

2019 - 9 Supporting Community Employment Benefit on Infrastructure

Mover: BUILD Inc.

Whereas: The federal government's infrastructure agreements with provinces, announced in June 2018, includes a community employment benefit on new project spending. The agreement between the federal and provincial government stipulates that when Manitoba is the ultimate recipient of infrastructure dollars estimated at ten million dollars or more, the provincial government will report on community employment benefits provided to at least three of the federal target groups (apprentices, Indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, youth, new Canadians, or small- medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises). When the provincial government is not the final recipient, they will ensure that the agreement will include community employment benefit reporting. The federal government will contribute one-third of project funding for provincial projects if these conditions are met.

Whereas: Community Employment Benefits support local investment, meaningful employment for marginalized individuals, and support enterprises with social, economic, and environmental missions. Stipulating reporting on Community Employment Benefit introduces accountability on government infrastructure spending, and ensures government dollars are reaching innovative community education, training, and employment practices, such as social enterprise.

Whereas: Addressing the root causes of poverty, child apprehension through the CFS system, or overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system must be focused on economic empowerment and social inclusion. Ensuring community employment benefit on major government infrastructure spending will lead to healthier communities and meaningful employment.

Whereas: The Government of Manitoba can waive the community employment benefit requirement, having to provide the Government of Canada a rationale for not reporting on community employment benefits. This could jeopardize the potential social, economic, and community impacts of the community employment benefit and the potential for community development for targeted groups.

Whereas: Innovative social procurement and purchasing policy change and opening up government infrastructure spending could be a major catalyst for bolstering community economic development.

Be it Resolved that: The Province of Manitoba ensure that community employment benefits be reported on for projects where the provincial government is the ultimate recipient, and when another level is the ultimate recipient, that reporting be required as well. The opt-out clause of this important element for community economic development should not be utilized.