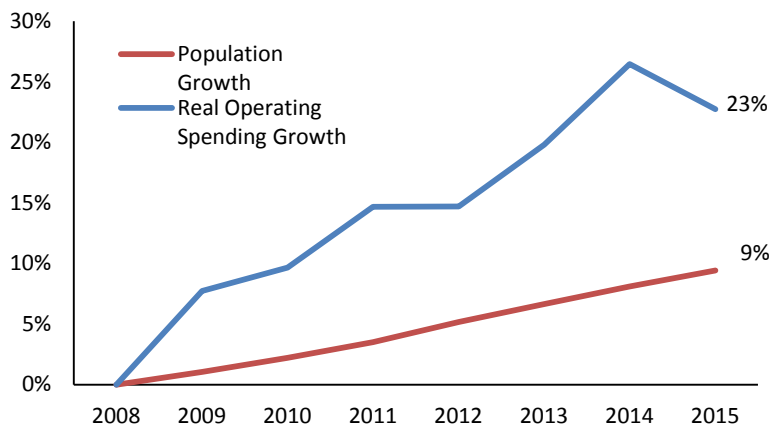


# Manitoba Municipal Elections 2018: Stand Up for Local Business!

*CFIB challenges municipal candidates to adopt five key business policies*

## 1. Limit Municipal Spending Growth:

Figure 1:  
**Manitoba Municipal Operating Spending Growth  
 (adjusted for inflation) vs. Population Growth, 2008–2015**



Source: Municipal Annual Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2008-2015, Manitoba Municipal Population Estimates 2008-2015 Statistics Canada.

Municipal governments cannot carry deficits. That means when municipalities increase spending, businesses and residents face hikes in property taxes and fees.

Operating spending by Manitoba’s 27 largest municipalities has outpaced inflation and population growth. From 2008 - 2015, spending grew by 23% while the population grew by just 9%. This is an expensive problem as overspending from 2008 - 2015 cost residents over \$1.17 billion! Municipalities must stop this unsustainable path and limit their annual operating spending growth to inflation and population growth.

## 2. Control Municipal Wages:

What is the major driver of operating spending growth? Municipal wages and benefits.

In Manitoba, salaries and benefits make 59% of municipal operating spending, and grew by 28% from 2008 - 2015. Municipal employees make over 14% more than their private sector equivalents when you consider wages and benefits. Current collective bargaining and arbitration practices are a major contributing factor. Clearly, work is needed to find savings and curb this unsustainable wage growth.

“ Stop increasing government salaries and expenses – live within the funds collected. ”

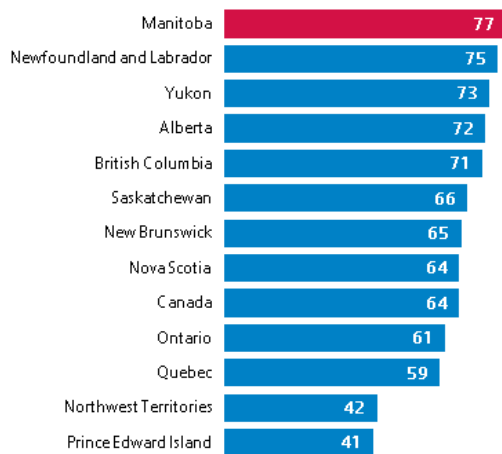
CFIB Member, Manitoba

### 3. Fair Property Taxes:

Figure 2:

In your community, which of the following would you like to see improved to help you business success? (Select as many as apply) (% response)

#### Property Tax Levels



Source: CFIB, 2017 National Survey on Municipal Issues, July 2017, n=5,573.

Manitoba businesses continue paying more than their fair share of municipal taxes. CFIB’s research of the “tax gap” between commercial and residential property rates shows that Winnipeg businesses are paying 2.87 times what residents pay for the same valued property in 2017. In Brandon, the tax gap was 2.38 last year.

CFIB is calling on municipal candidates to narrow the property tax gap where possible so business owners pay a fair share.

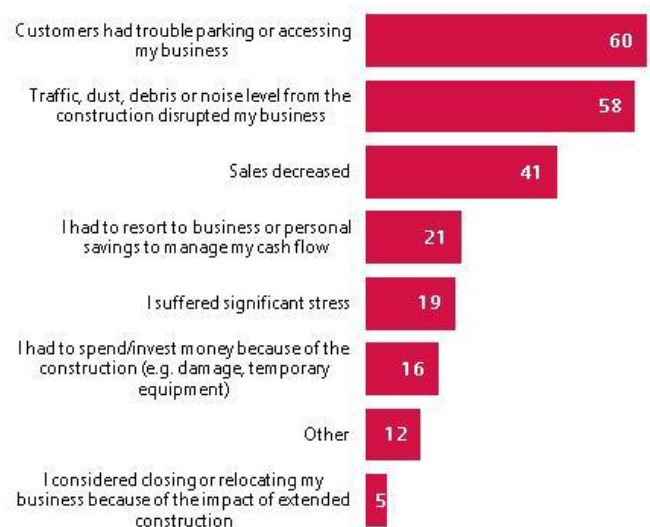
### 4. Construction Mitigation:

While necessary, construction projects can be very disruptive to local businesses. This is certainly the case as roads and sidewalks are being shut down, deadlines extended, and debris and noise problems scare away customers. These disruptions often lead to added stress for owners.

Municipalities need to develop a construction mitigation strategy that contains compensation measures for those businesses most severely affected by local construction projects. The City of Montreal has already accepted CFIB’s recommendations.

Figure 3:

How were you and/or your business affected during the last five years? (Select as many as apply) (% response)



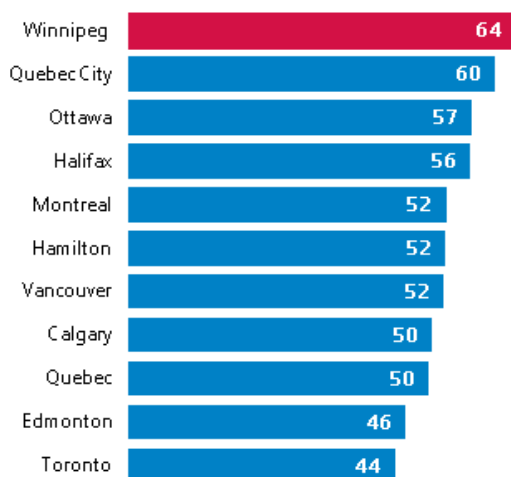
Source: CFIB, 2017 National Survey on Municipal Issues, July 2017, Manitoba results, n=83.

## 5.Reduce Red Tape:

Figure 4:

In your community, which of the following would you like to see improved to help you business success? (Select as many as apply) (% response)

**Ease of doing business locally (e.g. local regulations, permits, etc.)**



Source: CFIB, 2017 National Survey on Municipal Issues, July 2017, n=5,573.

### Mobile Business Licenses:

Outside of Winnipeg, municipalities should work together to create mobile business licenses (MBLs). These licenses allow business owners to operate across a larger area without needed separate business licenses to operate in each community.

MBLs are great for municipalities, businesses and residents because they cut red tape, reduce costs, improve compliance and offer more choice for customers. Several groups of communities in British Columbia are now using MBLs.

Red tape costs Manitoba’s businesses nearly \$1.2 billion each year. After all, time is money.

Municipal red tape is no exception so CFIB is challenging municipal candidates from across Manitoba to take red tape reduction seriously and commit to several policies to limit red tape in their community.

CFIB’s 2019 Municipal Red Tape Challenge isn’t just for big communities, and there are many common sense solutions that municipalities of all sizes can adopt to reduce red tape.

“The administration interprets bylaws differently than intended by the elected officials. This means we have to apply for variances when we should not have to. This is a cost in both time and money. There is very little, if any attempt by the administration to look at alternatives to make things work. They are deal breakers instead of deal makers.”

CFIB Member, Winnipeg