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# NEWS RELEASE

## NEW POLL SHOWS ONLY 5% OF MANITOBANS FEEL SAFER IN THEIR COMMUNITY, NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OUTSIDE WINNIPEG FIND THEIR CELL SERVICE IS UNRELIABLE

*Survey also suggests more than three-quarters support PST rebate to municipalities*

**July 17, 2023** – A new poll conducted by Probe Research for the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) reveals rising concern over public safety, while rural Manitobans are overwhelmingly concerned about mobile connectivity outside the province's cities.

The poll was conducted in the first two weeks of June as part of an omnibus, with a sample size of 1000 Manitobans and a distribution of 60% in Winnipeg and 40% outside Winnipeg. The survey results are considered to have a margin of error of 3.1% 19 times out of 20.

Full results can be found here: [https://www.amm.mb.ca/download/other\\_documents/AMM-June-2023-Omni-Report.pdf](https://www.amm.mb.ca/download/other_documents/AMM-June-2023-Omni-Report.pdf)

### Poll Highlights:

- **Only 5%** of Manitobans feel safer in their community than they did three years ago. **56%** of Manitobans feel decidedly "less safe" in their community.
- Feeling "less safe" commands a majority sentiment across numerous demographics: women as well as men, across education levels, most income brackets, and most political affiliations.
- Outside of Winnipeg, only one third (**34%**) of rural and Northern Manitobans feel their cell service is completely reliable, with nearly two-thirds (**64%**) saying it is not reliable or only somewhat reliable.
- More than three-quarters of Manitobans (**77%**) believe the Province should provide a PST rebate to municipalities.

### Quotations:

- "Manitoba's municipalities are the order of government closest to the people, and given it's an election year, we thought we'd check our provincial priorities against public sentiment. Turns out the issues we've been pressing are through the roof in the public's mind." – Kam Blight, AMM President
- "People want to see fairness in funding, they want to see greater investment in core infrastructure like cellular service, and they want to see rising crime rates addressed." – Kam Blight, AMM President

- *“Only 5% of Manitobans feel ‘more safe’ now than they did three years ago. Think about that for a second. And this crosses demographics. Women and men, all income levels, all parts of Manitoba. If that isn’t a call to action, then I don’t know what is.” – Kam Blight, AMM President*
- *“Reliable cell network coverage is not just about making phone calls. It’s about safety. And it often travels hand-in-hand with broadband internet service – that has become critical infrastructure for work, for school, for running a business, for farming. We need to get this right.” – Kam Blight, AMM President*

### **About the AMM**

The AMM was founded in 1999 as a united voice representing all of Manitoba’s 137 incorporated municipalities.

Under AMM’s [Let’s Grow Manitoba Together](#) pre-election campaign, Manitoba’s elected municipal officials and administrators have been pressing all provincial parties for funding fairness, investments in core infrastructure, better harnessing of skilled workers particularly in health care, and for action to address rising crime rates.

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