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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Provincial parties not connecting, almost failing commuter cyclists.

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Manitoba's political parties score low grades on the Bike to the Future's survey in support of cycling. Earlier in the provincial election campaign Bike to the Future, a not for profit advocacy group, surveyed the major political parties for their support of cycling and active transportation. After assessing the responses, we have awarded the following letter grades for each of participating parties:

Green Party	A
New Democratic Party of Manitoba (NDP)	C
The Progressive Conservative Party of Manitoba (PC Manitoba)	C-
Manitoba Liberal Party (Liberal/Libéral)	D

While the parties acknowledge that increasing the use of bicycles as a means of everyday transportation will improve the health, environment, and economy of Manitobans, most parties remain committed to little more than modest spending on recreational trails. This partial approach fails to address a wider range of transportation needs with destinations and routes located on existing roads.

Further disappointment was the almost complete lack of commitment to any programs that might encourage people to take up cycling. The three main parties included no commitments to programs that might improve cyclist's skills, encourage commuters to use their bikes, or familiarize motorists with the patterns of on road cyclists.

Bike to the Future feels the provincial government should take an active role in the accommodation and promotion of cycling and active transportation, and are calling on Manitobans to ask prospective candidates if they support the development of a comprehensive provincial bicycle/active transportation policy that includes the following:

- Legislation requiring inclusion of bike and pedestrian facilities in all major road and bridge construction/reconstruction projects;
- A requirement that municipalities develop active transportation plans;
- Providing municipalities with provincial design standards and technical assistance
- Cost sharing programs to support the development/redevelopment of both off-road and on-road cycling/active transportation infrastructure;
- Educational programs for cyclists and motorists
- Promotional and Incentive programs to encourage cycling/active transportation
- A public review of the Highway Traffic Act to ensure it satisfies the needs of cyclists as well as motorists.

Full responses from each party are available from our website www.biketothefuture.org

About Bike to the Future

Mission: We are a voluntary, inclusive group of concerned cyclists working to make cycling in Winnipeg a safe, enjoyable, accessible and convenient transportation choice year-round.

Vision: We envision a city where cycling is embraced as the preferred mode of transportation, where cycling is integrated into urban design and planning, and where Winnipeg is recognized as a leader in cycling infrastructure and programs.

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