

## MANITOBANS SPLIT ON PRIDE-RELATED ISSUES

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Winnipeg** – Most Manitobans are supportive of politicians whose personal views prevent them from attending Pride events.

However, approximately the same proportion of Manitobans would urge the provincial government to intervene and compel the Hanover School Division to expand its curriculum on sexual identity.

Saturday marks the first-ever Pride parade in Steinbach, but several local politicians, including Provencher MP Ted Falk, have declined to attend. Mr. Falk has cited his personal beliefs as the reason he will not attend.

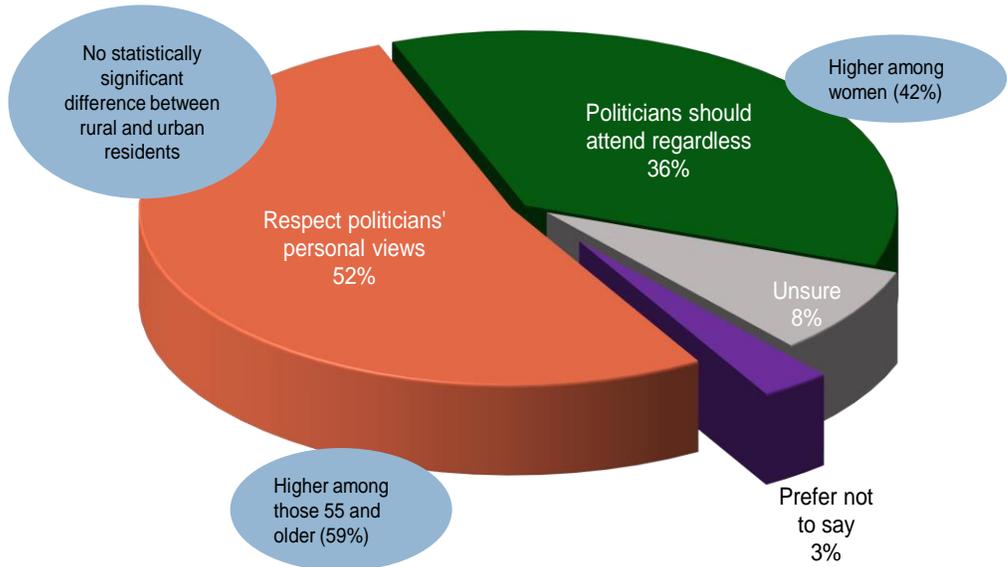
A Probe Research survey found most Manitobans (52%) believe the personal views of politicians such as Mr. Falk ought to be respected. However, more than one-third of respondents (36%), a significant minority, believe politicians should attend Pride events regardless of their personal views.

Last month, some parents and students asked the Hanover School Division to begin teaching students about sexual identity earlier than high school. Gay, lesbian and transgender issues are considered “sensitive” subjects and the provincial government allows local school divisions some discretion in deciding when and how to address them in class. The Hanover School Division has so far declined to alter its curriculum following requests from parents and students.

A Probe Research Inc. survey found that one-half of Manitoba adults (50%) believe Education Minister Ian Wishart ought to intervene to compel the Hanover School Division to expand its teaching on sexual identity. However, one-third (33%) believe the final decision ought to be left with elected school trustees.

**PRBE** RESEARCH INC. **Views Regarding Pride Attendance**

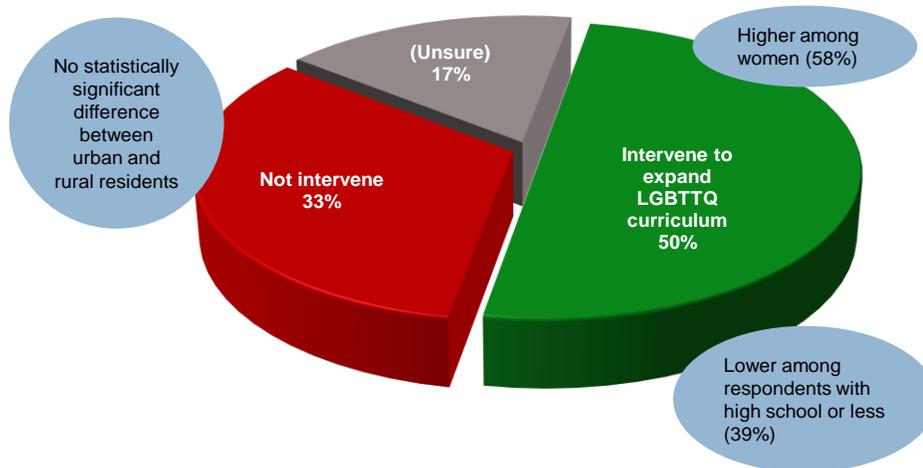
**Q.1** "Gay, lesbian and transgender people (LGBTQ) are holding the first-ever "Pride" parade in Steinbach this month. Several area politicians are not attending, including MP Ted Falk, who said his personal values prevent him from supporting Pride events. Which of the following statements most closely reflects your views on the issue?" (n=653)



Base: All Respondents

## Views Regarding Role of Education Minister

**Q2.** "Some parents and students in the Hanover School Division, which includes Steinbach, have asked the school division to begin teaching students about LGBTTQ issues before high school, as is the norm in many other areas of the province. Several school division trustees oppose making this change and the provincial Minister of Education has so far declined to intervene. What do you think? Should the Minister of Education...?" (n=653)



Base: All respondents

This survey was conducted with 653 members of Probe Research's proprietary online panel between June 30, 2016 and July 4, 2016. Participants in the online panel are recruited through Probe Research's quarterly, random telephone poll, the Probe Omnibus Survey. The results have been weighted slightly to reflect the true demographic make-up of Manitoba. Because this is a non-probability sample, no statistical margin of error can be ascribed. However, a margin of error on a probability sample of 653 adults is typically +/- 3.83%, 19 times out of 20.

For more information on this survey, please contact:

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