

GO SLOW ON BALANCED BUDGET

Vast majority prefer Pallister's eight-year plan

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnipeg – Manitobans overwhelmingly support Progressive Conservative Premier Brian Pallister's cautious, eight-year plan to balance the provincial budget.

Two-thirds of Manitobans (66%) prefer the province take longer to balance the books if spending cuts can be avoided, according to Probe Research's latest Omnibus survey for the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

Mr. Pallister surprised many last month when he said it could take him two terms to shrink the province's \$890 million core deficit. Only 23 per cent of Manitobans want Mr. Pallister to move more quickly to balance the budget, even if that means spending cuts.

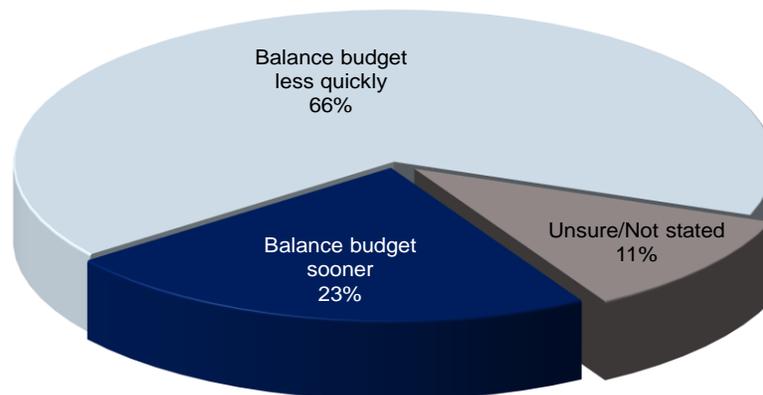
With a sample of 1,000 adults, these results are accurate to +/- 3.1 per cent of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba was interviewed at the 95% confidence level.

Women, Winnipeggers prefer cautious approach to the deficit

When asked whether the provincial government should balance the budget gradually over eight years to avoid spending cuts, or balance the books faster even if that means expenditure reductions, 66 per cent of Manitobans favoured the eight-year plan. Twenty-three per cent believe the provincial government should eliminate the deficit faster than Mr. Pallister has planned.



WFP1. "Premier Brian Pallister has promised to eliminate the provincial government deficit and balance the budget within eight years. Which approach to the provincial government deficit would you urge the new government to take? Balance the budget faster even if that means spending cuts, or balance the budget less quickly to avoid spending cuts?" (n=1,000)



Base: All Respondents

Those most likely to favour a go-slow approach include:

- Winnipeggers. Inside the Perimeter Highway, 72 per cent favour Mr. Pallister's eight-year approach. In rural Manitoba, that number drops to 58 per cent.
- Women. Nearly three quarters (74%) of female respondents favoured the go-slow option, compared with 58 per cent of men.

- Those who would vote NDP (77%) or Liberal (79%). But, Progressive Conservative supporters are also relatively supportive of Mr. Pallister's approach at 61 per cent.
- University graduates. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of respondents who completed university support the go-slow approach. Among those with a high school education, that figure drops to 59 per cent.

This province-wide survey was designed and conducted by Probe Research Inc. via telephone interviews conducted between June 7, 2016 and June 16, 2016 among a random and representative sampling of 1,000 Manitoba adults. With a sample of 1,000, one can say with 95 per cent certainty that the results are within +/- 3.1 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 dialing 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.

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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