

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.

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](#)