

2017 – 3 Enhancing Income Supports as a part of a Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Plan*

Mover: Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

Whereas: Far too many Manitobans continue to live with inadequate incomes and face multiple barriers, which impacts their health and wellbeing, and prevents their full participation in the community. Indigenous people, newcomers, people with a disability, people who experience mental illness, single parents, seniors, women, Two Spirit, transgender, transsexual, gender variant and non-binary people are more likely to live in poverty.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba passed The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act in 2011 and launched *ALL Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy* in 2012, which included seven priority areas for action between 2012 and 2016 and a suite of 21 indicators to track progress. Legislation requires the Strategy to be updated in 2017. Budget 2016 notes the new provincial government's commitment to develop a comprehensive plan to address poverty as part of Budget 2017.

Whereas: A comprehensive and integrated approach must be taken to effectively address the multiple and inter-related causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion. Such an approach is outlined in *The View from Here 2015*, a community-based poverty reduction plan for Manitoba that was endorsed by more than 100 organizations. It calls for investments in food security, childcare, housing, job training, wages, income supports, education, mental health and other social services.

Whereas: Make Poverty History Manitoba (MPHM) is a collaborative coalition working for the elimination of poverty in Manitoba. It is leading a campaign based on community consultation that is calling on the Province of Manitoba to:

- Include a comprehensive poverty reduction plan in Budget 2017. It is also calling for this plan to be developed in consultation with community and to include targets and timelines for reducing poverty.
- Ensure that Manitoba's comprehensive poverty reduction plan include an increase to the basic needs benefit in Budget 2017.

Whereas: EIA's basic needs budget has barely increased in two decades while the cost of living has gone up by more than 40 percent. Single adults and persons with mental or physical disabilities on EIA have not been supported as much as families, and live in deep poverty with total incomes that equal 53% and 68% of the poverty line, respectively.

Whereas: Replacing EIA's basic needs budget with a new and enhanced portable benefit for low-income Manitobans, on and off EIA, could bring the total incomes of all Manitobans to at least 75% of the poverty line. This enhanced benefit would target single adults and persons with a physical or mental disability as families already have total incomes above 75% of the poverty line.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba:

- Endorse Make Poverty History Manitoba's campaign urging the Province of Manitoba to increase the basic needs benefit through a new and enhanced portable benefit for people on and off EIA, as part of a comprehensive provincial poverty reduction plan.**
- Advance this campaign at every available opportunity.**
- Encourage CCEDNet Manitoba members to consider endorsing the campaign.**

* Moved to replace resolution 2016-3 Endorsement of the "Make Poverty History Manitoba" 2016 Provincial Election Campaign