

The Canadian CED Network



Strong, Fair, Sustainable Communities

The Canadian CED Network – Manitoba Policy Resolutions 2015

Co-operatives. Employment Development. Energy Efficiency. Housing. Poverty Reduction. Support for CED organizations. Social Enterprise. Ethical Procurement. Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations. Local Food. Green Jobs. CED Policy Framework. Child Care. Accessibility Rights. Co-operatives. Employment Development. Energy Efficiency. Housing. Poverty Reduction. Support for CED organizations. Social Enterprise. Ethical Procurement. Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations. Local Food. Green Jobs. CED Policy Framework. Child Care. Accessibility Rights. Co-operatives. Employment Development. Energy Efficiency. Housing. Poverty Reduction. Support for CED organizations. Social Enterprise. Ethical Procurement. Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations. Local Food. Green Jobs. CED Policy Framework. Child Care. Accessibility Rights. Co-operatives. Employment Development. Energy Efficiency. Housing. Poverty Reduction. Support for CED organizations. Social Enterprise. Ethical Procurement. Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations. Local Food. Green Jobs. CED Policy Framework. Child Care. Accessibility Rights. Co-operatives. Employment Development. Energy Efficiency. Housing.

Director's Message

During the summer and fall of 2014, members of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network - Manitoba (CCEDNet - Manitoba) worked together to create a set of policy resolutions that articulated policy priorities for the network and for our communities. These resolutions described the current context and conditions in the relevant area of CED activity. They also explained how a policy change would impact those CED activities and the communities who benefit from them. Finally, they clearly stated a position and/or policy that CCEDNet - Manitoba could advance in the coming years.

An in-person member meeting was held on November 6th, 2014 at the West End Commons. Each resolution was read in full and explained by the member who was moving the resolution. The merits of the resolution were discussed and debated, and then each resolution was voted on by the members of the network who were in attendance. This document represents the set of policy resolutions that was approved at this meeting.

It is not an exhaustive or comprehensive set of policies. However, along with CCEDNet – Manitoba's 2013 and 2014 policy resolutions, it provides a solid collection of ideas that would create significant change in people's lives and in our communities if they were to be implemented. Our resolutions address needs that allow communities to participate in CED activities (such as access to housing, child care, and food). Others support specific areas of CED activity (such as job creation, education and training, social enterprise, and co-operatives). These constitute important pieces of the CED puzzle that represent our members' work of building fairer and stronger local economies, reducing poverty and homelessness, and creating more sustainable communities. If implemented, these policy priorities would create a more supportive and enabling environment in which our members could more effectively achieve their missions and goals.

The network will report back to members on results achieved in advancing these policies, and the set of resolutions will be revisited when we look ahead to 2016. Members will once again have the opportunity to draft resolutions and collectively decide on which to adopt as priorities for our network in Manitoba.



Sarah Leeson-Klym, Regional Director – CCEDNet



About the Canadian CED Network – Manitoba

CCEDNet - Manitoba represents the provincial membership of CCEDNet, a national non-profit organization. CCEDNet - Manitoba is a member-led provincial network of community-based organizations that work to build fairer and stronger local economies, reduce poverty and homelessness, and create more sustainable communities.

More than one hundred members are represented by CCEDNet – Manitoba. Our members represent hundreds of community organizations that are working with thousands of community members across the Province.

The goal of CCEDNet - Manitoba is to promote CED as a comprehensive and integrated approach to improving economic, social, and environmental conditions in communities. This approach understands that solutions to complex community challenges will be most successful and sustainable when they are community-led. Our focus, as directed by our members, revolves around communications and information brokering, research on innovative and effective practice, network building, promoting CED policy, leadership and skill development opportunities, and building the capacity of non-profit organizations.

Our wide range of work reflects our diverse membership base, but it is to the common objective of building stronger, fairer, and more sustainable communities that we are most importantly committed.

For more information about CCEDNet - Manitoba, including our policy work, please visit our regional website at www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/manitoba.

You can also contact our office at 204-943-0547 or sleesonklym@ccednet-rcdec.ca.

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2012 Policy Resolution Expiration

Policy resolutions are active for three years. Therefore the 2012 policy resolutions adopted by members in the fall of 2011 expired in the fall of 2014 unless they were resubmitted for the November 2014 Policy Summit.

2015 – 1 Energy Efficiency and Social Enterprise*

Whereas: There are thousands of Manitobans with barriers to employment who stand to benefit from the training and employment opportunities provided by social enterprises. There are at least eight social enterprises who generate some of their revenue through energy efficiency activities (e.g. installing geothermal and solar thermal systems, insulating, installing high efficient natural gas furnaces, and implementing water retrofits). However, there is much more potential to scale up these activities – further reducing unemployment rates and lowering high utility bills for low-income families and their service providers.

Whereas: There are approximately 15,000 homes in 63 First Nations in Manitoba that are using expensive electric heat. Aki Energy, a social enterprise, has installed geothermal heat systems in 280 of these homes - creating sustainable employment in four First Nations. There are many other cost-saving renewable alternatives to electric heat that can be implemented through partnerships between social enterprises and First Nations businesses to create further employment in First Nations.

Whereas: Manitoba Hydro estimates that there are over 50,000 homes where low-income people live that have not participated in Manitoba Hydro's Affordable Energy Program. As a result, there is a large market for insulating and installing high efficient furnaces in these homes, which creates further potential job growth within Manitoba's social enterprise sector.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba has accepted the recommendation of the Public Utilities Board to establish a new arm's-length entity that would be responsible for energy efficiency in Manitoba, and for setting and measuring targets around energy efficiency.

Whereas: Manitoba Hydro has the tools but no mandate to lower utility bills by working with social enterprises who create employment for low-income people. An improved demand-side management program provides an opportunity to rapidly expand the energy efficiency work that social enterprises are doing in low income communities across Manitoba. There is an opportunity to ensure the new program has the tools and a strong mandate to set targets and timelines for achieving energy efficiency in a way that provides work for social enterprises who meet social objectives by creating jobs and lowering utility bills for low-income Manitobans.

Be it Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba send a letter to the Province of Manitoba in support of a new and improved demand-side management program that will be responsible for energy efficiency in Manitoba.

Be it Further Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to work with Manitoba Hydro, the private sector, social enterprises, and community organizations to:

(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.

* Replaces resolution [2013-4 Energy Savings Act: Maximizing Potential through Social Enterprise](#)

2015 – 2 End of Operating Agreements*

Whereas: A majority of federal housing agreements for Canada’s housing co-operatives and non-profit and Provincial housing providers are scheduled to end between 2014 and 2021.

Whereas: Affordable and social housing saves taxpayers money through reduced health, social services and justice system costs. Housing assistance leads to positive outcomes for our society. It gives low-income people the ability to live in secure and permanent housing. Low-income households include seniors, single-parent working households, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people and new Canadians.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba has committed to increasing the number of safe, affordable, and social housing units available to Manitobans.

Be It Resolved that: CCEDNet – Manitoba work with allies to urge the Province of Manitoba to:

- (a) Work with governments at all levels to design and deliver a new cost-shared rent subsidy and operational cost supplement program to replace expiring federal subsidies.
- (b) Maintain rent-geared-to-income assistance for all low-income people living in housing co-ops, non-profit housing and Provincial housing units that are no longer in federal jurisdiction.
- (c) Call on the federal government to commit now to reinvest the savings from expiring federal housing agreements to share the costs of funding this rent subsidy and operational cost supplement program. This funding can be phased in over time, as operating agreements expire.

* Replaces resolution [2013-6 Housing Co-operatives: End of Operating Agreements](#)

2015 – 3 Affordable and Social Housing*

Whereas: Although the vacancy rates in Manitoba's cities are creeping up (Winnipeg's vacancy rate for a two bedroom apartment has gone from less than 1% to 2.2%, Thompson's from .2% to 1.1% and Brandon's from less than .1% to 2.8%), we are still experiencing an affordable housing crisis. In 2011, nearly 13,080 Winnipeg households were paying 50% or more of their income on rent putting them at significant risk of losing their housing, their health and their spirit.

Whereas: Federal tax structures and the lack of a national housing strategy have, over the past 40 years, acted to slow the creation of social and affordable rental housing. Our existing stock is aging and is not being adequately replaced. At the same time rental stock is being eroded through demolition and conversion to condominium. All of these factors have escalated rents to make them unaffordable to a growing number of people, especially the most vulnerable, (those on a fixed income, persons with disabilities, newcomers, and Aboriginal people). The ongoing expiration of operating agreements presents a further threat to maintain our existing social housing stock.

Whereas: Creating new housing projects is extremely complicated and many community organizations lack capacity to take advantage of funding opportunities despite being in the most need of housing.

Whereas: Affordable housing is a key piece of neighbourhood renewal and a necessary foundation for neighbourhood and family stabilization. As housing costs increase, people are forced to spend food money on rent, making personal debt and food banks sad necessities for survival. When housing needs are met, children do not need to move from school to school, parents have reduced stress and the means to provide the necessities for their families (food, winter clothing, transport, school supplies etc.)

Whereas: The City of Winnipeg has recently passed the Housing Policy Implementation Plan that commits to the creation of 750 new rental units only 10% of which are to be affordable. Other Canadian cities are developing affordable rental housing at a significantly higher rate.

Whereas: The City Of Winnipeg is committed to the creation of affordable housing through the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve (HRIR), however, the HRIR budget allocation is not sufficient to address the current rental housing shortage. The HRIR provides funding for housing development and renewal to the five Housing Improvement Zones and the Housing Policy Implementation Plan will expand access to funding for other neighbourhoods. Without significant increases to the HRIR allocation, the capacity of the City to support neighbourhood renewal and affordable housing development will be limited.

Whereas: The City of Winnipeg has developed two documents that direct it to be more proactive in housing and outline how this could be achieved: Innovative Practices in the Provision of Affordable Housing and the Complete Communities Direction Strategy, part of the OurWinnipeg development plan.

Whereas: In Budget 2013 the Province of Manitoba committed to the creation of 500 new units each of social and affordable rental housing throughout the Province over the next three years.

Whereas: The City of Brandon has recently passed an Affordable Housing First policy for surplus land disposal. A significant constraint for the development of additional affordable housing is the availability of reasonably priced residential land. Brandon's policy can help ensure that full priority is given to mobilizing potential

*Replaces resolutions [2013 – 5 Affordable and Social Housing](#), and [2013 – 7 "Affordable Housing First" Land Use Policy](#)

partners for the creation of affordable housing on surplus land before the property is disposed of through traditional market means.

Whereas: Providing housing is cost effective compared to the costs associated with homelessness. It costs on average \$48,000 a year to leave someone on the street versus \$28,000 a year to house them. Long-term social housing is one of the most cost-efficient ways to house someone. Furthermore, housing can be used to create employment and training opportunities for people commonly shut out of the workforce, including social housing tenants. This helps generate new tax revenues and keeps money circulating in the local economy.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba continue to work with the Right to Housing Coalition to ensure that:

- (a) The City of Winnipeg supports the Province of Manitoba's housing commitment by using the planning, regulatory and financial tools and powers at its disposal to support at least 350 new units of affordable rental housing and 350 new units of social housing over the next three years.
- (b) The City of Winnipeg continues to fund the Housing Rehabilitation and Investment Reserve or subsequent relevant budget reserve and develop a regular and transparent process for reviewing and adjusting its size to ensure it adequately meets housing needs in Winnipeg.
- (c) Municipal governments in Manitoba regulate the conversion of rental stock to condominiums when vacancy rates fall below 4%, and adopt inclusionary zoning to increase the number of affordable housing units in all housing developments.
- (d) The Province of Manitoba and all Manitoba municipalities establish a policy for all surplus land disposals that ensures non-profit and cooperative housing providers are prioritized for receiving surplus land for the purpose of creating affordable housing.
- (e) The Province of Manitoba eliminates the further erosion of rent-gear-to-income housing, such that the existing commitment to create 500 each of new social and affordable housing units represents a net increase in social housing, while also planning for further net increases, beyond these existing commitments, to the supply of affordable and social rental housing province-wide for those most in need.
- (f) The Province of Manitoba builds the capacity of non-profit and coop housing providers to create new social housing projects in order to ensure that communities in most need of housing have improved access to housing funding.
- (g) The Province of Manitoba lobbies its provincial counterparts and the federal government to create and fund a national housing strategy.

2015 – 4 Poverty Reduction Plan and Legislation*

Whereas: Far too many Manitobans continue to live with inadequate incomes and face multiple barriers, which impacts their health and well-being and prevents full participation in community life. Aboriginal people, newcomers, people with a disability, people with mental health challenges, single parents, seniors and women are more likely to live in poverty.

Whereas: Safe and affordable housing, sufficient healthy food, adequate income, access to childcare, education and training at all life stages, supports to attain good jobs, and health services are prerequisites for communities to create solutions to local challenges.

Whereas: A comprehensive and integrated approach must be taken to effectively address the multiple and inter-related causes of poverty and social exclusion.

Whereas: Outcome based targets and timelines on actions and indicators make governments accountable, provide an incentive to follow through with actions to reduce poverty and social exclusion, and provide a basis from which progress can be measured.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba is committed to significantly reducing poverty in Manitoba. It passed *The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* in 2011 and launched *ALL Aboard: Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy* in 2012, which includes seven priority areas for action between 2012 and 2016 and a suite of 21 indicators to track progress.

Whereas: Over 70 organizations endorsed *The View from Here: Manitobans call for a poverty reduction plan*, a comprehensive community-based plan released in 2009, which includes priority recommendations for the provincial government. *The Legacy of Phoenix Sinclair: Achieving the Best for All Our Children* report included a recommendation that the Province of Manitoba closely examine *The View from Here* and implement the outstanding recommendations. Community groups are working to launch a renewed report to reflect the current policy context in early 2015.

Whereas: In *OurWinnipeg*, the City of Winnipeg acknowledged its role in working with community partners to foster an inclusive and equitable community, and in working within its service areas as a collaborator on poverty reduction. Other Manitoba municipalities are taking action to reduce poverty in their communities.

Whereas: Comprehensive poverty reduction strategies will help achieve the objectives of community-based poverty reduction and neighbourhood renewal efforts and will provide a framework within which various pieces of a CED policy agenda can come together.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to make *ALL Aboard* more comprehensive and effective by implementing the recommendations in the renewed *The View from Here* and by identifying outcome based targets and timelines for measuring results.

Be it Further Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the City of Winnipeg and Manitoba municipalities to partner with community-based organizations and key stakeholders to create and implement comprehensive poverty reduction strategies with targets and timelines.

* Replaces resolution [2014 – 7 Poverty Reduction Plan and Legislation](#)

2015 – 5 Food Policy Councils*

Whereas: There are significant opportunities in Manitoba to enhance food security, green our communities, engage neighbourhoods in urban agriculture, and create economic opportunities in our communities.

Whereas: Chronic diseases related to diet cost our province billions of dollars, with diabetes alone costing \$500 million in 2010.

Whereas: The food economy and food programming are key components of vibrant, healthy communities.

Whereas: Governments can play a key role in facilitating and planning for a food secure community and developing an enabling regulatory structure.

Whereas: Other Canadian jurisdictions have developed food policy councils and food security strategies, fostered cooperation between government departments and community agencies, and encouraged citizen involvement in the food system.

Whereas: Comprehensive food strategies strengthen food security, improve health, and create economic opportunities for producers and processors in a strong local food economy.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba and Manitoban municipalities to create Food Policy Councils mandated to develop and implement a food security strategy in partnership with the local food movement and community agencies.

* Replaces resolution [2014 – 10 Municipal Food Policy Councils](#)

2015 – 6 Non Profit Organization (NPO) Strategy*

Whereas: Many community-based non-profits working toward poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and community renewal do not have access to multi-year funding that they require to take innovative, long-term, and strategic action through a comprehensive approach.

Whereas: Short-term funding from multiple sources creates an administrative burden that can result in inefficiencies and less time to engage the community in the long-term thinking, planning, and action that is needed to achieve long-term results.

Whereas: Short-term funding tends to provide insecure, low-paying jobs with inadequate benefits that makes it difficult to attract and retain qualified staff, leads to turnover, and diminishes organizational capacity and stability.

Whereas: On April 8, 2011 the Province of Manitoba announced a two-year, four-point strategy to cut red tape and make it easier for non-profit organizations in Manitoba to provide valuable services, including by piloting multi-year and multi-program funding with a representative group of non-profits with proven track records of success, and by eliminating duplication in reporting requirements for organizations dealing with multiple provincial programs. The Province of Manitoba is expected to renew and expand the strategy, enabling more organizations to participate.

Whereas: An evaluation of the strategy has suggested that multi-year, multi-program funding has helped enable participating community-based non-profits to plan and act long-term, attract and retain qualified staff, and improve overall organizational capacity, stability and efficiency.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba has not sufficiently communicated information to participating NPO-funded agencies regarding the process for renewing multi-year funding agreements. In particular, the failure to confirm funding agreement renewals in a timely manner has left many agencies in a state of uncertainty about how to plan for operational sustainability. Agencies require sufficient notice of renewal confirmation in order to plan for meeting the application deadlines of alternative government funding sources.

Be it Resolved That: CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to build upon and improve the NPO Strategy by:

- (a) Working with NPO-funded agencies to establish a clear process for renewing multi-year funding agreements, which would include providing a year's notice of renewal decisions to ensure agencies have sufficient time to plan for ongoing operational sustainability.
- (b) Extending the length of funding agreements from the current three years to a maximum of five years including cost of living increases on an annual basis.
- (c) Creating effective communication channels between the Province of Manitoba and NPO-funded agencies so that agencies know where to provide feedback, make recommendations, and raise concerns or support for NPO Strategy initiatives.
- (d) Consulting with NPO-funded agencies when the Strategy is evaluated and when changes to the Strategy are considered.
- (e) Creating a sustainable way to expand the NPO Strategy to support additional community-based non-profit organizations that employ the CED model.

* Replaces expiring resolution [2012 – 6 Multi-year, multi-program funding and an integrated reporting mechanism for community-based non-profit organizations that employ the CED model](#)

2015 – 7 Tax Credit in Support of Social Enterprise*

Whereas: Social enterprises owned and controlled by charitable organizations reduce poverty and stimulate local economies when they create jobs by hiring hard-to-employ Manitobans facing barriers to employment.

Whereas: Social enterprises struggle to find start-up capital and business mentorship opportunities, while Manitoba corporations have available capital and expertise to support social enterprises.

Whereas: A tax credit incentive would motivate Manitoba corporations to donate capital and expertise in social enterprises that reduce poverty and social exclusion by creating jobs for Manitobans with barriers to employment.

Whereas: The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act and CED Policy Framework express the Province's commitment to reducing poverty and social exclusion, increasing local employment opportunities for marginalized individuals, and supporting the development and growth of social enterprises in Manitoba.

Whereas: Budget 2011 introduced the 30% Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit for Manitoba corporations that contribute a minimum of \$50,000 toward an organization with charitable status for the purpose of starting a new social enterprise that hires Manitobans facing barriers to employment.

Whereas: The Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit has not been sufficiently utilized by potential funding partners within the corporate community due to a lack of promotion and outreach. There is a need to facilitate partnerships between potential funders and charitable organizations who wish to establish new, or develop existing, social enterprises in Manitoba.

Whereas: There are concerns that the Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit has been insufficiently utilized in part because the minimum corporate contribution (\$50,000) towards organizations with charitable status is set too high.

Be it Resolved That: CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to ensure the Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit contributes to social enterprise development by partnering with the social enterprise sector and other stakeholders to develop a strategy to:

- (a) Support the promotion of the Tax Credit to potential funding partners in the corporate community.
- (b) Build partnerships between the corporate community and charitable organizations that wish to establish new, or develop existing, social enterprise in Manitoba.
- (c) Reassess the minimum amount that needs to be donated to receive the tax credit.

* Replaces expiring resolution [2012 – 9 Tax credit in support of social enterprise](#)

2015 – 8 Labour Market Intermediaries

Whereas: Recent research has identified a gap in policies and services that exist to strengthen the long-term labour market attachment of people with barriers to employment. Multi-barriered jobseekers and the employers who hire them often require access to comprehensive supports during and after a transition from training to employment. However, community-based organizations providing employment development supports are not sufficiently resourced to continue to offer comprehensive supports after participants exit their programs. The research has suggested that the policy gap can be effectively addressed by a community-designed and delivered Labour Market Intermediary (LMI) situated within the neighbourhoods that it serves. In addition to deploying caseworkers to provide long-term support to employers and jobseekers through the transition to employment, LMIs simplify relationships between employers and community-based training organizations by bringing them together through a single entity.

Whereas: There are many Manitobans with barriers to employment who are currently shut out of the workforce (e.g. Aboriginal people, new Canadians, persons with disabilities, and persons with low socio-economic status). There is a great potential for these individuals to improve their social and economic wellbeing through employment and to provide a significant source of labour to the local economy. However, without access to ongoing and comprehensive supports, many of these individuals will fall off their path to sustained employment. Given the growing Aboriginal population and its relatively weaker labour market outcomes, it makes sense to focus the activities of an LMI on Aboriginal people, while not limiting access to other populations with unique challenges.

Whereas: Current approaches to improving labour market outcomes for people with barriers to employment have been government-centred. Furthermore, they have not provided neighbourhood-based access to the full range of supports that employers and jobseekers need over the long term. Community-based training organizations have developed strong relationships with the people who use their services. A community-designed and directed LMI would be situated within the neighbourhood it serves. It would offer a different approach through a comprehensive and long-term model that builds on the collective knowledge existing organizations have about what is needed to support multi-barriered job seekers.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba's Strategy for Sustainable Employment and a Stronger Labour Market recognizes the importance of investing in programs and services to help people with barriers to employment find and keep good jobs and to help employers access skilled workers. The Province's Manitoba Works! initiative contains some features that are similar to an LMI approach, but it can be scaled up more efficiently through the development of an actual LMI.

Whereas: Initiatives that support sustained employment for people with barriers to employment contribute to fairer and stronger local economies, reduced poverty, and safer communities.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to fund the initial set up and operating costs of a community-designed and delivered Labour Market Intermediary in Winnipeg, rural Manitoba, and in the North to improve labour market outcomes for multi-barriered job seekers, with a primary focus on Aboriginal people.

Be It Further Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the Province to work with the community, including the social enterprise sector, to identify and address gaps in services for multi-barriered job seekers.

2015 – 9 Pre-Development Funding for New Co-operative Housing Projects

Whereas: Housing co-operatives offer housing at a cost that is much more affordable than average private sector rental costs, offer security through democratic decision making by the members, and build capacity in members through their participation in the governance structure.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba has long encouraged and supported the development of housing cooperatives of all types. It has committed to increasing the number of safe affordable housing units available to Manitobans and is developing a renewed Co-op Visioning Strategy and a new Co-op Housing Strategy

Whereas: Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation's (MHRC) present proposal funding guidelines limit the amount of funding available to new co-operatives at the pre-development stage, both in amount and use of funding. These limits prevent new housing cooperatives from undertaking important activities that are needed to properly prepare a proposal for financing, which makes it difficult to produce reliable estimates of project costs.

Whereas: MHRC's present proposal funding guidelines restrict funding to non-profit housing cooperatives, meaning that multi-stakeholder (other than not-for-profit) and limited equity housing cooperatives are ineligible for funding.

Whereas: These factors act as constraints upon the ability of the cooperative sector to increase affordable housing options.

Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to review and revise the Proposal Development Funding Guidelines applicable to all Manitoba communities with an aim to:

- (a) Increase the maximum amount of funding available to new housing cooperatives to amounts that would enable sufficient work to be completed at the proposal stage to allow for more accurate project costing.
- (b) To review the activities for which this funding can be used.
- (c) To allow this funding to be made available to all new housing cooperatives, including all multi-stakeholder and limited equity housing cooperatives.

2015 – 10 Creating Jobs and Improving Food Security in First Nations through Social Enterprise

Whereas: Diabetes is a major issue in Northern Manitoba First Nations. In 2010, the economic burden of diabetes in Manitoba was estimated to be approximately \$86 million in direct costs and an additional \$412 million in indirect costs. This is equal to more than four times what the Province of Manitoba spends on job training.

Whereas: Diabetes was rare among the Aboriginal population prior to 1940, but has now reached epidemic levels in some communities across Canada. More than half of all seniors and almost one quarter of adults aged 35 to 54 in Manitoba First Nations report having diabetes. The increasing prevalence of diabetes in Manitoba First Nations is linked to the effects of replacing traditional foods that provide a protective effect from diabetes, with imported and unhealthy foods that increase the risk of diabetes.

Whereas: First Nations people living on reserves have access to few employment opportunities. The formal unemployment rate for youth living on reserves is almost 50%. Social enterprises are well positioned to create training and employment opportunities for people who have limited experience in the workforce

Whereas: For example, Aki Energy has worked with the Garden Hill First Nation to incorporate Meechim Inc. – a social enterprise owned and operated by members of the Garden Hill First Nation that is creating new job opportunities for the local population. Meechim is importing healthy food from urban and southern suppliers in Manitoba, to provide the community with access to healthy and affordable food. It is also supporting the local economy by purchasing healthy foods for resale from local fishers, bakers, berry pickers, and gardeners. In addition, Meechim is introducing commercial scale market gardening and poultry raising opportunities to significantly ramp up work already being done in this area through the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba's Northern Healthy Foods Initiative has taken important steps to promote local, healthy food production in many Manitoba First Nations, including through increasing opportunities for gardening, poultry raising, and the harvesting of traditional foods such as fish and berries. However, the diabetes epidemic requires a much larger response, which includes social enterprise development of First Nations.

Be it Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to support social enterprise development on First Nations to provide employment for local people and scale up opportunities for healthy food production and consumption on First Nations.

2015 – 11 Endorsement of “You Hold the Key” Cooperative Housing Campaign

Whereas: A majority of federal housing agreements for Canada’s housing co-operatives are scheduled to end between 2014 and 2021.

Whereas: Housing co-operatives can offer housing that is much more affordable than average private sector rental costs, offer security through democratic decision making by the members, and build capacity in members through their participation in the governance structure.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba has committed to increasing the number of safe and affordable housing units available to Manitobans and is developing a renewed Co-op Visioning Strategy and a new Co-op Housing Strategy.

Whereas: CHF Canada has developed a national campaign asking housing co-operatives and allied organizations to speak out to all levels of government to protect affordable housing cooperatives.

Be it Resolved that: CCEDNet - Manitoba endorse CHF Canada’s “You Hold the Key – Fix the Co-op Housing Crunch” campaign.

2015 – 12 Neighbourhood Improvement Zones

Whereas: Neighbourhood renewal corporations (NRC), resident associations, community centres and other community-based organizations are successfully planning and coordinating community development, community economic development, and neighbourhood revitalization initiatives in communities experiencing issues related to safety, inadequate recreation opportunities, and a lack of affordable housing.

Whereas: These community-based organizations may currently already be receiving operating support from a level of government (e.g. NRCs currently receive operational funding from the Province of Manitoba through Neighbourhoods Alive! and may also receive support for Housing Coordination from the City of Winnipeg), as well as funding for projects from sources such as a level of government and/or charitable foundations.

Whereas: The City of Winnipeg has been a leader in neighbourhood renewal including being a partner in tri-partite agreements such as the Winnipeg Core Area Initiatives, Winnipeg Development Agreement, and the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement, as well as current bi-partite agreements such as the Homelessness Partnership Strategy and Building Community Initiatives.

Whereas: The City of Winnipeg currently has provision for Business Improvement Zones (BIZ), funded through a special addition to the business tax generating over \$3 Million dollars annually for the existing BIZs, that allow BIZs to make local improvements, operate services such as the Downtown Watch, and generally promote their business communities.

Whereas: The City of Winnipeg has provided for Housing Improvement Zones (HIZ), with funding of approximately \$1 Million annually, for selected inner-city neighbourhoods and Aboriginal housing including local housing coordination as well as physical improvement projects with neighbourhood renewal corporations, resident associations, and other relevant partners.

Whereas: The City of Winnipeg had previously designated 12 inner-city neighbourhoods as Major Improvement Areas (MIA) that have been used by the Province of Manitoba to determine Neighbourhoods Alive! designated neighbourhoods in Winnipeg.

Whereas: The City of Winnipeg has already committed to establishing neighbourhood reinvestment areas.

Be it Resolved That: CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the City of Winnipeg to establish Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIA) including:

- (a) Providing for funding for housing (replacing HIZ), safety and crime prevention, recreation, active transportation, improvement coordination and projects in high-needs neighbourhoods requiring this assistance.
- (b) Annual funding level on par with that of existing BIZs (\$3 Million from the City's operating budget).
- (c) Partnering with neighbourhood renewal corporations, resident associations, community centres and other relevant stakeholders in the planning and delivery of NIAs.
- (d) Partnering with the other levels of government and funders (e.g. Winnipeg Foundation) to better align neighbourhood renewal efforts.