thank YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign, whether it was by adding your name to the list of the over 145 supporting organizations, participating in meetings with MLAs, contacting your MLAs, attending the rally at the Legislative Building during the 12 shoes of Christmas action, or signing your name to a valentine during the Have a Heart action. Together we have made a huge impact by increasing public awareness around the inadequacy of EIA to provide even the most basic needs like adequate housing, and by making this a topic of discussion among our political leaders.

The 2013 Manitoba Budget outcome related to EIA and housing

We are disappointed to announce that the Province of Manitoba did not reach our target. In fact, there was no change to the rental allowance. Instead, the Province of Manitoba has increased the amount of money Manitobans receive through RentAid.

RentAid is a program that helps some Manitobans pay for their rent. EIA participants may only be eligible for RentAid if they are a person with a disability or an adult without dependent children. Budget 2013 offers RentAid participants \$20 more per month (an increase from \$60 to \$80), if they are renting in the private market and do not receive any other type of housing benefit. Those who are eligible represent approximately 40% of the EIA caseload.

If you add RentAid to the \$285 that these Manitobans already receive through the EIA rental allowance, you now get a total monthly income for rent that equals \$365 or 55% of median market rent. This is well short of the 75% target and, more importantly, from being able to afford a decent place to live. Furthermore, it's a very small increase when compared to the monthly income received for rent before Budget 2013 was announced, which stood at \$345 or 52% of median market rent.

While other investments were made in the RentAid program, they do not benefit people who receive EIA. This means that families without an adult with a disability, including single parent families, who are on EIA did not benefit from any increase to the amount of money they receive to pay for rent. These Manitobans must be transitioning into training or employment in order to receive housing benefits.

Raising the EIA rental allowance to 75% of median market rent would have cost the government about \$18.5 million per year. The changes made to RentAid will cost \$6.36 million per year. This is the breakdown:

\$3.76 million will go towards the \$20 per month increase which will benefit some EIA recipients as described above. This increase will also benefit low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities who are not on EIA, but who are eligible for a different RentAid benefit.

\$1.7 million will go toward increasing and simplifying income and rent thresholds for RentAid, allowing more people to qualify.

\$0.9 million will go toward the new RentAid transition bonus which provides non-disabled adults without dependent children who are not on EIA with \$60 more per month, if they are transitioning into training and employment.

MPHM is concerned that the changes to RentAid do not sufficiently benefit the most vulnerable Manitobans - people on EIA. Many of these individuals may not be in a position to participate in conventional training and employment opportunities, and will therefore not be eligible to receive the additional \$60 per month through the RentAid transition bonus. Those who are receiving the least from welfare get the least help with their rent by the new RentAid, \$20 more per month. We encourage you to contact your MLAs and/or the Premier to let them know what you think of the government's response.

Please fill out the MPHM attached survey to evaluate the EIA Rent Campaign and help plan.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5BSTRM9>

Next Steps for MPHM

Given that this campaign was focused on achieving a result in Budget 2013, MPHM's Executive Committee must now go back to the broader MPHM membership and partners to seek direction on how we will move forward. We are planning to bring this broader group together June 14, 2013 from 1 to 3 pm to reinvigorate our Executive Committee with new and additional people and to establish a clear direction that will guide MPHM's actions over the coming year.

Please RSVP to manitoba@makepovertyhistory.ca

(see poster below)

Marianne Cerilli

On behalf of Make Poverty History Manitoba



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY MANITOBA

Save the date: Friday, June 14/2013 from 1:00 to 4:00

Event: MPHM Partners Meeting

Agenda:

- Update on MPHM activities and steering committee
- Evaluate the 2012 Rent Allowance Campaign
- Update on Manitoba ALL Aboard Strategy and Action Plan
- Plan for the next year of MPHM
- Identify additional members for the steering committee

Location: Winnipeg Harvest 1085 Winnipeg Ave Winnipeg, MB

Please RSVP to: Marianne Cerilli

mcerilli@mymts.net or 204 943 2561 ex 230