

## 2020-13 System Change Not Climate Change

**Mover:** Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba

**Whereas:** In December 2015, Canada agreed to be a signatory to the [Paris Climate Agreement](#), binding us to make ambitious efforts to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, combat climate change, and enhance support to assist developing countries to also do so.

**Whereas:** the [United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (UN IPCC), an intergovernmental body of hundreds of expert scientists, found the world has until 2030 to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 45% and to net zero by 2050 to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees or face irreversible damages, loss of ecosystems, millions more climate refugees world-wide and loss of human life due to climate change.

**Whereas:** UN IPCC scientists find the effects of climate change are happening much more quickly than previously anticipated and Canada's climate is warming twice as fast as the global average. If Manitoba and Canada don't make major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, we will miss the chance to stave off extremely serious, and possibly catastrophic, effects.

**Whereas:** [Scientists warn](#) we are already in the "sixth mass extinction," since a million species of plants and animals are at risk of going extinct as a result of human-caused environmental disruption, which could cause a collapse of the natural ecosystems we rely on to survive.

**Whereas:** high levels of GHG emissions are the long-term impact of the settler-worldview with its focus on exploitation for profit. The United Nations, alongside many allied groups advocate for Indigenous-led development. A quarter of land on Earth is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by Indigenous people, who have been stewarding that land sustainably for millennia. Following Indigenous leadership means respecting Indigenous nationhood and right to self-determination and that recognizing the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people will do more to protect life on earth than any government measures. This must begin by Canada implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

**Whereas:** Women are - and will increasingly be - disproportionately impacted by climate change. They are more likely to depend on resources for their livelihoods and/or care of their families that are most at risk because of climate change, such as sourcing water and food for their families. Women are also most impacted by climate displacement. Despite these facts, women are underrepresented in climate change decision-making.

**Whereas:** climate change will impact all of us. More frequent and severe heat waves result in heat stroke and death. Manitoba is slated to have more flooding in the spring and droughts in the summer. This summer, [10 communities declared agricultural disasters](#), and more incidences like this can threaten our food supply.

**Whereas:** low income Manitobans already face energy poverty and should be compensated fairly for increased cost of living due to a price on pollution or other costs of climate change. Workers in sectors related to fossil fuels require a just transition away from fossil fuels, which involves adequate training and support to secure work in decent green jobs, and could include the use of social

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enterprises, cooperatives, and other enterprises to support local, fair economies at the heart of a just transition.

**Whereas:** the “Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan” has had little impact at a time when Manitoban GHG rates [are at an all-time high](#); Manitoba is the [sixth largest emitting Province](#). The Manitoba government had a carbon tax but ended it and is using taxpayer money to [sue the federal government](#), despite two provincial courts backing the federal government’s ability to apply the federal backstop on carbon pollution in Manitoba.

**Whereas:** our provincial target won’t meet the Paris Climate Agreement. In 2017, the Province named a “cumulative” reduction of 2.4 to 2.6 megatonnes (MT) of GHGs between 2018 and 2022. This June, they lowered this already low bar to 1 MT - less than half their original target.

**Whereas:** Manitoba is tracking emissions via cumulative measures, grouped in five year periods, not year-over-year reductions. They announced a “carbon savings account” this spring, which measures emission reductions adding up to 1 MT over a five-year period. If that reduction isn’t met, it’s tacked onto the next five-year period, and if it’s not met again, it’s kicked further down the road. There’s nothing holding government to account on this goal.

**Whereas:** the Province isn’t taking a “whole of government” approach, so emissions could be reduced in one area (by introducing more electric buses, for example) and increase in another (like by approving more hog barns), but the government could still count the GHG emissions saved in one area - even if there is an overall increase.

**Whereas:** [Agriculture is the largest emitter](#) in Manitoba at 39% of all emissions. The provincial response is the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds endowment, promising approximately \$5 million of funding annually. Wetlands and natural prairie can be effective carbon sequestration, but public funding should be tied directly to reducing GHG, and this program has no such metrics. The Conservation Trust established by the Province in 2017 only yields \$5 million per year for climate and related projects.

**Whereas:** approximately \$300,000 of budgeted 2019/2020 funding from the Sustainable Development department to key environmental non-profits and charities has stalled since April. Underspending allocated budgeted monies is one way this government is balancing the budget.

**Whereas:** the provincial government is also not adequately funding transportation - the second largest emitter in Manitoba at 31%. In 2016, the provincial government cut funding to the City of Winnipeg for transit, and bus ridership in Winnipeg [is declining](#). Outside of Winnipeg, the Province didn’t take up the federal offer [to cost-share subsidized bus](#) service to communities no longer served by Greyhound.

**Whereas:** natural gas is a GHG concern as the main heat source for Manitoba’s housing stock, but uptake on efficiency programs is declining. [Hydro predicted](#) that 117,000 Manitobans will use their incentives in 2019, a decrease from the 142,000 estimated in 2018.

**Whereas:** the building code identifies minimum acceptable building performance, energy benchmarking of actual building performance allows for improvements to energy management

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through the identification of underperforming building infrastructure and systems in order to inform building component and system upgrades, retrofits, and life cycle analysis.

**Whereas:** Manitoba's greenhouse gas reduction targets require a rapid shift to more energy and resource efficient buildings and industries, building a culture of conservation in our community requires the development of a highly qualified and specialized workforce in energy conservation and efficiency, in order to quantify and understand the true environmental impact of our building stock.

**Whereas:** Manitoba has a low number of certified residential energy advisors. Building local capacity for energy efficiency is an important requirement for the adoption of performance-based building codes and labeling the energy performance of buildings.

**Whereas:** we need system change, not climate change. Individual actions like eating locally, using renewable energy and reducing consumption are important but we cannot tackle this problem as individuals, we need governments to lead to respond to the challenges of climate change at the scale required.

**Whereas:** Manitobans have been taking action demanding climate justice, including youth strikers throughout 2019, and a group of Manitoba adults supporting youth organizing. The September 27th Climate Strike, in conjunction with the Global Climate Strike, saw roughly 15,000 people participate in the strike at the Manitoba Legislature, the largest single day direct action in decades in the province. This was also the seventh strike youth climate organizers held since last February. The adult group supporting this organizing, the Manitoba Adults for Climate Action created [A Green New Deal for Manitoba](#), a living, working vision for Manitoba's just transition.

**Whereas:** the Climate Action Team, a group of non-profit organizations, is creating an alternative climate action plan for Manitoba focused on food, shelter, and transportation.

**Whereas:** the Manitoba Youth for Climate Action and Climate Strike Canada have [seven demands](#) as follows:

- **Indigenous Rights:**  
Center and respect the Inherent and Treaty Rights of Indigenous peoples in all climate change mitigation efforts. Adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People in full, including Article 32: Indigenous peoples right to free prior and informed consent.
  - **Protection for Most Affected Communities:**  
Recognize Canada's disproportionate role in the climate crisis, history of environmental racism, and subsequent responsibility for the protection of those most affected by climate change. Provide climate aid to the global south, as well as Arctic Canada, which disproportionately experience the impacts of the climate crisis. Include the addition of climate displacement as a basis for refugee status.
  - **A Just Transition:**  
Transition to renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure across sectors while leaving no workers behind. This transition must guarantee decent, low-carbon work for everyone by investing in reeducation programs, especially those economically reliant on fossil fuels.
  - **Bold Emissions Reductions Targets:**  
Legislate greenhouse gas emission reductions of 75% by 2030 over 2005 levels in order to keep
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global warming below 1.5 degrees celsius. Make binding commitments to achieving net-zero carbon emission by 2050.

- Separation of Oil and State:  
Reject all new fossil fuel transportation or projects, eliminate fossil fuel subsidies, and put a price on pollution.
- Environmental Rights:  
Enshrine in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms the fundamental right to a healthy environment. This would include, but is not limited to, the right to safe air, clean water, and healthy soil. Expose past and present violations of these rights and provide reparations to those affected communities. Implement enabling legislation and regulation to uphold the Manitoba Environmental Rights Act.
- Conservation of Biodiversity:  
Maintain and protect all diverse ecosystems. Reduce habitat fragmentation and strengthen the protection of at risk and endangered species. Transfer ecosystem stewardship to local Indigenous communities wherever possible.

**Be it Resolved that the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg:**

- A. Declare a climate emergency and take immediate action to bring down GHG emissions by investing in public green infrastructure focused on improving and making more accessible local food systems, insulating buildings, developing urban and inter-city public transportation alongside sustainable urban planning, protecting and enhancing natural areas for carbon sequestration, and a strong regulatory framework.
- B. Impose a levy on pollution with a floor of \$30/ tonne based on the British Columbia model moving to \$210/ tonne over time. Revenues should be used to support energy systems that make it easier for the public to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- C. Ensure a just transition where no one in Manitoba is left behind.
- D. Give special attention to community economic development as a framework for a just transition, including the use of social enterprises and cooperatives in the just transition to create decent green jobs, increase the amount of local community-owned energy projects, and strengthen local, fair economies.
- E. Manitoba adopt performance based building codes, benchmark and label the energy performance of buildings, and invest in local capabilities for energy audits through workforce training.
- F. Consult with the Climate Action Team, the Manitoba Youth for Climate Action, Indigenous Peoples, women, and low income Manitobans on climate change action.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba can work with the Climate Action Team (made up of CCPA Manitoba, Manitoba Eco-Network, Green Action Centre, Climate Change Connection, Prairie Climate Centre, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, and the Wilderness Committee) to move this resolution forward, and promote the forthcoming Alternative Climate Plan. CCEDNet Manitoba can continue to focus on meaning making by promoting the possibility of the Community Economic Development lens as a climate action solution and way to shape a just transition. CCEDNet Manitoba and member organizations can endorse the Manitoba Youth for Climate Action and Climate Strike Canada [seven demands](#) listed above. CCEDNet Manitoba should continue to support the organizing work of the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition and other frontline climate justice organizing efforts in an effort to continue to call for system change, not just individual responses to climate change.

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