

# CBC Manitoba Probe Research Inc. News Release

## **PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON UNIVERSITY TUITION FEES**

**Release Date: March 20, 2007**

This province-wide Omnibus survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 among a random and representative sampling of 594 Manitoba adults.

With a sample of 594 one can say with 95 percent certainty that the results are within +/- 4.0 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba had been interviewed. The margin-of-error is higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups.

Modified random digit dialling was used to ensure that all Manitoba adults would have an equal opportunity to participate in this Probe Research survey. Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that the age and gender balance correspond with the province as a whole.

# PUBLIC ATTITUDES ON UNIVERSITY TUITION FEES

Winnipeg, Manitoba – Manitobans are evenly divided on the question of whether or not to maintain the freeze on tuition fees that has been in place at Manitoba’s universities since 1999. These findings emerge from a CBC Manitoba/Probe Research Inc. survey taken this month among a random and representative sampling of 594 Manitoba adults. Other findings reveal that opinion differs by age group and political leanings.

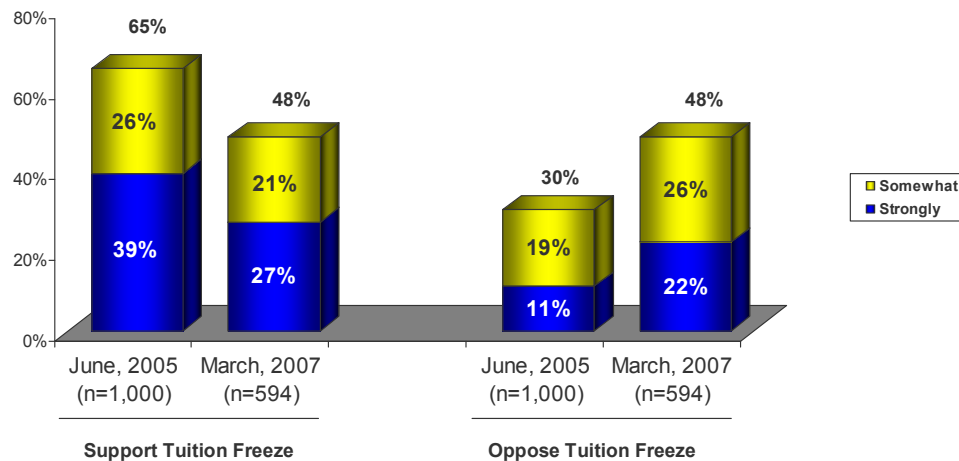
## Public Divided Over Keeping Tuition Fees Frozen

When presented with arguments for and against the provincial government’s freeze on tuition fees at the province’s colleges and universities, equal numbers of Manitobans support (48%, including 27% “strongly support”) and oppose keeping the freeze in place (48%, including 22% “strongly oppose”). As illustrated by the graph below, this represents a considerable decline in public support for the tuition freeze since June 2005, when two-thirds of Manitobans supported the freeze.



## Manitobans’ Views on the Tuition Freeze

1. The Manitoba government has not allowed colleges and universities to increase tuition fees since 1999. The government says it has maintained this no-tuition-increase policy to keep post-secondary education available to as many students as possible. However, colleges and universities say they don’t get enough funding from the government, and that the quality of education will decline unless they are allowed to raise tuition fees. All things considered, do you support or oppose keeping tuition fees frozen at Manitoba’s colleges and universities? (And is that strongly or moderately?)



Support for maintaining the tuition freeze was strongest among younger Manitobans aged 18-34 (55% versus 37% among those aged 55 years and over) and provincial NDP supporters (59% versus 35% among PC supporters). Likewise, opposition to the tuition freeze was strongest among those aged 55 years and over (55% versus 42% among those aged 18-34 years) and supporters of the provincial Progressive Conservatives (61% versus 38% among NDP supporters). Interestingly, both those with a university or college degree (50% support, 48% oppose) and those adults with no post-secondary education (47% support, 46% oppose) were just as divided on this question as the province as a whole.

For more information on this study, please contact:

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