

2018 – 5 Energy Efficiency and Social Enterprise

Mover: Wa Ni Ska Tan Hydro Alliance

Whereas: There are thousands of Manitobans with barriers to employment who stand to benefit from the training and employment opportunities provided by social enterprises.

Whereas: Manitoba Hydro has announced its intention to seek rate increases of 47% in the next 5 years, which will negatively impact electric heating customers, many of whom are on already economically marginalized First Nations in Manitoba.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba's proposed carbon tax will increase the cost of natural gas, having an impact on low income families in mostly urban areas.

Whereas: There are approximately 50,000 urban, rural and on-reserve homes that could benefit from energy- and water-efficiency retrofits. Energy and water retrofits in these homes would save homeowners, the Province of Manitoba and the Federal government money while creating employment. Retrofits would include improved insulation, ground source heat pumps (geothermal), high efficient gas furnaces and low-flow toilet and showerheads. Replacements to housing stock that is beyond repair should meet Passive House building standards for energy use and air quality.*

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba has committed to develop Efficiency Manitoba, a stand-alone demand side management agency to help Manitobans become more energy efficient. The Public Utilities Board will be responsible for setting targets and establishing how Efficiency Manitoba will operate. Without a mandate to implement strategies that target these high-value opportunities in low-income communities, including First Nations, these opportunities will be missed.

Whereas: Community enterprise is one of four approaches in the Province of Manitoba's Look North Economic Task Force Report and Action Plan, including building and supporting a local social enterprise and NGO sector. Furthermore, this report and action plan articulates the increased value of targeting procurement to build local skills and capacities.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba launched A Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, which highlights the importance of local innovations, local decision making and not-for-profit partners in achieving a sustainable economy in Manitoba.

Whereas: Initiatives and policy that improve environmental sustainability in Manitoban communities can leverage more value for money if a community economic development lens is applied, such as engaging social enterprises who train and hire people facing barriers to employment for Manitoba's green jobs.

Be It Resolved That: in developing Efficiency Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba and the Public Utilities Board:

- a. Ensure that the improved demand side management program has a strong mandate and adequate resources to develop and implement separate strategies to create job opportunities through energy efficiency efforts in low-income neighbourhoods and in First Nations.**
- b. Ensure that energy efficiency strategies are accompanied by targets and timelines, including targets for the number of units to be retrofitted annually by social enterprises.**
- c. Establish long term partnerships with social enterprises and community organizations to accomplish their energy efficiency goals.**