

MANITOBA

AN EQUAL VOICE PROVINCE SNAPSHOT, 2026

Manitoba (Man.) has had one woman serve as premier, and its legislature has not yet achieved gender parity by having women make up at least half of its MLAs. The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba seats 56* members, of which 20 are women and gender diverse people (35.7%). Man.'s last election took place in October 2023.

*one additional seat is vacant



Population
1,505,117



Female to Male
50.3% : 49.7%



GDP
\$73.4+ billion

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Man. has a unicameral legislature, with one chamber: the **the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba**. As a parliamentary democracy, Man. has 93 constituencies which are each represented by an elected **Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA)**.

The political party with the most elected MLAs forms government, and their leader becomes the head of government, called the **Premier**. The Premier selects MLAs to serve as Cabinet Ministers.

The **Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba** is appointed by the Governor General of Canada and represents the King, Canada's Head of State.



CURRENT EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION

(as of Mar 2025)

Premier: Wab Kinew (M)
Assumed office: 18 Oct. 2023
Party: New Democratic Party of Man.

18 Cabinet Members
7 women (39%) : 10 men (55.5%)
1 gender diverse person (5.5%)

Notable portfolios currently held by women & gender diverse people:

-Deputy Premier	-Transportation & Infrastructure
-Gender Equity	
-Housing, Addictions & Homelessness	-Advanced Education & Training
-Mental Health	-Labour & Immigration

CURRENT LEGISLATURE

(as of Mar 2025)

56 MLAs total*
19 women (33.9%) : 36 men (64.3%) :
1 gender diverse person (1.8%)

MLAS PER PARTY

Man. New Democratic Party: 33 MLAs
13 women (39.4%) : 19 men (57.6%) :
1 gender diverse person (3.0%)

Progressive Conservative Party of Man.:
20 MLAs - 5 women (25%) : 15 men (75.0%)

Man. Liberal Party: 1 MLA
1 woman (100%) : 0 men (0%)

Independent MLAs: 0 women : 2 men

*one additional seat is vacant, pending a by-election



LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

(as of Mar 2025)

26 Lieutenant Governors since 1870
3 women : 23 men

Current Lieutenant Governor:
Anita R. Neville (W)

PAST PREMIERS

(as of Mar 2025)

25 Premiers since 1870
1 women : 24 men

Heather Stefanson: 2 Nov. 2021
- 18 Oct. 2023

MILESTONES

1916

Man. was the first Canadian province or territory to allow women to vote and run for office.

1920

Edith Rogers was the first woman MLA elected in Man.

1963

Thelma Forbes was the first woman Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Man.

1966

Thelma Forbes was the first woman named to Cabinet in Man.

1981

Pearl McGonigal was the first woman to be appointed Lieutenant Governor of Man.

1984

Sharon Carstairs was the first woman to lead a Man. political party.

1989

Sharon Carstairs was the first woman Leader of the Opposition in Man.

2007

Flor Marcelino was the first woman of colour MLA elected in Man. In 2009, Marcelino was also the first woman of colour named to Cabinet in the province.

2009

Rosann Wowchuk was the first woman Minister of Finance in Man.

2019

Uzoma Asagwara was the first gender diverse MLA in the Manitoba legislature and one of the first Black MLAs elected in Manitoba's history.

2021

Heather Stefanson was the first woman premier of Manitoba

2021

Man.'s 2023 election saw a record number of women and gender diverse people win seats in the province's legislature, with 19 women and gender diverse MLAs out of 57 (33.3%). This is the highest proportion of women and gender diverse MLAs in Man.'s history