



*Strengthening Canada's Communities / Des communautés plus fortes au Canada*

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May 20, 2008

Jerry Kozubal  
Taxicab Board Secretary  
200-301 Weston Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3E 3H4

Dear Mr. Jerry Kozubal,

Please accept this letter in support of Winnipeg Taxi Co-op business which is being supported by SEED Winnipeg.

The Canadian CED Network (CCEDNet) is a national network of individuals, community organizations, and networks that work to create economic opportunities and enhance social and environmental conditions for people and communities, particularly those who are most disadvantaged. CCEDNet and its members have a great track record of leadership and capacity building in the immigrant and refugee communities in Canada and have directly contributed to the emergence and the strengthening of many economic initiatives and enterprises that have made a significant difference in the lives of many individuals from the newcomer community.

The Winnipeg Taxi Co-op is an excellent opportunity through which to create economic opportunities for drivers through a worker-ownership model in which they will equitably participate in the leadership, decision making, and profits of the company. And as worker-owners, they will be able to ensure that working conditions and employment benefits will be improved to adequately meet their needs and those of their families. This is extremely important, as there is overwhelming evidence to suggest that drivers are not made fully aware of their employment rights and are, in fact, often intentionally exploited as a result of their social and economic insecurity.

While the intention of limiting the number of licenses operating at any one time is to maximize revenues for existing owners, the result is a significant barrier for those who wish to participate in this industry as owners, recognizing again that a significant number of those currently driving and aspiring to greater participation in our economy through

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business ownership are newcomers to our country. As well, a significant impact of the cab service shortage is experienced in low-income areas of the city, where a greater-than-average percentage of residents depend on taxi service for their transportation to access basic life functions such as education, employment, grocery shopping, and child care.

This is an excellent opportunity for the Taxicab Board to make a significant difference in the lives of many people who otherwise face many barriers in our city by supporting the Taxi Co-op, and at the same time enhance the critical cab services that are so important to many of our communities by increasing the number of licenses issued.

Having directly seen what the significant outcomes of this type of project can be, CCEDNet fully supports the Taxi Co-op and request that the Taxicab Board issue an adequate number of licenses to the Co-op in order to ensure their commercial viability and long term sustainability

Sincerely,

Brendan Reimer  
Canadian CED Network

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