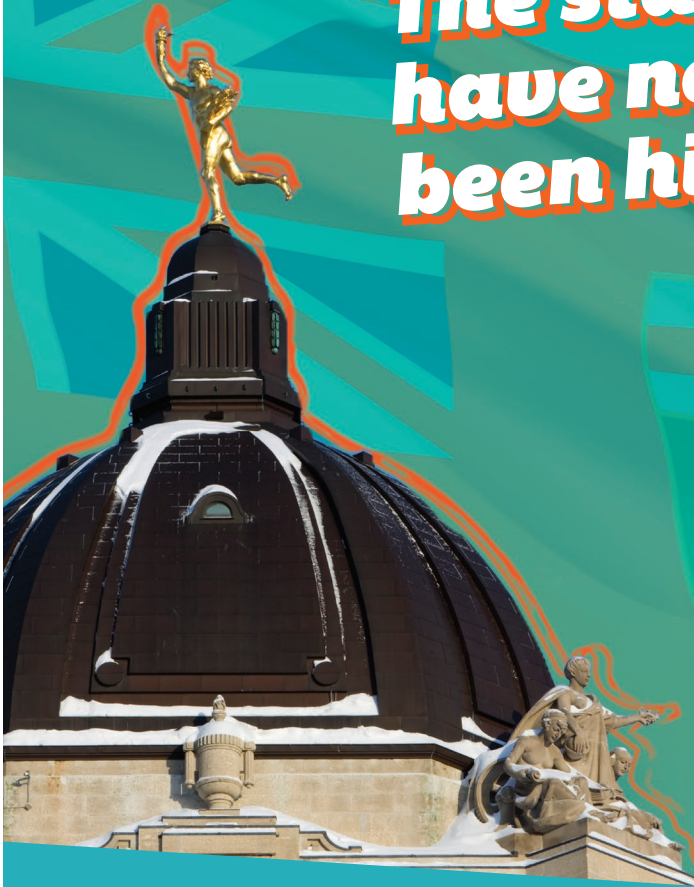


**The stakes
have never
been higher**



**A guide to provincial election
for CUPE members in Manitoba**

CUPE
MANITOBA

The stakes have never been higher.



Overview

The Manitoba Provincial Election has been called for April 19, 2016. This election is the most critical election in recent history, and everything is on the line.

Conservatives and Liberals want to cut jobs, privatize services, and reverse the gains we have made as workers under the NDP. The Conservatives also oppose Canada Pension Plan expansion and want to make it harder for workers to join unions.

This guide will give a quick overview of what's at stake for members working in sectors across Manitoba*.

On the back of this guide you'll find an election scorecard to ask candidates as they come knocking on your door!

This election we must work together to:

- ⊗ protect our jobs;
- ⊗ fight against program & service cuts;
- ⊗ push back against contracting out & privatization;
- ⊗ defend all we have won as workers.

Election Day is

April 19, 2016

**Join workers from across Manitoba
and help keep our province NDP.**

www.cupe.mb.ca – (204) 942-3017

*Campaign promises continue to be announced. For the latest on new announcements and CUPE's analysis on what they mean to you, visit: www.cupe.mb.ca/campaigns/provincial-election

This election is our chance to re-elect our party.

Manitoba's labour-friendly party!

Many CUPE members often ask “why does CUPE support the NDP?”

The answer is simple.

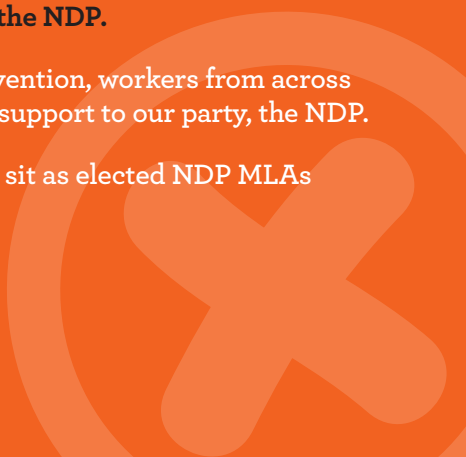
In 1956, tired of Conservative and Liberal rule, workers in the Canadian Labour Congress (representing workers from across Canada) and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (representing farmers, agrarians, and rural workers) came together and asked “why isn't there a party for working people?”

The New Democratic Party (NDP) was created from those conversations in 1961 as a party for working people. This is why many unions across Canada support the NDP.

But to say we are simply a “supporter” of the NDP is insufficient – we were a founding partner of the NDP.

At the 2015 CUPE Manitoba Convention, workers from across the province once again pledged support to our party, the NDP.

In fact, CUPE members currently sit as elected NDP MLAs in the Legislature!



CUPE Education Workers

What's at stake for you?

Conservatives:

The Conservatives have promised not to cut teaching jobs, but don't rule out funding cuts to schools. Funding cuts to schools mean School Boards will look to our support staff members and programs for "savings". The Conservatives have committed to finding half a billion dollars in "savings", and stated that there are "no sacred cows" when it comes to making those cuts.

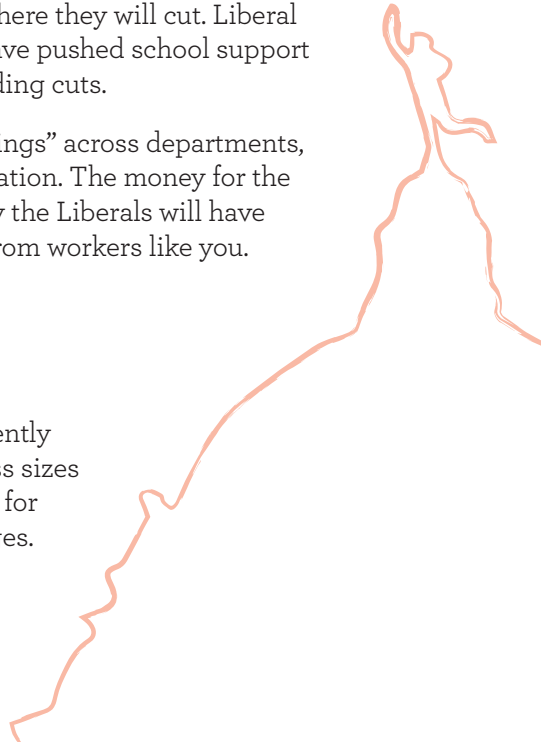
Liberals:

The Liberals have announced that they too will find millions in "savings", but haven't yet said where they will cut. Liberal governments in other provinces have pushed school support staff on strike with layoffs and funding cuts.

The Liberals promised to find "savings" across departments, but also don't rule out cuts to education. The money for the "sky is the limit" promises made by the Liberals will have to come from somewhere - likely from workers like you.

The NDP record:

The NDP in Manitoba has consistently increased funding for schools. Class sizes have been reduced, while supports for staff have increased, including wages.



CUPE Childcare Workers

What's at stake for you?

Conservatives:


The Conservatives have openly discussed creating more private childcare centres across the province. Private centres mean higher costs for parents, lower quality, and cutting corners. The more private centres the Conservatives build, the less support public centres will receive from government, driving down wages for our members.

Liberals:

The Liberals have promised to invest more in childcare and childcare wages, but their promises are vague and it is unclear how they will fund them. They seem to be more interested in boutique tax cuts for expensive haircuts than investing in public childcare.

The NDP record:

The NDP has tripled public childcare funding, and put in place wage an enhancement fund to increase pay for early childhood educators. They have also promised to build more public childcare centres, and increase spaces by 12,000. Manitoba has the most affordable childcare outside Quebec, and the NDP is committed to universal childcare for all.



CUPE Social Services Workers



What's at stake for you?

Conservatives:

The Conservatives have indicated they want to privatize social services by introducing Social Impact Bonds (SIBs). SIBs allow big multinational corporations to “sponsor” a program, and will receive a “return on investment” if the program succeeds. These programs go hand in hand with government funding cuts, and will certainly have a negative impact on CUPE members.

In fact, the last time the Pallister Conservatives were in power in Manitoba, they cut millions of dollars from funding to social service agencies, including many where CUPE members work today.

Liberals:

In other provinces, Liberal governments have cut social services to the core. The Manitoba Liberals' platform is full of holes and makes us wonder if they even know the extent and needs of Manitoba's social service sector. They have said they would reduce the number of children in the care of Child and Family Services by 50%, but have not presented any plan for how they would achieve this.

The NDP record:

Many of the social service agencies in Manitoba today exist because the NDP has prioritized community development, and has reinstated much of the funding that was cut in the 1990s.

The NDP holds the firm belief that investing in social services means investing in the community and protecting those who need it most - from supports for mental health to adopting recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

CUPE Municipal Workers



What's at stake for you?

Conservatives:

Pallister's Conservatives have a policy on their books to immediately rescind Manitoba's ground-breaking Public Private Partnership Transparency (P3) legislation. By doing this they will eliminate accountability and transparency for P3s, which take away jobs from public sector workers, and are far more costly than traditional procurement.

Conservatives will also make sure that new infrastructure is owned and operated by private companies (through P3s), rather than municipal governments. This could result in less "need" for public sector workers like you, and could lead to downsizing and contracting out.

Liberals:

Liberal governments have also promoted the use of P3s, especially in Ontario and in the Maritimes. The Ontario Liberals have been major advocates of P3s despite an Auditor General's report warning that P3s have cost Ontarians \$8 billion more than traditional, government managed projects.

Liberal governments in Quebec have interfered in municipal bargaining, resulting in major labour action in municipalities across the province due to cuts, contracting out, and attacks on pensions.

The NDP record:

The Manitoba NDP has created the first-ever P3 Accountability Legislation in Canada, recognizing that public workers can do the job better, cheaper, and with more accountability to the taxpayer.

The Manitoba NDP has also consistently funded infrastructure and provided supports to municipalities across the province for public services like arena maintenance, community programs, and parks.

CUPE Crown Corporations

What's at stake for you?

Conservatives:

While Pallister's Conservatives have denied that they would privatize Manitoba Hydro, the last PC government in Manitoba also denied they would privatize MTS, and then turned around and did so. The Pallister Conservatives have been constant critics of Manitoba Hydro and its planned developments.

Liberals:

The Manitoba Liberal Party has promised to privatize Manitoba Liquor stores, even though Manitoba Liquor stores earn over \$280 million in annual profits. These public revenues are used by the provincial government to pay for government services such as health care and education.

The NDP record:

The NDP will continue to invest in Manitoba Hydro, in both generation and transmission capacities. The NDP has promised to keep the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries public.



CUPE Health Care Workers

What's at stake for you?

Conservatives:

When the Conservatives were last in power, Brian Pallister was a Cabinet Minister: he cut health care jobs. Many CUPE members remember the impact of these cuts.

The Conservatives today are no different. They have already discussed finding ways to reduce the workforce in order to “save money”.

In Saskatchewan and Alberta, conservative governments have privatized laundry services and cut jobs. The Alberta Conservatives even wanted to introduce fees for health care services. Albertans rejected this plan when they voted in an NDP government.

Liberals:

In Ontario and BC, Liberal governments have found “savings” off the backs of workers. In BC, laundry services have been contracted out, resulting in job losses and pay cuts. In Manitoba, the Liberals have made an assortment of mostly vague promises, with no plan to fund any improvements. The Liberals plan to cut taxes while spending more on services, but it just doesn't add up.

The NDP record:

The Manitoba NDP has consistently made health care a priority, and is building new, public, non-profit personal care homes across the province. While other provinces are cutting jobs, cutting pay, and privatizing services, the Manitoba NDP have always invested in health care.

CUPE's April 19 Election Scorecard

YES	NO	Ask all candidates these important questions when they come to your doorstep!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support quality public services delivered by public employees?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you oppose the privatization of crown corporations and public services?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you believe in democratizing the workplace by giving workers an equal voice on decisions regarding public services?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you commit to rejecting job cuts and contracting out?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support retirement security through guaranteed, adequate pension plans?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you oppose measures which would restrict collective bargaining for wages and working conditions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support public delivery of important public services, even if it means reasonable tax increases or short-term deficits?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you support the expansion of the Canada Pension Plan?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you oppose the introduction of for-profit social services through social-impact bonds (SIBs)?

Contact us today to volunteer on a local election campaign!

www.cupe.mb.ca – (204) 942-3017