

2021-7 Keep Public Housing Public

Mover: The Right to Housing Coalition

Whereas: Public housing - where rents are geared to a household's income - is the most affordable housing for people living with low incomes.

Whereas: There are more than 9,000 applicants on the waitlist for public housing and more than 51,000 households living in core housing need in Manitoba. On any given night there are more than 1,500 people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg alone.

Whereas: In 2017 the KPMG consulting firm prepared the "Manitoba Fiscal Performance Review: Phase Two Report - Business Case Social Housing" for the Manitoba Government, which recommends that the government begin to follow the examples of jurisdictions like Great Britain, Australia, and New Zealand and privatize its housing portfolios to help address escalating costs.

Whereas: A 2020 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba report *KPMG sends Manitoba Housing down a dead end: Learning the Wrong Lessons from Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand* outlines the negative impacts of the privatization of public housing in these jurisdictions including: reduced supply of low-cost housing, increased overcrowding, and homelessness.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba has already begun to transfer management and ownership of its public housing assets to the non-profit and private sectors.

Whereas: The Province of Manitoba is responsible for meeting the housing needs of low-income Manitobans.

Whereas: There is opportunity in investments in public housing to prioritize retrofitting in construction. While not only extending the life of the building, savings made from higher efficiency from retrofits can be used to fund further public housing. Retrofits also contribute to climate and energy reduction targets.

Whereas: Manitoba Housing has held a procurement relationship with numerous social enterprises in Manitoba who support workforce integration, training, and meaningful employment for people with barriers to employment through social procurement. This CED model has helped achieve multiple public policy goals through innovative public procurement regulations.

Whereas: This resolution fits within the Ending Poverty theme area, since housing and the provision of public housing is crucial to supporting people living in poverty.

Be It Resolved That: The Province of Manitoba maintains ownership of its public housing assets and put an end to its plans to sell public housing to the private and non-profit sectors.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: The Right to Housing Coalition's *Keep Public Housing Public* campaign.