



# Labour Market Bulletin

## Manitoba

## July 2022



This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Manitoba, including the regions of Winnipeg, Northern Manitoba and Southern Manitoba.

### OVERVIEW

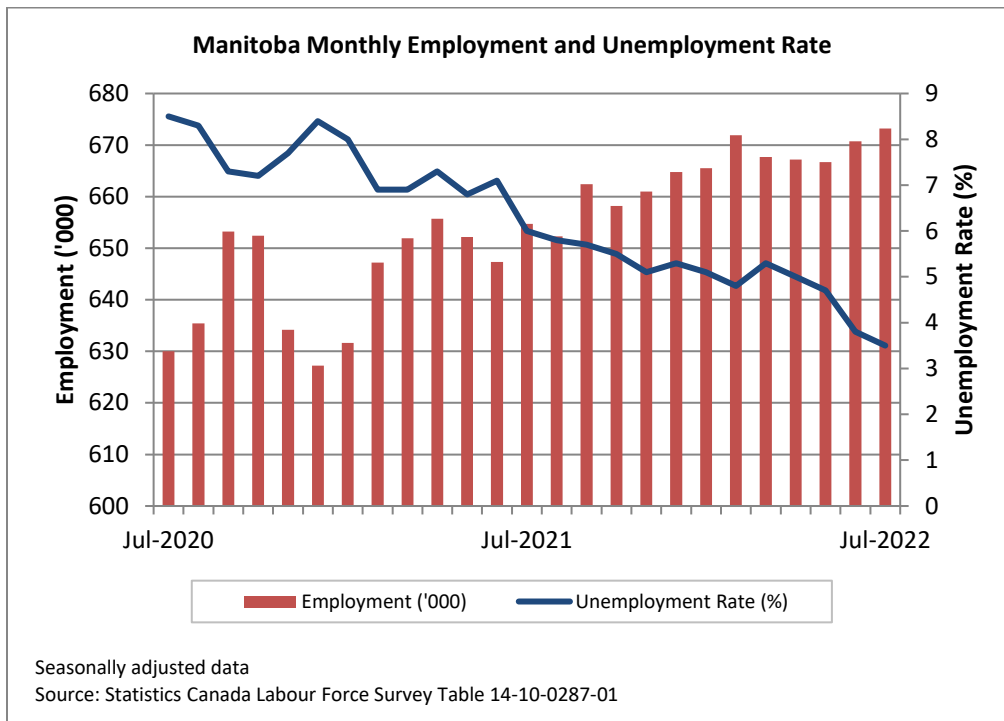
Employment in Manitoba increased 2,500 in July with part-time employment gains (+3,500) outpacing full-time employment losses (-1,000). Year-over-year, provincial employment was up 18,500 (+2.8%), reaching 673,200. Annual job growth was driven by increases in the public (+19,100 or +11.5%) and private (+3,500 or 0.9%) sector. Meanwhile, the number of self-employed Manitobans was down 4,000 (-5.0%).<sup>1</sup> Most employment indicators in Manitoba show positive change between July 2021 and July 2022, with an increase in employment accompanied by an uptick in the labour force (+900 or 0.1%) and a decrease in the unemployment rate (-2.5 percentage points to 3.5%). In fact, Manitoba’s unemployment rate in July was the lowest ever recorded by Statistics Canada.<sup>2</sup>

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	July 2022	June 2022	July 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Population 15 + ('000)</b>	1,064.3	1,063.1	1,051.4	1.2	0.1	12.9	1.2
<b>Labour Force ('000)</b>	697.6	697.1	696.7	0.5	0.1	0.9	0.1
<b>Employment ('000)</b>	673.2	670.7	654.7	2.5	0.4	18.5	2.8
Full-Time ('000)	540.9	541.9	530.5	-1.0	-0.2	10.4	2.0
Part-Time ('000)	132.2	128.7	124.2	3.5	2.7	8.0	6.4
<b>Unemployment ('000)</b>	24.4	26.5	42.1	-2.1	-7.9	-17.7	-42.0
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>	3.5	3.8	6.0	-0.3	-	-2.5	-
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>	65.5	65.6	66.3	-0.1	-	-0.8	-
<b>Employment Rate (%)</b>	63.3	63.1	62.3	0.2	-	1.0	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0287-01, formerly CANSIM 282-0087



Self-employment has been declining in Manitoba since 2019, a trend exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup> In fact, many small businesses are still struggling. According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business’ (CFIB) most recent Small Business Recovery Dashboard, 54% of surveyed businesses in Manitoba are still holding debt taken on due to the pandemic. In addition, 55% of Manitoba businesses indicated they were still making less than normal revenues.<sup>4</sup> Business owners are also dealing with increased costs driven by inflation. This summer the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Manitoba increased 9.4% on an annual basis, a significantly higher increase than the national average (+8.1%).<sup>5</sup> According to the CFIB, fuel and energy costs are currently the top cost constraints affecting the majority of small businesses across the country.<sup>6</sup> Labour shortages are also placing constraints on small businesses, a problem currently found in a multitude of sectors in Manitoba.<sup>7</sup>

**Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age**

Seasonally Adjusted Data	July 2022 (%)	June 2022 (%)	July 2021 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Total</b>	3.5	3.8	6.0	-0.3	-2.5
<b>25 years and over</b>	3.4	3.0	5.8	0.4	-2.4
Men - 25 years and over	3.1	3.0	5.7	0.1	-2.6
Women - 25 years and over	3.7	3.0	5.9	0.7	-2.2
<b>15 to 24 years</b>	4.0	7.8	7.5	-3.8	-3.5
Men - 15 to 24 years	2.5	8.3	9.2	-5.8	-6.7
Women - 15 to 24 years	5.5	7.3	5.5	-1.8	0.0

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding  
Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0287, formerly CANSIM 282-0087

While job vacancies have been rising in Manitoba over the last year, the number of unemployed people is down 42% (-17,700).<sup>8</sup> With more job openings and less available workers, Manitoba is experiencing a tight labour market. In fact, unemployment is down for all major demographic groups on an annual basis. The most significant

annual decline is for young men (15 to 24 years), down 6.7 percentage points to 2.2%. In fact, Manitoba's total youth unemployment rate in July (4.0%) is much lower than last month (7.8%) and last year (7.5%), and substantially lower than the five year average between 2017 and 2021 (12.3%).<sup>9</sup> Manitoba's youth unemployment rate in July was also the lowest in Canada and significantly lower than the national average (9.2%).<sup>10</sup> This year, youth employment has been bolstered by employment growth in accommodation and food services. There were 5,500 more young people aged 15 to 24 employed in this provincial sector, representing 60% of total annual job growth in accommodation and food services.<sup>11</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In July, employment increased in Manitoba's **goods-producing sector** (+2,600) due to job gains in **manufacturing** (+2,700) and **construction** (+700). Meanwhile, monthly employment in the province's **services-producing sector** was unchanged with gains in **educational services** (+5,300) and **business, building and other support services** (+2,400) offset by losses in most other services producing industries.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	July 2022	June 2022	July 2021	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
<b>Total employed, all industries</b>	673.2	670.7	654.7	2.5	0.4	18.5	2.8
<b>Goods-producing sector</b>	141.4	138.8	144.7	2.6	1.9	-3.3	-2.3
Agriculture	17.6	17.5	23.4	0.1	0.6	-5.8	-24.8
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	4.7	5.7	3.9	-1.0	-17.5	0.8	20.5
Utilities	4.7	4.7	4.9	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-4.1
Construction	48.8	48.1	49.2	0.7	1.5	-0.4	-0.8
Manufacturing	65.5	62.8	63.4	2.7	4.3	2.1	3.3
<b>Services-producing sector</b>	531.8	531.8	509.9	0.0	0.0	21.9	4.3
Trade	89.5	90.9	95.4	-1.4	-1.5	-5.9	-6.2
Transportation and warehousing	39.6	40.8	41.2	-1.2	-2.9	-1.6	-3.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	38.6	40.5	35.4	-1.9	-4.7	3.2	9.0
Professional, scientific and technical services	35.5	35.0	32.5	0.5	1.4	3.0	9.2
Business, building and other support services	23.2	20.8	20.7	2.4	11.5	2.5	12.1
Educational services	67.3	62.0	57.4	5.3	8.5	9.9	17.2
Health care and social assistance	102.8	105.2	105.3	-2.4	-2.3	-2.5	-2.4
Information, culture and recreation	23.3	23.5	22.5	-0.2	-0.9	0.8	3.6
Accommodation and food services	41.6	41.5	36.2	0.1	0.2	5.4	14.9
Other services	28.3	29.1	26.1	-0.8	-2.7	2.2	8.4
Public administration	42.2	42.6	37.3	-0.4	-0.9	4.9	13.1

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0355, formerly CANSIM 282-0088

Employment growth has been largely stagnant on an annual basis in the **construction** sector (-0.8%). According to BuildForce Canada, employment in residential construction is expected to only rise by 330 workers in 2022, while jobs in non-residential construction will increase by 224.<sup>12</sup> This is modest growth for a year. As part of Budget 2022, the Government of Manitoba is spending \$2.4 billion on infrastructure.<sup>13</sup> This spending includes

\$1.5 billion over three years on a highway network project called the Manitoba Trade and Commerce Grid, one of the Province's key infrastructure initiatives.<sup>14</sup>

The Government of Manitoba recently amended regulations in the Construction Industry Wages Act to increase the minimum wage for construction workers by 14% over the next three years to keep pace with inflation.<sup>15</sup> The first increase will take effect September 1, followed by another increase in April 2023 and again in April 2024.<sup>16</sup> In 2021, employment in Manitoba's construction sector offered an average hourly wage of \$28.66 — already 7% higher than the average hourly wage for the province (\$26.81/hr).<sup>17</sup>

Employment in Manitoba's **manufacturing** sector increased on both a monthly (+4.3%) and annual basis (+2,100 or +3.3%). Manufacturing is a growing sector in Manitoba, currently accounting for almost 9.7% of all employment and 9.5% of total provincial GDP.<sup>18</sup> According to the most recent provincial labour market outlook, expansion demand will lead to 6,900 new jobs in Manitoba's manufacturing sector between 2021 and 2025.<sup>19</sup>

To help bolster the qualified workforce, the federal government is providing over \$3.8 million to Workplace Education Manitoba to train 120 practitioners in its Skills for Success program.<sup>20</sup> These practitioners will deliver employer-focused skills training in 60 different workplaces, mainly in manufacturing.<sup>21</sup> New training programs are also being developed in collaboration with Roquette and Protein Industries Canada at Assiniboine Community College to address labour market needs for the plant processing and food and beverage manufacturing industries.<sup>22</sup> New specialized food processing programs will support Roquette's need for production workers who have an understanding of food science, food safety, and nutrition.<sup>23</sup> Roquette completed construction of their \$600 million pea processing plant in Portage la Prairie last fall, a facility considered the largest manufacturing plant of its kind in the world.<sup>24</sup>

Skills training is also a priority for Manitoba's **healthcare and social assistance** sector. The provincial government is providing \$5.2 million towards two programs aimed at addressing health care labour shortages.<sup>25</sup> The Skills Development and Indigenous Adult Health Internship programs offer career counselling, financial support, and paid work practicums. Funding is available for a long list of health-care related occupations including health-care aide, health unit clerk, medical office assistant, and pharmacy technician.<sup>26</sup>

The Government of Manitoba is also spending \$3.4 million to subsidize tuition costs for uncertified health-care aides already working in the public health system.<sup>27</sup> The initial application intake will offer tuition support to approximately 120 eligible applicants.<sup>28</sup> To increase the healthcare labour force, the Province is also developing a plan to have internationally educated licenced practical nurses (LPNs) and registered nurses (RNs) begin working in health care facilities while they complete their licensing requirements.<sup>29</sup>

Employment in healthcare and social assistance decreased both on a monthly (-2,400 or -2.3%) and annual basis (-2,500 or -2.4%). While the unemployment rate for this sector has remained below 2.0% for the last year, the labour force is shrinking. Staffing shortages have led to many front line health care workers experiencing burnout, pushing some people to transition to different careers or to retire. Staff vacancy rates for adult support workers in Manitoba have risen to 30-50%, causing some organizations serving people with disabilities to reduce their capacity.<sup>30</sup> These support occupations offer comparatively lower wages, which may be contributing to recruitment difficulties.<sup>31</sup>

Meanwhile, emergency departments in the Prairie Mountain Health Region are temporarily suspending or limiting services this summer amid staff shortages. Health centres in Treherne, Grandview, Melita, and Souris have all announced changes to emergency room hours.<sup>32</sup> Meanwhile, the Leaf Rapids Health Centre’s emergency department will remain completely closed until the end of August due to a staff shortage.<sup>33</sup>

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

On an annual basis, employment increased in four of Manitoba’s six economic regions. In the **South Central and North Central** region employment is up 8.9% year-over-year (+4,800), while in **Interlake** employment is down 2.2% year-over-year (-1,000). The unemployment rate was down in all economic regions, with the most significant decrease in **South Central and North Central**, down 4.1 percentage points to 3.1% — the lowest rate of any region in the province.

### Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	July 2022 ('000)	July 2021 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	July 2022 (%)	July 2021 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
<b>Manitoba</b>	680.2	660.4	3.0	4.2	6.9	-2.7
<b>Economic Regions</b>						
Southeast	64.2	62.5	2.7	4.5	5.2	-0.7
South Central and North Central	58.7	53.9	8.9	3.1	7.2	-4.1
Southwest	57.8	55.8	3.6	3.5	5.6	-2.1
Winnipeg	422.1	409.7	3.0	4.3	7.6	-3.3
Interlake	45.2	46.2	-2.2	4.8	5.7	-0.9
Parklands and Northern	32.0	32.1	-0.3	3.3	5.0	-1.7

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada – Table 14-10-0387, formerly CANSIM 282-0122

Year-over-year, employment increased 12,400 in the **Winnipeg** economic region. This summer’s line-up of local festivals is expected to help bolster local economic activity. After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several arts and music festivals are returning to Winnipeg this summer. Events include Folklorama, the Winnipeg Fringe Festival, Winnipeg Folkfest, and the Burt Block Party.<sup>34</sup> These events will help bring more business to the City’s downtown core where foot traffic has been greatly reduced since the prevalence of remote work options ballooned with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, the Downtown Recovery Strategy, managed by the Downtown Action Team, was created in 2021 to invigorate downtown Winnipeg’s social and economic development post-pandemic.<sup>35</sup> Among several initiatives to revitalize the downtown core, the Downtown Action Team is administering the new \$2.5 million Downtown Building Business Program created by the provincial government and Manitoba Chambers of Commerce to help downtown Winnipeg businesses through space improvements and business development. This program reserves 40% of its funding for BIPOC and women-owned businesses.<sup>36</sup>

Turning to northern Manitoba, employment in the **Parklands and Northern** economic region was relatively unchanged on an annual basis (-100 or -0.3%). Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for this region dropped 1.7 percentage points to 3.3% primarily due to a drop in the local labour force (-700 or -2.1%). Economic activity in

Norway House could help bolster local employment in the near term. A new agreement with the Province will now ensure Norway House Cree Nation will receive up to 45% of revenues from timber harvested on its territory.<sup>37</sup> The provincial government will also provide \$150,000 for a tree-planting program, timber for about 500 homes, and \$190,000 for consultation and land-use practices. This agreement effectively establishes a collaborative framework between the Province and the Norway House Cree Nation on forestry and natural resource-related initiatives.<sup>38</sup>

Earlier this year, Norway House Cree Nation and the Flying Nickel Mining Corporation signed an agreement for the development of a nickel mine in Northern Manitoba.<sup>39</sup> The Minago Nickel Project is expected to employ over 100 people in the early stages of development and up to 450 people once fully operational. This mining project is expected to generate about \$450 million for Norway House over the course of ten years.

First Nation communities in northern Manitoba face a multitude of challenges including the high cost of food, low access to the internet, and limited transportation infrastructure. Isolated communities have restricted access to the wider provincial economy and require support to maintain existing transportation routes. The Government of Canada and Manitoba are providing up to \$147.6 million over two years to the Arctic Gateway Group to maintain, upgrade, and operate its Hudson Bay Railway.<sup>40</sup> The railway provides year-round access, food, and supplies to northern communities.<sup>41</sup>

Forest fires have affected many remote northern communities this summer with 26 active fires in the region as of the end of July.<sup>42</sup> The Pukatawagan fire in northwestern Manitoba located less than a kilometer from the community caused the evacuation of almost 2,000 people in mid-July.<sup>43</sup> Members of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation had to evacuate by air and rail to relocate to Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. By late July, Manitoba Hydro was able to send two industrial generators to Pukatawagan to return power to the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation so crews could repair infrastructure damaged by the wildfires. Evacuated residents could be able to return home by the second week of August.<sup>44</sup>

**Note:** In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.

**Prepared by:** Labour Market Information (LMI) Directorate, Service Canada, Manitoba

**For further information,** please contact the LMI team at: [http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact\\_us.aspx?section=lmi](http://www.esdc.gc.ca/cqi-bin/contact/edsc-esdc/eng/contact_us.aspx?section=lmi)

**For information on the Labour Force Survey,** please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca)

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada as represented by Employment and Social Development Canada, 2022, all rights reserved

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table 14-10-0288-01 \(formerly CANSIM 282-0089\) Employment by class of worker, monthly, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, last 5 months \(x1,000\)](#). Accessed August 5, 2022.
- <sup>2</sup> Winnipeg Sun (August 7, 2022). [Manitoba records low unemployment rate in July](#).
- <sup>3</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table: 14-10-0027-01 \(formerly CANSIM 282-0012\) Employment by class of worker, annual \(x 1,000\)](#). Accessed August 5, 2022.
- <sup>4</sup> CFIB (June 30, 2022). [Small business recovery dashboard](#).
- <sup>5</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table: 18-10-0004-01 \(formerly CANSIM 326-0020\) Consumer Price Index, monthly, not seasonally adjusted](#). Accessed August 5, 2022.
- <sup>6</sup> CFIB (July 2022). [Monthly Business Barometer](#).
- <sup>7</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>8</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table: 14-10-0371-01 Job vacancies, payroll employees, and job vacancy rate by provinces and territories, monthly, unadjusted for seasonality](#). Accessed August 5, 2022.
- <sup>9</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table: 14-10-0327-01 Labour force characteristics by sex and detailed age group, annual](#). Accessed August 5, 2022.
- <sup>10</sup> Winnipeg Sun (August 7, 2022). [Manitoba records low unemployment rate in July](#).
- <sup>11</sup> Statistics Canada. Labour Force Survey, ESDC Custom Table.
- <sup>12</sup> BuildForce Canada. [Construction & maintenance looking forward, Manitoba, highlights 2022-2027](#). Accessed May 11, 2022.
- <sup>13</sup> Government of Manitoba (April 28, 2022). [Province commits \\$1.5 billion to highway network projects](#).
- <sup>14</sup> Government of Manitoba (April 28, 2022). [Province commits \\$1.5 billion to highway network projects](#).
- <sup>15</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (July 8, 2022). [Tories boost construction minimum wage after wanting to dump it](#).
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>17</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table: 14-10-0064-01 \(formerly CANSIM 282-0072\) Employee wages by industry, annual](#). Accessed August 5, 2022.
- <sup>18</sup> Statistics Canada. [Table: 36-10-0402-02 Gross domestic product \(GDP\) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories, growth rates \(x 1,000,000\)](#). Accessed on August 5, 2022.
- <sup>19</sup> Government of Manitoba. [Manitoba Labour market Outlook 2021-2025](#). Accessed August 5, 2022.
- <sup>20</sup> Government of Canada (July 25, 2022). [Government of Canada invests in foundational skills training for workers in Manitoba](#).
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>22</sup> Manitoba Co-operators (May 16, 2022). [Roquette, Assiniboine Community College pair up to yield diploma programs](#).
- <sup>23</sup> Manitoba Co-operators (May 16, 2022). [Roquette, Assiniboine Community College pair up to yield diploma programs](#).
- <sup>24</sup> CBC News (November 17, 2021). [Manitoba could be the 'Silicon Valley of plant protein,' company says at opening of massive pea processing plant](#).
-

- 
- <sup>25</sup> Government of Manitoba (July 21, 2022). [Manitoba government announces funding to address workforce shortages in health sector.](#)
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> Global News (July 19, 2022). [Manitoba pledges \\$3.4M to help train uncertified health-care aides.](#)
- <sup>28</sup> Global News (July 19, 2022). [Manitoba pledges \\$3.4M to help train uncertified health-care aides.](#)
- <sup>29</sup> CBC News (July 14, 2022). [Manitoba to place some internationally trained nurses in hospitals before licensing complete.](#)
- <sup>30</sup> CBC News (July 11, 2022). [Low pay leads to `revolving door` of adult support workers.](#)
- <sup>31</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>32</sup> CBC News (July 1, 2022). [Prairie Mountain Health region suspending, scaling back some ER services this summer.](#)
- <sup>33</sup> The Reminder (July 26, 2022). [Emergency care at leaf Rapids health centre closed until Sept.: NHR.](#)
- <sup>34</sup> Global News (June 30, 2022). [Winnipeg summer festivals making comeback after two-year hiatus.](#)
- <sup>35</sup> Downtown Winnipeg Biz (October 2021). [Downtown Recovery Framework.](#)
- <sup>36</sup> CBC News (July 18, 2022). [Grant program aims to reverse trend of disappearing business in downtown Winnipeg.](#)
- <sup>37</sup> Winnipeg Free Press (August 2, 2022). [Province, Norway Cree Nation sign historic timber deal.](#)
- <sup>38</sup> Canadian Forest Industries (August 3, 2022). [Manitoba, Norway House Cree Nation agree on forestry development.](#)
- <sup>39</sup> CBC News (February 17, 2022). [Northern Manitoba nickel mine expected to provide jobs, multimillion-dollar economic boost.](#)
- <sup>40</sup> Government of Manitoba (August 3, 2022). [Arctic gateway Group's Hudson Bay Railway on track to support northern connectivity through historic partnership between Canada and Manitoba.](#)
- <sup>41</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>42</sup> Government of Manitoba (July 29, 2022). [Fire update report.](#)
- <sup>43</sup> CTV News (July 18, 2022). [Planes, helicopters and trains help close to 2,000 flee fire in northern Manitoba.](#)
- <sup>44</sup> Global News (July 28, 2022). [Manitoba Hydro shipping industrial generators to turn lights back on in Pukatawagan.](#)