

# Policy Resolutions 2021

Provincial & Municipal Policy Recommendations of the Canadian CED Network –  
Manitoba

Includes resolutions adopted for 2021, 2020, and 2019



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## 2021 Policy Resolutions

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 2021-1 Road to Recovery & Investing in Communities, Employment, and Environment.....  | 4  |
| 2021-2 Enabling Social Finance in Manitoba .....  | 6  |
| 2021-3 Strengthening and Leveraging the Community Development & Non-Profit Sector through a Co-Created Strategy and Effective Communication ..... | 8  |
| 2021-4 Transforming the Building Sustainable Communities Program to support targeted community-led development .....                              | 11 |
| 2021-5 Police Accountability and the Reallocation of Resources.....   | 13 |
| 2021-6 Housing Stability During Public Health Emergencies .....   | 15 |
| 2021-7 Keep Public Housing Public .....   | 17 |
| 2021-8 Enhanced Opportunities in Gap Training and Bridge Programming for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs).....                       | 18 |
| 2021-9 No Poverty, Zero Hunger in Manitoba.....   | 19 |
| 2021-10 Increasing Value in Programming & Policy through Co-Creation & Consultation .....   | 21 |

## 2020 Policy Resolutions

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 2020-1 Intersectional Gender-Based Analysis (IGBA) .....                                     | 23 |
| 2020-2 Implementing the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG .....           | 25 |
| 2020-3 Provincial & Municipal CED Policy Framework & Lens.....                               | 27 |
| 2020-4 CED Tax Credit.....   | 28 |
| 2020-5 Renewing the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy .....                                | 30 |
| 2020-6 Strengthening Manitoba's Co-op Sector .....   | 32 |
| 2020-7 Procurement for Community Benefit .....   | 33 |
| 2020-8 Living/Minimum Wage for all Manitobans .....  | 36 |
| 2020-9 Affordable & Social Housing .....   | 38 |
| 2020-10 Ending Gender-Based Homelessness .....   | 41 |
| 2020-11 Livable Basic Needs Benefit as a part of a Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Plan..... | 43 |
| 2020-12 Monitoring and Investigating Tax Rebate Discounters .....                            | 44 |
| 2020-13 System Change Not Climate Change .....   | 46 |
| 2020-14 Composting and an Organics Disposal Ban for Winnipeg's Metropolitan Region .....     | 50 |
| 2020-15 Reduced-Speed Residential Streets in Winnipeg.....                                   | 53 |

## 2019 Policy Resolutions

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 2019 - 1 Timely and Effective Implementation of <i>The Accessibility for Manitobans Act</i> ..... | 56 |
| 2019 - 2 Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations .....   | 58 |
| 2019 - 3 Winnipeg-based Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations .....                                  | 60 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 2019 - 4 On-street Parking for Carshare Vehicles .....  | 62 |
| 2019 - 5 Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation.....  | 63 |
| 2019 - 6 Leveraging Canada Revenue Agency Infrastructure to Deliver Financial Assistance to Eligible Manitobans .....                 | 65 |
| 2019 - 7 Facilitating Access to Birth Certificates for Low-income Manitobans.....   | 66 |
| 2019 - 8 Reversing Child Apprehension through Addressing Poverty, and promoting Meaningful Employment through Social Enterprise ..... | 68 |
| 2019 - 9 Supporting Community Employment Benefit on Infrastructure .....  | 70 |
| 2019 - 10 Restore Business and Enterprise Development Support Services .....  | 71 |
| 2019 - 11 Early Learning & Child Care .....   | 73 |
| 2019 - 12 Implementing Change: Supporting Wa Ni Ska Tan, Indigenous and Grassroots Calls for Ethical Energy in Manitoba .....         | 75 |

## 2021-1 Road to Recovery & Investing in Communities, Employment, and Environment

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

**Whereas:** COVID-19 will bring the global economy into recession, and Manitoba will be deeply impacted, including through pressure on the province's finances. A government austerity agenda at this time will continue to stagnate economic recovery across Manitoba communities and continue to make many Manitobans more vulnerable at this time.

**Whereas:** Economic analysis by Lynne Fernandez found that provincial spending cuts result in less stimulus in the local economy, resulting in a total loss of labour income to Manitobans of between \$981 million to \$1.179 billion, tax revenue losses to Manitoba from \$157 to \$189 million and a total drop of provincial GDP of between \$1.289 and \$1.525 billion.<sup>1</sup> While Manitoba's unemployment rate has recovered better from COVID-19 compared to other provinces, it is still at 7.0% in September 2020. However, many more are not counted in the unemployment numbers.

**Whereas:** The COVID-19 crisis has revealed stark inequities in our communities. For many it is a wake-up call that should be harnessed to protect vulnerable people, workers, and the planet. We need government to lead a road to recovery that prioritizes investments in a just, equitable, and sustainable recovery for all.

**Whereas:** Governments around the world will likely introduce stimulus packages in response to COVID-19 and go into debt so they can invest in such a way to stimulate the economy and keep people employed.

**Whereas:** The 2020 Alternative Provincial Budget, *Change Starts Here*, is a blueprint for Manitoba's budget that could be used to guide a road to COVID-19 recovery, while simultaneously investing in solutions to major economic, social, and environmental issues facing our province.

**Whereas:** We need to integrate priorities that maintain a habitable planet, support reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, while providing stable, decent livings for working people, particularly as part of COVID-19 recovery. This systemic approach has been captured recently by policy proposals and plans for systemic change through a Green New Deal, Just Transition, and Just Recovery. Manitoba could implement a package of changes that emulates the call of these movements.

**Whereas:** Manitoba's road to recovery must prioritize employment for those economically impacted by COVID-19, those who were already vulnerable and excluded from the labour market prior to COVID-19, as well as supporting transitioning off fossil fuels. Of particular importance is supporting Indigenous-led green jobs.

**Whereas:** Retrofit projects are significant job creators and result in monetary savings from reduced fuel usage as well as environmental benefits. The government can play an important role in stimulating large scale projects to create economies of scale. Savings can be rolled into paying for more projects. Done right, retrofits can extend the life of a building.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-government-economy-covid-19-1.5539666>

**Whereas:** Manitoba has the oldest housing stock in the country which provides a massive opportunity for retrofit projects.

**Whereas:** Governments have a role to play to stimulate the local economy and help those in need. During an economic crisis such as COVID-19, borrowing money today will stimulate the economy, support employment, increase tax revenue, and save lives by providing life-sustaining services

**Whereas:** Manitoba's road to recovery should use a community economic development approach, which allows community members to democratically control development. Indigenous peoples, including many First Nations, are leading CED strategies through the social economy that demonstrates how a Green New Deal could roll out in Manitoba. Much of the Alternative Provincial Budget is rooted in CED principles and strategies. Training and investment is rooted in community economic development and environmental principles that support the Green New Deal strategy. This approach could see an increase in social economy enterprises and community-based organizations working towards a more inclusive economy, while supporting meaningful employment.

**Whereas:** This recommendation fits within the Local & Fair Economies and Tackling Climate Change theme areas of the Public Policy Road Map, supporting COVID-19 economic recovery through systemic approaches based in CED such as a Green New Deal, a just transition or just recovery.

**Be it Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba reverse its austerity agenda and focus on leading a road to recovery from COVID-19 that prioritizes investments in a just, equitable, and sustainable recovery for people and planet. This approach should seek to achieve multiple social, economic, and environmental public policy goals through its investments and spending during the road to recovery.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba focus on equitable employment for all as a key piece of the road to recovery. This can be achieved through policies such as:

- A. Ensuring stimulus and procurement policies and practices support climate resilience, strengthen local economies and reduce poverty, including the use of social procurement and community benefits agreements/clauses.
- B. Supporting the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #92 supporting equitable access to jobs, training, and educational opportunities for Indigenous peoples through devoting resources and policy supports to organizations providing long-term supports to Indigenous job seekers facing multiple barriers to employment and employers committed to inclusive hiring.
- C. Prioritize green infrastructure and retrofits and basic needs of Manitobans while creating and supporting decent jobs, including in Indigenous communities

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** This resolution is advanced through a number of approaches, coalitions, and campaigns. CCEDNet has signed on to the national call for a Just Recovery, as well as many members. Two webinars focused on the contents of this resolutions have been hosted by CCPA-Manitoba and CCEDNet Manitoba. Coalitions advocating for a Green New Deal, Just Recovery, and Just Transition can and are focusing on these elements as important recommendations to the Province, including the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition and the Climate Action Team. Many coalitions are focused on equitable recovery policy goals, including Make Poverty History Manitoba, the We Want to Work coalition on social procurement, and others. The APB continues to be an important resource as a blueprint for change to coalesce around.

## 2021-2 Enabling Social Finance in Manitoba

**Mover:** SEED Winnipeg

**Whereas:** The Manitoba Social Finance Working Group (MSFWG) has been gathering since 2016 to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities in the financing ecosystem for the social economy, including non-profits, cooperatives and social enterprises. The working group comprises organizations, networks, and funders including Assiniboine Credit Union, the Canadian CED Network Manitoba, the Jubilee Fund, Local Investment Toward Employment, the Manitoba Cooperative Association, SEED Winnipeg, the United Way Winnipeg, and The Winnipeg Foundation.

**Whereas:** In 2013, social enterprises in Manitoba earned at least \$63.6 million in revenues, including \$43.9 million in sales of goods and services. Social enterprises provided employment for at least 4,450 workers, who earned more than \$34.4 million in wages and salaries.

**Whereas:** There are more than 400 cooperatives, credit unions, and caisses populaires in Manitoba, comprising of over 900,000 memberships and more than \$22 billion in assets. Cooperatives are a more sustainable business model given their collective ownership and community commitment; 62% of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35% for other new businesses. After 10 years, the figures are 44% and 20% respectively.

**Whereas:** The Government of Canada initiated the Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy in 2017.<sup>2</sup> This strategy includes the Investment Readiness Program (IRP) and a Social Finance Fund. The IRP is meant to create and advance new earned revenues possibilities for “social purpose organizations” through one-time grants, with two intake-cycles in 2020. The Social Finance Fund was announced in 2018 as \$755 million over 10 years in repayable capital for social purpose organizations, to be matched by non-government investors, albeit many details remain to be confirmed.<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba is active in social finance through the Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit, the Social Innovation Office, and Social Impact Bonds. The Social Innovation Office has a mandate to “[support] areas across government to implement innovative solution development, for example through social financing, social enterprise and social procurement.” Furthermore the Province of Manitoba has initiated 6 Social Impact Bonds, and has set a mandate for the Social Innovation Office to initiate 3-5 SIBs in 2020-2021.

**Whereas:** Social Impact Bonds are a financing tool to use non-government sources of capital to invest in preventive interventions that provide savings to governments. Government pays investors a return on their investment for the savings generated. While the programming supported through SIBs has been successful in its goals, the financing model has been criticized for providing unsustainable returns to investors and requiring high transaction costs when normal government funding arrangements can support the same programming.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/social-innovation-social-finance/reports/recommendations-what-we-heard.html>

<sup>3</sup><https://futureofgood.co/article-series/canadas-social-finance-fund-what-now/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2020/06/SIBs%20Financing%20Child%20Welfare%20revisited%202020.pdf>

**Whereas:** Access to the appropriate capital and financing is essential to the sustainability and success of any organization. Despite the critical role the social economy plays in addressing social and environmental challenges, these organizations face unique challenges due to their blend of business practice and social impact.

**Whereas:** Manitoba currently lacks a social finance intermediary with an appropriate mandate to access the Federal Social Finance Fund and the broader social finance market. The majority of social finance intermediaries in Canada have required operating subsidies for at least start-up and until a sufficient scale can be reached.<sup>5</sup>

**Whereas:** A social economy supported by a strong social finance ecosystem accomplishes CCEDNet Manitoba's public policy roadmaps of local and fair economies, ending poverty, tackling climate change, and sustainable community-led development.

**Be it Resolved that the Province of Manitoba:**

- A. Support the development and/or start-up of a social finance intermediary able to access capital from the Federal Social Finance Fund and broader social finance market, including through the provision of an operating subsidy.
- B. Support the enablement of a social finance ecosystem in Manitoba by providing backbone resources for the Manitoba Social Finance Working Group and designating a Provincial representative to this group.
- C. Enable the Manitoba social finance ecosystem to support the development of various social finance tools and models, as opposed to a sole focus on SIBs.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Manitoba Social Finance Working Group will continue to lead advocacy on this resolution. As well, this resolution will be advanced at the national scale through the CCEDNet Policy Council and People's Centred Economy group, as well as through Manitoba representation on the Table of Impact Investment Practitioners.

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<sup>5</sup><https://newmarketfunds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Eight-Tracks.pdf>

## 2021-3 Strengthening and Leveraging the Community Development & Non-Profit Sector through a Co-Created Strategy and Effective Communication

**Mover:** Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations

**Whereas:** In Manitoba, community development has been led by community-based organizations (CBOs) that address complex social and economic challenges, and in doing so strengthen our province's communities, and revitalize local economies that benefit everyone. Development has been most effective and sustainable when it is community-led.

**Whereas:** Many CBOs support people in inner city, rural, and Northern communities who are marginalized by systemic economic, social, and environmental issues. Government policies and programs play a key role in reducing marginalization. Where public and private sector resources fall short, CBO's provide critical, frontline and support services.

**Whereas:** CBOs are working on alternative development models built on local prosperity, community economic development, local ownership, and healthy neighbourhoods. For example, a collective impact evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations (NRCs) found that Manitoba has one of the most unique and promising models for community development in North America. Through sustained support of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, Manitoba has empowered community members to take action toward the social and economic development of their own neighbourhood or municipality.

**Whereas:** CBOs are an important part of our economy with a high return on investment, both economically and socially. The Manitoba Government Discussion Paper, *Building Capacity and Promoting Sustainability in Manitoba's Non-Profit Sector* states that "non-profit and charitable organizations play an important role in our society and economy. The services they provide improve the quality of life for individuals and communities, particularly the most vulnerable. Across Canada, the economic value of the non-profit and charitable sector is estimated to account for 8.5 per cent of the GDP (Statistics Canada 2018). There is no question that this sector is crucial in building vibrant, thriving and sustainable communities in our nation and our province."

**Whereas:** CBOs in Manitoba are impacted by macro and local challenges to their community development work. Growth in the economy that is not equitable, inclusive and environmentally responsible increases the demand for the social and environmental services the charitable sector provides. The social and economic impacts of COVID-19, income inequality, an aging population, changing volunteer and giving patterns, growing transitional needs of newcomers and refugees, and the impacts of climate change are also contributing to an increased demand.

**Whereas:** As Local CBOs work to address these macro issues, they are experiencing greater precarity in funding. A 2018 Winnipeg Foundation report found that "while the commitment and passion is strong, the charitable sector as a whole is currently stressed and stretched," in part stemming from "uncertain funding arrangements [that] make planning difficult and have a negative impact on organizational effectiveness."



**Whereas:** CBOs are providing essential services to help communities address the impacts of COVID-19, while continuing to play a crucial role in supporting communities and individuals. A recent Leger survey, in partnership with the Manitoba and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce identified non-profits as a key sector that has been deeply impacted by COVID-19 with specific needs for re-opening, recovery, and stability.

**Whereas:** Community development, led and supported by CBOs, has the long-term power to create stronger communities across Manitoba and change systems for the better. The Manitoba government plays an important role in supporting community-led development in all communities, including those facing multiple economic and social barriers.

**Whereas:** In Spring 2019, the Manitoba government embarked on a process to develop a new strategy for the non-profit community development sector, meant to “build capacity and promote sustainability”, “guide future provincial investment and inform transformation in community development programs and policies.” The Province released a discussion paper and has undergone a consultation process in centres across Manitoba.

**Whereas:** Given the importance of CBOs socially and economically to Community Economic Development, as well as the macro and local challenges they face, a non-profit strategy is needed for Manitoba. A new strategy for the Province of Manitoba must uplift and centre the crucial economic, social, and environmental work of community-based organizations and ensure access to the resources needed to achieve desired community development outcomes.

**Whereas:** This Provincial strategy should be co-created with community stakeholders so the expertise of community is utilized and the impact is targeted.. This will allow community and government to work together toward common social and economic development goals while adequately supporting CBOs.

**Whereas:** Ongoing, effective communication between government and CBOs is an essential aspect of a strategic approach, and is even more urgently required due to the COVID-19 crisis. A sector table would be beneficial to ensure that future decisions effectively use government dollars to help benefit the sector and those it serves. A Non-profit table would maximize the impact and efficiency of government spending by ensuring alignment between policy/programming and the dynamic needs of the sector. By strengthening the working relationship between the Province of Manitoba and sector leaders, Manitoba will be better positioned to address the problems facing our communities now and as we recover from COVID-19.

**Whereas:** Community-Led Development is a key theme area of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map. A co-created non-profit strategy, and effective communication between community and government are foundational to allow CBOs to continue achieving social economic development goals in Manitoba.

**Be it Resolved That:**

- A. The Province of Manitoba, through the Department of Municipal Relations, co-create and co-implement its Non-Profit Strategy for Community Development with community organizations and their relevant networks; considering strengths and challenges of the sector.

- B. The Province of Manitoba, led by the Department of Municipal Relations, convene a multi-departmental working group to support non-profits and community-based organizations through the COVID-19 pandemic.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** A working group has been established, comprised of member-networks, umbrella organizations, and associations who represent or work with groups of nonprofits and community-based organizations in a variety of fields of work across the province. The associations involved are leading collective and individual advocacy on the NPO Strategy, convening a table, and will help advance this resolution. The group (as of November 2020 entitled the Network of Networks), convened by CCEDNet Manitoba, includes Abilities Manitoba, Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, Creative Manitoba, Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations, Manitoba Eco-Network, Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association, an emerging network of women's-serving organizations, Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle, Youth Agencies Alliance, Volunteer Manitoba, and the Childcare Association of Manitoba.

## 2021-4 Transforming the Building Sustainable Communities Program to support targeted community-led development

**Mover: North End Community Renewal Corporation**

**Whereas:** Community development funding for community-based organizations (CBOs) is housed in the Department of Municipal Relations, generally targeted at different regional, geographic, or population groups. However, many community-based organizations 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, strategic, and comprehensive action.

**Whereas:** On April 4, 2019, the Province announced significant changes to community-led development funding, combining seven funding streams into the Building Sustainable Communities Program (BSC).

**Whereas:** BSC will not fund projects beyond two years. It will not fund salaries or other employment costs, which are required to run key community development programming. Funding is available up to \$75,000, and proponents must demonstrate 50 per cent of project costs funded from other sources, with a minimum of 10 percent from non-governmental sources. It does not fund administrative costs beyond 2.5%, when the charitable sector standard for administration costs is 10-20%. The evaluation or measurement of qualification remains very broad.

**Whereas:** Requiring multiple funding sources with minimal support for the administrative and human resources needed to accomplish this creates administrative and accessibility barriers. Stable, long-term community development requires stable, predictable, and reliable funding of proven programs following an agreed upon payment schedule. Only allowing new projects over predictable, long-term funding will only continue to stress and stretch the non-profit and charitable sector. Evaluations have demonstrated that multi-year funding has helped community-based organizations to be more efficient and effective, helping leverage additional resources from non-government sources or different levels of government. Additionally, many CBOs are not able to maintain enough savings or retained earnings to adequately manage during a delay in funds flowing, thus highlighting the importance of adhering to an agreed upon payment schedule.

**Whereas:** While BSC streamlines funding applications into a one window application process, it now is open to any non-profit, charity, or municipality competing for dollars to meet the very general criteria of helping “to build thriving, sustainable communities.” While previous funding programs previously targeted low-income communities, now CBOs in low-income areas must compete for general dollars available to municipalities, charities, and other non-profits across the province, leaving them in jeopardy of receiving less targeted support.

**Whereas:** The changes in funding criteria as well as a less targeted program purpose, compared against the previous NA! criteria, means that more affluent communities will have an edge over poor communities with less capacity and access to volunteer and financial resources.

**Whereas:** Manitoba’s CBOs and nonprofits are providing essential services to help communities address the impacts of COVID-19, while continuing to play a crucial role in supporting communities and individuals through already existing socio-economic needs.

**Whereas:** Significant changes are needed if the Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) Program is to properly support the sector.

**Whereas:** Supporting Community-Led Development is a key theme area of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map. Building Sustainable Communities is a key funding program of the Province of Manitoba to support this kind of work. Transforming the program to support targeted, effective community development and CED work is needed for capturing the value of the sector.

**Be It Resolved That:**

The Province of Manitoba, through Department of Municipal Relations should renew and restructure the Building Sustainable Communities program for community-led development with multi-year, streamlined funding, with the following characteristics:

- A. An evidence-based, targeted approach with a clear mandate and outcomes for community development across Manitoba, including a focus that identifies and invests in key neighbourhoods and communities in the greatest need of physical, social and economic revitalization as defined in the Neighbourhood Renewal Act.
- B. Fund multi-year agreements to a maximum of five years for eligible CBOs, including core funding commitments to NRCs. Funding should include administrative, program, and project costs, including funding for program salaries, evaluation and outcome reporting, and cost of living increases. Long-term, effective NRC projects (previously funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund) should be brought into core funding agreements.
- C. Effective communication channels between the Province of Manitoba and CBOs by reducing red tape and the administrative burden for application, renewal, and reporting, and renewing reporting and outcome measuring mechanisms in collaboration with CBOs.
- D. Predictability of provincial funding including an agreed-upon and adhered to payment schedule, helping CBOs leverage funding from other non-government sources and enabling more organizational stability and sustainability.
- E. Support for CBO capacity building services to promote effectiveness, professional development, sustainability within the sector, and an 'ecosystem' approach to the community development network in Manitoba.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba, through Department of Municipal Relations, should support the financial needs of CBOs through the COVID-19 pandemic through:

- A. Providing and clearly communicating flexibility measures to assist nonprofits that receive funding directly from the Government as they manage their agreements with the Province through the COVID-19 pandemic. This could potentially include allowing funds to be moved between budget categories, extending funding agreements concluding in 2019/20 through the 2020/21 fiscal year, postponement of implementation of administrative guidelines, and recognition that program outcomes may shift.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba, as well as a number of other network groups, including the Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations and other individual CBOs, will continue to lead direct advocacy and lobbying to the Department of Municipal Relations to see BSC changed to reflect these recommendations. A forthcoming research report through the Manitoba Research Alliance, CCPA-Manitoba, and CCEDNet Manitoba will further detail proposed changes to the program.

## 2021-5 Police Accountability and the Reallocation of Resources

### Mover: Black History Month Community Collective

**Whereas:** Racial profiling and the disproportionate use of deadly force against Black and Indigenous community members by the Winnipeg Police Service has been compounded by the lack of community resources to address poverty, addictions, and mental health issues.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg is spending the highest percentage of the municipal budget on the police service when compared to other large Canadian cities.

**Whereas:** The Winnipeg Police Service budget has continued to increase year over year while community-based organizations have experienced cuts to funding.

**Whereas:** Indigenous community members in Manitoba are 6.6 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population, and Black community members in Manitoba were 4.5 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population.

**Whereas:** While there have been record high investments in policing and incarceration, Winnipeg's violent crime rate has continued to rise over these last six years.

**Whereas:** Addiction and mental health services currently available are not adequately funded to meet the needs of our communities

**Whereas:** Funding currently spent on policing should be redirected to address community building initiatives and mental health care and addictions interventions.

**Whereas:** The current mandate letter from the Premier of Manitoba to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Manitoba contains several ideas for addressing the root causes of crime and enhancing community supports, such as focusing on crime prevention, directing offenders away from crime, enhancing supports for survivors of domestic abuse, and modernize and improve the delivery of addictions and mental health services.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg needs to support its Newcomer Welcome & Inclusion Strategy by acting on the measures in the Strategy and addressing systemic racism, including in the Winnipeg Police Service.

**Whereas:** Enhancing police accountability and reallocating police resources supports Community Economic Development by promoting sustainable livelihoods, redirecting resources to community-led development initiatives, community-based organizations, and social economy enterprises, and enhances social capital.

**Whereas:** This resolution supports the following themes: The Local and Fair Economies theme notes that local and fair economies reduce crime; the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access theme area notes that the rate of violent crime against women in Manitoba is double the national average and the second highest rate in the country and recommends applying a gender-based analysis framework to improve socio-economic outcomes for women by ensuring that women are taken into consideration in all government policies, programs and legislation; and the Ending Poverty theme

area notes that there is a direct correlation between low-incomes and poverty and the justice system, the child welfare system, and health services, and that social housing, a form of affordable housing subsidized by public dollars, saves public money through reduced health, social services, and justice system costs.

**Be It Resolved That:**

- A. Manitoba Justice and the City of Winnipeg meet with community-based organizations to co-create policies to address long standing concerns about police accountability, violence, and systemic discrimination against Indigenous and Black communities;
- B. The City of Winnipeg reinstate the funding to community programs that was cut in the 2020-2024 budget process as well as the more recent cuts that were made in response to COVID-19;
- C. The City of Winnipeg establish clear targets and timelines for the measures identified in the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy, including reversing the removal of Access Without Fear section of the policy, and provide adequate funding to meet the targets of the policy
- D. The City of Winnipeg reduce funding to policing at least 10% for the 2021-22 fiscal year, and further reductions in future years based on community input, and redirect the funds to community building initiatives and mental health and addictions care experts trained in nonviolent crisis intervention and de-escalation.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Through the Police Accountability Coalition in consultation with endorsing organizations. CCEDNet members are encouraged to endorse the calls outlined in the Police Accountability Coalition's Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources if they have not already.

## 2021-6 Housing Stability During Public Health Emergencies

**Mover:** North End Community Renewal Corporation

**Whereas:** Housing stability is a cornerstone of healthy and safe neighbourhoods and is vital to maintaining stability and wellness during times of public health emergencies.

**Whereas:** Many Manitobans are at risk of homelessness due to COVID. Unemployment rates have trended between 7.0% and 11.4% during the COVID-19 pandemic, while many more are not even counted in unemployment numbers. Over 80,000 customers are unable to keep up with their utility payment as a result of COVID.

**Whereas:** In March 2020, the Manitoba Government implemented an eviction ban to prevent people from losing their housing if unable to pay the rent. Despite an increase in the number of individuals testing positive for the virus, the ban was lifted on October 1, 2020. An estimated 5,456 - 7,882 tenants and their households are now at risk of eviction, resulting in overcrowding and homelessness putting a greater number of people at risk of contracting and spreading the virus.

**Whereas:** Increasing the number of those at risk of homelessness will result in costly health and safety issues, affect people's ability to practice social distancing, self-isolate when required, and increase the rate of child apprehension by child welfare systems.

**Whereas:** The development of a safe and humane housing stability plan that supports both landlords and tenants during public health emergencies is the best strategy to ensure that people are able to safely comply with public health orders without creating undue hardship on landlords, tenants, and emergency services.

**Whereas:** This resolution fits within the Ending Poverty theme area of the CCEDNet Public Policy Road Map, as housing stability and security is key to supporting people living in poverty and as a pathway out of poverty.

**Be it Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba reinstate the provincial eviction ban and rent freeze to prevent homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Be it Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba strike a working group composed of housing support experts, landlord/property managers, and government to design a strategy that supports housing stability during public health emergencies.

**Be it Resolved That:** The proposed working group be tasked to draft a housing stability plan that focuses on:

- A. Devising a repayment plan process for tenant in arrears before evictions are granted
- B. Increasing supports under rent assist
- C. Improving supports for landlords who are housing vulnerable tenants
- D. Setting criteria for enacting rent freezes and housing supports during future public health emergencies

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** The North End Community Renewal Corporation will continue to lead direct advocacy and can facilitate the working group once it is struck. The Make Poverty History Manitoba and Right to Housing Coalitions will also continue to lead collaborative work on this



file alongside coalition members during the COVID-19 pandemic through direct advocacy, organizing, and awareness-raising.



## 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.

## 2021-8 Enhanced Opportunities in Gap Training and Bridge Programming for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs)

Mover: SEED Winnipeg

**Whereas:** Between 2015-17, more than 3,000 internationally educated professionals (IEPs) applied for registration in a Manitoba regulated profession, only 16%, or 488, of these applications resulted in full registrations in their professions. Some gap training and bridge programming in Manitoba can only support a small number of people looking to get qualified in certain regulated professions. Manitoba loses internationally-trained professionals to other provinces where gap training and bridge programming opportunities exist.

**Whereas:** Among working-aged immigrants aged 25-54, 43% hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with only 26% of those born in Canada. Immigrants aged 45-54 with a university degree earn around 18% less than those aged 45-54 with university degrees who were born in Canada. This earnings gap costs the Canadian economy an estimated \$50 billion per year.

**Whereas:** Most assessment and registration processes in the regulated professions in Manitoba are designed for recent graduates of Canadian professional programs who do not have professional experience. Manitoba needs systems that support effective assessment and the recognition of applicants from international programs with varying degrees of professional experience. Fair assessment involves providing people with an opportunity to address any gaps they may have in their professional knowledge and skills relative to Canadian standards and ways of doing things.

**Whereas:** Manitoba has a history of developing and delivering effective gap training programs in the professions, enabling faster credential recognition and fair processes for assessment of skills for individuals trained abroad has been identified as a priority for the Minister of Economic Development and Training, and the October 2020 Manitoba Speech from the Throne mentions welcoming new immigrants through a special immigration credential recognition program.

**Whereas:** From a community economic development perspective, gap training and bridge programming help by providing employment skills which will help move people into higher-waged jobs, leading to poverty reduction and more sustainable livelihoods.

**Whereas:** This resolution supports the "Strategic Approaches to Ending Poverty" theme area.

**Be It Resolved That:** Manitoba Economic Development and Training co-create a strategy with community-based organizations, including CCEDNet members in the settlement sector and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure that all new Manitobans can access gap training and bridge programming to continue in their professional careers, and that sustained funding be allocated to support this work.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Given Manitoba Association of Newcomer-Serving Organization (MANSO)'s development of a similar policy that it was done in partnership with SEED Winnipeg, their expertise of the sector, and the work of their Employment Committee, that MANSO is well-positioned to coordinate advancing this resolution.

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## 2021-9 No Poverty, Zero Hunger in Manitoba

### Mover: Food Matters Manitoba

**Whereas:** Household Food Insecurity (HFI) means not having enough money to feed oneself and family and is linked to other barriers to eating like not having reliable transportation, child care, or housing.

**Whereas:** One in seven households in Manitoba report HFI. One in five children in Manitoba are impacted, the second highest provincial rate. Single mothers, Black and Indigenous people of colour, recent newcomers are more likely to report HFI, as are those in precarious housing and employment.<sup>6</sup>

**Whereas:** In Manitoba HFI has an especially unequal impact on remote, rural, Indigenous and Northern communities where the cost of food is high due to a chronic infrastructure deficit and regional inequity. Feeding one's family an adequate diet costs 46% more in Northern Manitoba than in Winnipeg.<sup>7</sup>

**Whereas:** HFI is a manifestation of material deprivation, and is associated with a broad array of negative physical and mental health outcomes and increased mortality. To cope with not having enough money to buy food people feed their children first and go hungry, skip meals, choose inadequate cheaper foods, and compromise their spending on other essentials like housing and medications.<sup>8</sup>

**Whereas:** The province of Manitoba does not monitor HFI annually as part of the Statistics Canada Canadian Community Health Survey Food Security Module, but rather opts out in some years, leaving significant gaps in both provincial and national data.

**Whereas:** The province of Manitoba has not released Nutritious Food Basket cost analysis data since 2011, compared to many other provinces that collect this data every two years, making comparative analysis of food costs and incomes in Manitoba impossible.

**Whereas:** Policies and programs that contribute directly to the incomes of people and families are effective in significantly reducing HFI, as demonstrated by real-world examples like Federal Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement, Canada Child Benefit, and increases to income assistance benefits in Newfoundland and Labrador between 2007 and 2012.<sup>9</sup>

**Whereas:** According to research from Campaign 2000, Manitoba has three of the five federal ridings in all of Canada with the highest rates of child poverty. Further, Manitoba is the province with the

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<sup>6</sup> PROOF. 2020. Household Food Insecurity in Manitoba 2017-2018. <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Household-Food-Insecurity-in-Canada-2017-2018-Full-Reportpdf.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Community Health Through Food Security 2012. The cost of eating according to the 'Nutritious Food Basket' in Manitoba, May 2011. <http://communities4families.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Nutritious-Food-Basket-Report-Final-1.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> PROOF. 2020.

<sup>9</sup> PROOF. Public Policy and Food Insecurity. <https://proof.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/public-policy-factsheet.pdf>

highest rates of child poverty. These high rates have serious effects and consequences on childhood hunger, and in turn childhood development.<sup>10</sup>

**Whereas:** According to research from Campaign 2000, Manitoba has the highest rates of child poverty per federal riding. These high rates have serious effects and consequences on childhood hunger, and in turn childhood development.

**Whereas:** This resolution fits within the “Ending Poverty” theme area.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba monitor HFI annually as part of the Statistics Canada’s Canadian Community Health Survey.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba work with and resource appropriate agencies and community serving organizations to collect, analyze and publish regionally specific data on the cost of food in Manitoba at a minimum of every two years.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Food Matters Manitoba continues to lead advocacy on this resolution, but CCEDNet members are encouraged to support the resolution and integrate HFI language and data into their advocacy. Policy Resolutions 2020-9 and 2020-11 (and others re: housing, childcare, public transportation), if enacted, would help ensure that no family in Manitoba goes hungry, and advocacy on these resolutions will support this new resolution.

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<sup>10</sup> [https://cc8458be-07cd-4d08-8429-ee91800bdd50.usrfiles.com/ugd/cc8458\\_808d525f2a2f4959a4ebbe8af202f2a1.pdf](https://cc8458be-07cd-4d08-8429-ee91800bdd50.usrfiles.com/ugd/cc8458_808d525f2a2f4959a4ebbe8af202f2a1.pdf)

## 2021-10 Increasing Value in Programming & Policy through Co-Creation & Consultation

**Mover:** Youth Agencies Alliance

**Whereas:** Co-creation refers to the practice of bringing multiple stakeholders together to develop policy, programming and practice that will impact the community or stakeholders in question from beginning to end. This is in contrast to top-down, bureaucratic methods for developing policy and programming.

**Whereas:** Consultation refers to the process by which citizens and stakeholders are engaged to influence the development of policy and programming. Meaningful consultation includes, but is not limited to, these key elements: it follows a process that all participants and stakeholders understand; it identifies roles and responsibilities of different partners; it is clear on how feedback will influence action and decision making; and it reports back to those consulted with the results of the consultation.

**Whereas:** Meaningful consultation is especially important to include the participation of vulnerable populations that have traditionally been excluded from political and economic processes. Too often, the end-users or stakeholders affected by policy and programming decisions are rendered entirely passive in their design and implementation process. The consequence of this is that high-value and/or grassroots expertise is missed, thereby decreasing the efficacy and ultimately value of government investments.

**Whereas:** There is a growing number of examples where the co-creation of policy and programming has increased the value for money received by government and the target community or sector.

**Whereas:** The challenge of policy making that does not meaningfully engage stakeholders is compounded when it intersects with marginalized and oppressed communities. Socio-economic barriers that challenge participation in our communities also apply to advocacy and engagement with government decision-making.

**Whereas:** Manitobans should have a direct say in decisions that directly affect them. By using grassroots community organizations in design, planning, and policy we can ensure that decisions made by governments in Manitoba are guided by those who know the issues the best.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities can increase the impact and value of their policy and programming decisions by applying a co-creation framework.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has promoted the value of local decision-making for government strategies and policy, including in Manitoba's Economic Growth Action Plan, A Made-in-Manitoba Climate & Green Plan, and Look North Economic Task Force Report & Action Plan. The City of Winnipeg has utilized a co-creative process in developing its forthcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy as well as the Newcomer Welcome & Inclusion Policy. In all these cases, leaders in the relevant sectors were engaged in a co-creation process, with aspects of co-creation and meaningful consultation across relevant communities for each strategy.

**Whereas:** The Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (2015 - 2018) and the Manitoba Cooperative Community Strategic Plan (2009-2014 and renewed 2014 - 2019, abandoned 2017) are local examples of co-created and co-implemented policy and programming.

**Whereas:** The principle of communities leading their own social, economic, and environmental futures, supported by government as a partner is at the heart of the community economic development model. Co-creation processes that support local decision making and community ownership are a key component to sustainable, inclusive communities and economies.

**Whereas:** This resolution is the key recommendation to the government in the “Directing Our Own Future” theme area, articulating how co-creation and meaningful consultation is crucial to CED and how it should operate.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities adopt a co-creation framework, bringing together affected stakeholders for developing policy and programming decisions.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** In instances where co-creation is not a viable model, the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities will undertake meaningful consultation that includes these characteristics:

- A. It involves Indigenous representation and Indigenous-led organizations, and it prioritizes organizations and individuals from equity-seeking communities and most-affected or impacted communities of the policy and programming decisions;
- B. It follows a process that all participants and stakeholders understand and agree upon a reasonable timeline to participate;
- C. It identifies roles and responsibilities of different partners;
- D. It is clear on how and to what degree feedback will influence action and decision making; and
- E. It reports back to those consulted with the results of the consultation.
- F. Process summarized/publicly available

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Throughout all direct policy advocacy, budget and other government submissions, and throughout public communications, CCEDNet Manitoba will continue to encourage the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities to adopt a co-creation framework through broader policy advocacy such as the Public Policy Road Map, as well as through specific policy area advocacy. Members are encouraged to continuously advocate for a co-creation framework through ongoing policy advocacy work.

## 2020-1 Intersectional Gender-Based Analysis (IGBA)

**Mover:** West Central Women's Resource Centre

**Whereas:** While the gap has been decreasing over time, women and girls are still more likely than men and boys to be living below the low-income line (LIM-AT, low-income measure, after tax) and labour force participation and wages are lower. Indigenous women experience poverty at almost triple the rate of non-Indigenous women in Winnipeg. Women with disabilities have higher unemployment rates and are more at risk of financial exploitation. Women have lower employment rates than men across most age brackets and average weekly earnings that were 88.4% the earnings of men in Manitoba (2018). The wage gap widens for women who are Indigenous, living with a disability, racialized, and/or newcomers.

**Whereas:** Women are about four times as likely as men to be victims of intimate partner homicide and Manitoba has highest domestic violence homicide rates among the provinces. The rate of violence against women in Manitoba is double the national average and trans women are twice as likely as cis-gender women to experience intimate partner violence.

**Whereas:** Women make up 50.3% of Manitoba's population and yet remain significantly underrepresented in decision-making positions such as elected officials, especially Indigenous women, women of colour, women living with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ people.

**Whereas:** It is difficult for society to recognize people with intersecting marginalized identities as part of our community, as they don't fit in to our dominant cultural narrative. This is called intersectional invisibility. We must consciously choose to centre and value the experiences and perspectives of multiply marginalized individuals in order to create social structures where they have equitable access to resources, choices and opportunities.

**Whereas:** Failure to use an IGBA increases the risk that policies and initiatives will inadvertently further increase inequalities. If solutions focus on any specific gender as a homogeneous group and neglect the complex and intersecting identities of the individuals within that group, they will create gaps that people experiencing oppression will fall into. An IGBA enables people in organizations and systems to evaluate the structure, design, and implementation of programs, practices, and policies to best meet the holistic needs of the people impacted by those initiatives.

**Whereas:** While the federal government has committed to Gender-Based Analysis+ (GBA+), the Province of Manitoba and Manitoban municipalities do not appear to apply an IGBA framework to government policies, programs, and legislation. The Province of Manitoba has promised to make Manitoba "the most improved province in the country." Applying an IGBA framework to all government policies, programs and legislation would improve the lives of all in Manitoba. Winnipeg was the first city in North America to join the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Initiative to reduce sexual violence against women and girls. But there is so much more to be done.

**Whereas:** An IGBA must be applied to all the CED principles, but aligns most directly to Human Dignity, which encompasses gender equality and social dignity regardless of psychological differences, ethnic background, colour, creed or sexual orientation. An IGBA will also increase Long-term Employment and Local Decision-making for ALL local residents, including those who have been excluded from these realms of society for too long.

**Whereas:** The application of an IGBA across the board would significantly improve Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access, one of the themes of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map. An IGBA must be applied to all the themes of this Road Map.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba and all Manitoba municipalities apply an IGBA to all policies, programs, and legislation.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba and its members apply an intersectional gender-based analysis throughout their work.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba will take the lead on encouraging its members to implement an IGBA, as well as advocating for governments to do the same.



## 2020-2 Implementing the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG

**Mover:** West Central Women's Resource Centre

**Whereas:** Indigenous women are six times more likely to be killed as a result of gender-based violence than non-Indigenous women. As stated in the National Inquiry into MMIWG, two of the four pathways that maintain colonial violence are social and economic marginalization and ignoring the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted by poverty and other social determinants of health, and this social and economic marginalization is directly linked to their increased experiences of violence.

**Whereas:** Social and economic marginalization of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA people hurts their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health by placing them in situations where they are more likely to experience violence and trauma. The cultural loss that has been a result of colonial violence, including an inability to access traditional socio-economic and community supports, has compounded the struggles Indigenous families and survivors face with poverty, homelessness, and many other issues. The marginalization of Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA people often results in their exclusion from communities and local economies.

**Whereas:** The National Inquiry into MMIWG outlines an urgent need to fundamentally restructure many overarching social and economic systems in order to reduce the risk of violence and trauma for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Among the Calls for Justice are calls to prioritize the creation of measures to eliminate their socio-economic marginalization and work towards closing the gaps in current systems that create potential for exclusion, neglect, and violence. In addition, it is vitally important that Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people be represented and their voices respected when making these changes, otherwise the current problems will persist in different forms.

**Whereas:** The National Inquiry into MMIWG Calls for Justice call for all governments to support community-based measures and supports to reduce the socio-economic marginalization of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. Implementing the Calls for Justice is a stated priority for the federal government. It is up to community to advocate and hold governments to their commitments.

**Whereas:** The Calls for Justice in the National Inquiry into MMIWG include recommendations for access to safe housing, clean drinking water, food security, and a physical environment that will not increase the risk of gender-based violence, as well as the recognition of Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination over resources (particularly with respect to economic social development), and the rights to human dignity, life, liberty, and security. Several Calls for Justice also emphasize the importance of recognizing the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people by implementing community-based supports that meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples and their local communities, as they define them. These Calls are reflected in several CED Guiding Principles including:

- Local decision making
- Public health
- Physical environment
- Neighbourhood stability

- Human dignity

**Whereas:** Implementing the Calls for Justice will reduce the social and economic marginalization of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, which fits squarely within three of the theme areas of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map: 1) Ending Poverty and 2) Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access, and 3) Directing Our Own Future. Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are disproportionately represented amongst low-income Manitobans and face many barriers to inclusion and access to services and supports, which limits their ability to fully participate in communities and economies. These Calls for Justice aim to ensure the agency and expertise of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people are respected and included. As stated in the Road Map under Directing Our Own Future, end-user or stakeholders are too often left out of policy-making processes, which disproportionately impacts marginalized and dispossessed communities. The Inquiry calls for meaningful consultation and leadership for Indigenous communities, which will lead to better government and community investments and policies.

**Be It Resolved That:** All levels of government immediately implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; beginning with resources devoted to public awareness-raising, and creation and resourcing of a central entity to implement the Calls for Justice.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba and its members implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba will take the lead on encouraging its members to implement the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into MMIWG, as well as advocating for all levels of government to do the same.

## 2020-3 Provincial & Municipal CED Policy Framework & Lens

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

**Whereas:** Manitoban communities face complex challenges including poverty, social exclusion, income inequality, unemployment, urban decline, environmental and ecological degradation and community sustainability. These challenges must be addressed with a holistic and flexible approach. Community economic development (CED) provides that approach.

**Whereas:** CED is community-led action that creates economic opportunities while enhancing social and environmental conditions. It is flexible in that it allows each community to pursue development strategies that respond to its unique needs and priorities.

**Whereas:** The objective of a provincial and municipal CED policy framework is to ensure that CED principles are incorporated into provincial and municipal government policies so that policies better respond to the economic, social and environmental needs of local communities. In achieving this objective, a provincial and municipal CED policy framework would promote strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient Manitoba communities. As part of a provincial and municipal CED policy framework, the following CED principles should, wherever possible, be incorporated into all government policies and programs:

- Use of locally produced goods and services
- Production of goods and services for local use
- Local re-investment of profits
- Long-term employment of local residents
- Local skill development
- Local decision-making
- Public health
- Physical environment
- Neighbourhood stability
- Human dignity
- Interdepartmental and Intergovernmental collaboration

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has developed a cross-governmental CED Policy Framework and Lens. Manitoba municipalities should adopt and apply a similar CED lens to their policies and programs.

**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba implement a CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** Municipal governments in Manitoba implement a CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments.

**How this Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba will continue to work to strengthen the awareness, understanding, and implementation of the CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments at the provincial level and with municipal government throughout Manitoba.

## 2020-4 CED Tax Credit

### Mover: Peg City Car Co-op

**Whereas:** Communities acting together to create local economic opportunities that also enhance social conditions and services in their communities face the challenge of access to capital in order to pursue their CED initiatives.

**Whereas:** Locally and collectively-owned enterprises are responsive to local priorities, are more likely to be committed to serving the community rather than simply serving profit and have a much higher rate of sustainability. For instance, 62 per cent of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35 per cent for other new businesses. After ten years, the figures are 44 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

**Whereas:** Collectively-owned community enterprises create economic democracy, root ownership locally, distribute profits equitably, and often create jobs and services in communities where they are otherwise lacking.

**Whereas:** Various financing models catered to local contexts are succeeding in supporting CED initiatives across Canada. Some include the mobilization of individuals as investors and the provision of equity investments with financial incentives. A 2013 report by CCEDNet Manitoba analyzes the need for the CED Tax Credit and provides the recommendations below.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has created the CED Tax Credit that has been successfully used to support approximately one dozen community enterprises around Manitoba, with investments of approximately \$2.25 million as of 2012, and there is more opportunity to facilitate more private investment in community initiatives.

**Whereas:** There is insufficient support for community groups to apply for the Manitoba CED Tax Credit. There is also insufficient education and promotion of the CED Tax Credit such that most co-op, community and economic developers in Manitoba are unaware of its existence and potential.

**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba strengthen the Manitoba CED Tax Credit by:

- A. Streamlining and simplifying the application process for CED Tax Credit status, removing unnecessary administrative challenges, and ensuring the responsible office is positioned in an appropriate government department with sufficient capacity and expertise.
- B. Creating and implementing marketing tools in consultation with industry stakeholders to ensure community enterprises know the steps required to effectively apply for CED Tax Credit status as well as to sell shares.
- C. Supporting a central resource housed in the cooperative community to champion the CED Tax Credit, through public promotion, applicant support and increasing capacity within the community economic development network.
- D. Developing a strategy and tools to educate and train co-op developers, existing cooperatives in Manitoba, economic development officers and others involved in business and co-op development in Manitoba to ensure that they are confident in using and supporting the use of the CED Tax Credit model.
- E. Create additional tax incentives for investment term renewals after five and ten years to further encourage investing in community enterprises.

**How this Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba supports ongoing direct lobbying and advocacy from members to the provincial government to strengthen the CED Tax Credit.

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## 2020-5 Renewing the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy

**Mover:** BUILD Inc.

**Whereas:** Social enterprises grow local and fair economies by strategically using a business model that blends and values both social and financial impact. In social enterprises, surplus revenue is reinvested into the mission of the business, and the focus is on realizing social or environmental outcomes such as the creation of jobs for people facing barriers to employment, providing community services not served by traditional markets, growing green economy products and services, or generating revenue for non-profits. Since 2018, there hasn't been a consistent provincial approach to government relations or support for this impactful and ready-to-grow economic model.

**Whereas:** This model is innovative and is proving to have social and economic value in a number of communities across Manitoba as evidenced by several SROI and evaluative reports. Social enterprises are contributing to economic growth, providing opportunities for training and employment to people who might otherwise not be able to find decent work, and are filling gaps in the market in often excluded communities. These businesses make a unique impact in communities, and ensure value created is reinvested in communities. However, social enterprises have unique development and financing challenges as well as a unique relationship with the public sector, because of the blend between social and/or environmental impact and business practices.

**Whereas:** Social Enterprise is a common and increasingly favourable model for building local and fair economies. It is adaptable, responsive to community need and assets, and typically collectively owned. Providing resources for overall sector development that are informed by evidence, co-designed and implemented by both community and government stakeholders, and aligned with emerging strategies in other jurisdictions is an effective and efficient way that the Government of Manitoba can support this model. A new phase of the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (MSES) can immediately build on previous work and ready the sector to capture emerging resources from other sectors and government jurisdictions.

**Whereas:** Across Canada, governments are recognizing social enterprise impacts and needs, and are developing strategic approaches to help this model grow and increase impact. While there have been some supportive programs or initiatives in Manitoba, these continue to be piecemeal and incomplete, with waning support and consistently changing government stakeholders and priorities. For instance, the original MSES, developed collaboratively with government and community stakeholders in 2014 and financially resourced over 2015-2018, had inconsistent government staff involvement, a reduced budget in the final year, and eventually was not renewed at the end of the first phase of activity. At the same time, commitments to social procurement and social finance have been variable, and the government's economic development approach has been changing rapidly.

**Whereas:** The Government of Manitoba has indicated through its Ministerial Mandate Letters and several overarching statements that it is interested in innovation, effective practice, streamlined economic development approaches, and teamwork. Several existing strategies note social enterprise as a possible approach, including Look North. The emerging "Renewing the Non Profit Sector" strategy is partly focused on fundraising and capacity building models for non-profits, which is one intention of the social enterprise model. Concurrently, the Federal Government is developing a Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy that heavily features social enterprise and will include a Social Finance Fund. The local sector will struggle to leverage those opportunities without well-

organized and resourced local development supports. The MSES was an emerging initiative that was working well to prepare the sector for growth, connect sector leaders and relevant government stakeholders, pilot development tools, and document sector needs and a renewed commitment to this approach can ensure the sector is able to capture and leverage opportunity for greater impact in Manitoba communities.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Government of Manitoba immediately commit to supporting the social enterprise sector by supporting a Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy. This should include:

- A. 5 years of funding of at least \$200,000 / year
- B. a co-creation model with a government & sector decision-making body, ability to adjust work plans annually with sector-engagement, and strategy management by CCEDNet Manitoba
- C. a set of sector development activities planned using sector-engagement and the 6 pillars of social enterprise development (skills & capacity, markets, finance, impact measurement, regulatory environment changes, and sector network development)
- D. opportunities to undertake research to further document the sector's needs and current state

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba will work with members of the social enterprise community to advance this resolution, including We Want to Work, the Social Finance Working Group, and a range of academics and developers working in this field.

## 2020-6 Strengthening Manitoba's Co-op Sector

**Mover:** Manitoba Cooperative Association

**Whereas:** There are over 275 cooperatives, credit unions and caisses populaires in Manitoba, comprising of over 1,000,000 memberships. Cooperatives account for 3% of all jobs in Manitoba, and contribute 3.2% to Manitoba's GDP. Additionally, in 2010 Manitoba cooperatives paid over \$500 million in taxes. Cooperatives are a more sustainable business model given their collective ownership and community commitment; 62 per cent of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35 per cent for other new businesses. After 10 years, the figures are 44 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

**Whereas:** Cooperatives create economic democracy, root ownership locally, distribute profits equitably and often create jobs and services in communities where they are otherwise lacking.

**Whereas:** Supporting and strengthening the cooperative sector is required to achieve positive results for our economy and our communities.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has supported co-op development and has successfully partnered with the cooperative sector. Evidence of co-construction and co-implementation of good policy, public education, and co-op development, including under the Co-op Visioning Strategy, has been present in Manitoba.

**Whereas:** This strategic action plan for co-op development is most effectively rolled out through the sufficiently resourced co-implementation of its vision, policy and action plans.

**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba commits to strengthening the co-op community by mobilizing resources and developing new resources in full partnership with the co-op sector through the co-creation and co-implementation of policy to best serve the co-op development needs of Manitoba.

**How this Resolution will be Advanced:** The Manitoba Cooperative Association remains the lead on co-op education and advocacy work in Manitoba. CCEDNet Manitoba members are encouraged to support the work of the MCA and support the cooperative sector as a crucial part of Community Economic Development.



## 2020-7 Procurement for Community Benefit

### Mover: North End Community Renewal Corporation

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba, Manitoba municipalities and the broader public sector (including crown corporations, hospitals, academia and schools) purchase significant amounts of goods and services. Social procurement is the practice of using existing purchasing to promote social, environmental, and cultural goals. There are multiple policy tools for social procurement that are already working in other jurisdictions, including other Canadian provinces, cities, and municipalities.

**Whereas:** The value of public procurement can be greatly enhanced by intentionally generating economic, social and environmental outcomes. This can be done using the following three tools, or a blend of each:

- Purchasing the social, environmental and economic outcomes directly as a program (for instance, funding a social enterprise as a training program that also provides goods and services to government)
- Creating set-asides in purchasing that can only be accessed by social enterprises, cooperatives and/or non-profits.
- Demanding social, environmental and economic outcomes when purchasing goods and services by including them in the bid evaluation process, through tools such as Community Benefits Agreements

**Whereas:** Social enterprises, cooperatives and non-profits use a business model to generate community benefits: employment, reduced poverty, environmental sustainability, reduced crime, improved health outcomes and more inclusive, strong, and sustainable local economies. Social or direct purchasing acquires goods and services for operations directly from community social enterprises that are dedicated to serving their social, economic, and environmental purposes. Social Purchasing is the easiest and most effective means of supporting these enterprises' community benefits through sole-source purchasing when permitted and using a set-aside program. Experienced jurisdictions have shown that social procurement works best when purchasers and suppliers collaborate to achieve the goal of providing successful employment opportunities for barriered individuals, and then collaboratively identify goods and services social enterprises can provide.

**Whereas:** One exceptional example is Manitoba Housing's use of social enterprise for the construction, maintenance and energy efficiency retrofits on Manitoba's affordable housing stock. This practice has created jobs for people facing barriers and has begun to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. At the same time, energy efficiency retrofits have decreased the financial burden of rising energy bills to social housing providers and low-income households, while enhancing the sustainability of our environment. There is an immediate, attainable and cost-effective opportunity to scale these outcomes.

**Whereas:** Another example of social procurement could be when the broader public sector purchases significant amounts of food for its institutions and food services. This purchasing can be leveraged to strengthen the Manitoba economy while improving health outcomes and environmental sustainability. Yet another example is the pilot program already in place between the City of Winnipeg and Mother Earth Recycling, where up to 8000 mattresses and box springs are collected for recycling, while supporting a local, Indigenous-owned social enterprise with multiple social, economic, and environmental outcomes.

**Whereas:** When policy prevents sole-sourcing or contracts are too large for social enterprises, Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) have been a successful instrument for increasing the social impact of procurement. CBAs are pre-determined and defined social value outcomes that will be delivered as part of a significant infrastructure or land development project like building a bridge, a road, school, hospital, office tower, or transit system. Through a CBA, the community, government, and developer agree upon some social value deliverables. Examples of deliverables are job training, target hiring, prevailing wages, purchasing from local businesses and social enterprises, affordable housing requirements, street and neighborhood revitalization, and inclusion of community infrastructure. CBAs expand the value considered in request for proposals (RFPs) by broadening evaluation criteria to include social, environmental and economic outcomes. While not applicable to every tender, this practice can bring benefits to government procurement, including strong private sector contribution to the community and better value for spending. A community benefit can be evaluated just as any other deliverable in a contract would be, although it can take more resources to quantify community benefit than traditional deliverables. When used, CBAs have generally accounted for 5-15% of an RFPs evaluation matrix, along with traditional criteria such as price, speed, quality, and track record.

**Whereas:** Social purchasing is a growing international practice as it is an effective policy tool to achieve multiple economic and social outcomes, and a strong return on investment. Returns on investment from social procurement, including from the impact of social enterprises, cooperatives, and non-profits are high. There can be significant cost reductions in crime, savings in health care and emergency costs, reduced strain on social assistance systems, and higher employment in the community - all of which contributes to vibrant and sustainable communities with high quality of life.

**Whereas:** For government, social procurement meets expectations of financial prudence by leveraging government dollars already within the budget to simultaneously fulfil a procurement need as well as contribute to governmental social and environmental objectives. Social procurement can also help government fulfill other objectives, including contributing to the goals of poverty reduction strategies, or supporting Call to Action #92 of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, ensuring equitable access to employment for Indigenous communities.

**Whereas:** Trade agreements allow for social procurement, with robust articles supporting the practice. For example, the Canada Free Trade Agreement between the provinces has articles that enable social procurement, particularly for legitimate objectives such as employment for disadvantaged groups or positive social outcomes.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba municipalities and the broader public sector implement Social Procurement policies into all government procurement regulations, including using the following three tools or a blend of each:

- A. Community Benefits Agreements, assigning 10% of the selection value to community benefits provisions for future projects, particularly considering benefits such as increased purchasing from social enterprises, cooperatives, and non-profits; increased job and training opportunities for people facing barriers to employment.
- B. Set asides in purchasing that can only be accessed by social enterprises, cooperatives and/or non-profits.
- C. Purchasing the social, environmental and economic outcomes directly as a program (for instance, funding a social enterprise as a training program that also provides goods and services to government)

**How this Resolution will be Advanced:** At the City of Winnipeg level, the We Want to Work group of workforce integration social enterprises, allies, and supported by CCEDNet Manitoba is leading work on advocacy for a city social procurement policy and direct purchasing from social enterprises. CCEDNet Manitoba takes a lead with members and other partners on advocating for provincial social procurement adoption.

## 2020-8 Living/Minimum Wage for all Manitobans

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

**Whereas:** A living wage is the amount needed for a household to meet its basic needs, taking into account government transfers and deductions. It sets a higher test for quality of life than the minimum wage by reflecting what earners in a family really need to earn based on the actual costs of living.

**Whereas:** Government programs and services such as Rent Assist, child benefits, subsidized child care and affordable public transit play an important role in calculating a living wage. The more generous these government policies and programs are, the less a family requires in wages to achieve a decent standard of living. For example, the provision of universal child care lowers the effective living wage rate. It is incumbent, therefore, on employers to lobby government to provide such services.

**Whereas:** The living wage in Winnipeg for a family of four with two parents working full time was \$15.53/hour in 2017.

**Whereas:** The living wage alleviates severe financial stress for families by helping to lift them out of poverty and providing a basic level of economic security. Research has shown that paying a living wage has concrete benefits for employers including: reduced absenteeism; increased skill, morale and productivity levels; improved customer satisfaction; and enhanced employer reputations.

**Whereas:** Women are more likely than men to be living in poverty, earning less pay for equal work, working for minimum wage, and making less than \$15/hour. A living wage would help reduce the wage gap and lift women out of poverty, especially Indigenous women, racialized women, and women living with disabilities, who are overrepresented in the Province's poverty statistics.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities have a significant connection with a large number of workers in Manitoba. However not all government employees, either those directly employed or those working for companies that sell goods and services to government, receive a living wage.

**Whereas:** 140 US cities and a number of municipalities in the United Kingdom have implemented a living wage. New Westminster, BC was the first Canadian city to implement a living wage policy. Recently the City of Vancouver launched a plan to implement a living wage and Quesnel, BC implemented a living wage policy. Both Vancouver's plan and Quesnel's policy include the companies they contract out to. In Manitoba, the Assiniboine Credit Union has adopted a living wage policy that applies to its employees.

**Whereas:** Paying a living wage is voluntary. By adopting a living wage policy, governments can demonstrate leadership and set an example for other employers in the private sector to emulate on a voluntary basis. This is a different approach compared to the minimum wage, which creates a mandatory 'floor' that every business is legally required to meet. Efforts to raise the minimum wage to at least a living wage are an important part of the discussion about how to end working poverty.

**Whereas:** From 1999 - 2015 the minimum wage was increased a small amount every October 1st. October 1st, 2016 was the first time in nearly two decades that the minimum wage was not increased. The minimum wage is still not high enough to bring full-time minimum wage workers to the poverty line, according to the Low-Income Cut Off - Before Tax (LICO-BT). Single-parent households are much more likely to live in poverty compared to households with two-parents and two children. Predictable increases to the minimum wage to a level that will bring single-parent households above the poverty line will also close the gap for one-person households and for households with two parents and two children. Predictable increases to the minimum wage ensures that businesses have an opportunity to plan for meeting those increases.

**Whereas:** Tax measures are needed to assist lower income earners. However, increases to the basic personal income tax exemption, which provide minimum benefit, should not be viewed as an alternative to increasing the minimum wage. The recent increase to the basic personal income tax exemption will provide the lowest income earners with an additional \$16 annually, compared to an additional \$400 that would come from a basic inflationary-adjusted increase to the minimum wage. Minimum wage workers spend their money in the local economy so regular increases to the minimum wage also produce greater benefit to our local economy. Further, the cumulative effect of increasing the basic personal exemption impacts all tax brackets and results in a loss of much needed tax revenue to pay for public services that all Manitobans rely on.

**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities adopt a Living Wage Policy co-constructed with community stakeholders to ensure their employees and contracted services are paid at least a living wage.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba incrementally increase the minimum wage through a series of pre-announced steps to the LICO-BT for a one-parent, one child household, and index annually to the LICO-BT.

**How this Resolution will be Advanced:** One of Make Poverty History Manitoba's six priority areas is focused on minimum wage and fulfilling this resolution, particularly the second Be it Resolve clause. Other community groups or organizations that are organizing around this issue are \$15 and Fairness Manitoba, the Manitoba Federation of Labour provincially, and CUPE 500 for the City of Winnipeg.

## 2020-9 Affordable & Social Housing

### Mover: Right to Housing Coalition

**Whereas:** Although vacancy rates in many Manitoba cities are creeping up, places like Brandon, Steinbach, and Winkler continue to have low vacancy rates and many Manitobans continue to experience a housing crisis as vacancy rates for affordable units in the private market are few and far between. Far too many households spend 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 (until recently) have, over the past 40 years, slowed the creation of social and affordable rental housing. Our existing stock is eroding through aging, demolition, asset sales, expiring federal operating agreements and conversion to condominium, and is not being adequately replaced. 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, persons living with mental health challenges or mental illness, newcomers, women, trans people, Two Spirit people, gender non-conforming people, and Indigenous people). The Province of Manitoba has increased rents for people living in social housing from 25% of the household's income to 30%.

**Whereas:** New housing construction is needed to accommodate the distinct needs of specific demographics. Women experiencing domestic violence or sexualized violence and exploitation require housing that is designed to optimize their safety, and that is accompanied by trauma-informed supports. Persons with disabilities require housing built to high standards of accessibility. People experiencing homelessness require access to housing with tenancy supports. Youth aging out of the child welfare system require transitional housing with supports that enable them to move into permanent affordable housing. Many large low-income families, including Indigenous, immigrant, and refugee families who live with extended family and friends, require housing with three or more bedrooms. Indigenous Peoples, immigrant, and refugee families also require housing that is appropriate to cultural needs. All of these housing types are in short supply.

**Whereas:** Social and 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:** All three levels of government have to play a role in affordable and social housing. The Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg can be proactive in working with the federal government as it implements and funds its national housing strategy.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba can add to the supply of social and affordable housing through new builds and new subsidies, however, it has no current commitment to increase supply. Rent Assist continues to be available to support low-income Manitobans in private rental housing although cuts since 2016 have eroded the program, making fewer people eligible and reducing benefit amounts for some existing program participants. The Province can also help build the capacity of community organizations to take advantage of funding opportunities to create new social housing. Ongoing

investments in addressing expiring federal operating agreements as well as in capital repairs and maintenance in public housing units are needed to preserve the existing stock. However, the Province of Manitoba has reduced annual expenditures from a high of \$120M in 2015/16 to \$25M in 2018/19. Public housing tenants require access to resources and opportunities (e.g. mental health services, literacy training, job training, education and childcare) that enable them to maintain their tenancy, meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg passed the Housing Policy Implementation Plan in 2014. It 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 supporting neighbourhood renewal and 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. The Housing Policy Implementation Plan will expand access to funding for other neighbourhoods. Significant increases to the HRIR allocation are required to ensure the City has sufficient capacity to support neighbourhood renewal and affordable housing development.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has developed two documents that direct it to be more proactive in housing and that 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:** The City has senior staff and City Council representation on the board of the autonomous Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation (WHRC), which develops, renovates, owns, and manages affordable housing primarily in Winnipeg's inner city.

**Whereas:** The City of Brandon 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 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 the City of Winnipeg:**

- A. Supports Provincial and National affordable housing initiatives by using the planning, regulatory and financial tools and powers at its disposal to support affordable rental housing and social housing.
- B. 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%.
- D. The City should provide the WHRC with a stronger mandate and increased resources to bring multiple levels of government together to initiate and coordinate the funding and development of new affordable and social housing options throughout Winnipeg.

**Be It Resolved That the Province of Manitoba:**

- A. 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.
- B. The Province of Manitoba invests in 300 net new social and affordable units built by the public, non-profit, and co-op sectors annually, including transitional and permanent supportive housing. New units should be built in a variety of neighbourhoods to offer choice, and near essential services.
- C. The Province of Manitoba continues to make Rent Assist available to low-income Manitobans on and off of EIA and return the regulatory formula for deductible levels to pre-2017 numbers for all Rent Assist recipients.
- D. The Province of Manitoba ensures there is no net loss of social housing as a result of asset sales, expiring federal operating agreements, and deferred capital repairs. Investments of at least \$130M are needed to meet the estimated need for capital repairs and maintenance in public housing units by 2020.
- E. The Province of Manitoba ensure that all Manitoba Housing tenants have access to tenant-driven resource centres that offer comprehensive supports either on site or nearby.
- F. The Province of Manitoba builds the capacity of non-profit and co-op 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. Create a new joint Community Housing Fund accepting contributions from all levels of government and the private sector, to create a pool of capital for new construction and housing retrofits to meet standards for safety, water, and energy efficiency of non-profit social housing and co-ops. The fund could also be supported by development fees and density/inclusionary zoning differential fees or off set fees.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba will work with the Right to Housing Coalition in advancing this policy resolution.



## 2020-10 Ending Gender-Based Homelessness

**Mover:** West Central Women's Resource Centre

**Whereas:** Women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people face unique pathways to homelessness, including gender-based violence, over-representation in low income, Child and Family Services involvement, and a lack of trauma-informed services. According to Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg, women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg are:

- Less likely to be staying in a homeless shelter because they feel unsafe there, and more likely to experience "hidden homelessness";
- More likely to be Indigenous and/or identify as 2SLGBTQ+;
- More likely to experience physical and/or sexual violence.

**Whereas:** Mainstream services and programs that address homelessness are largely based around the experiences of men. Without an intersectional gender-based analysis of homelessness, the unique pathways into homelessness and needs of women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people will not be fully addressed, and homelessness will never be eliminated. It is essential to ensuring no one is left out of our collective work to end homelessness. We have no time to lose.

**Whereas:** Gender-based homelessness needs to be a priority for all levels of government and community-based organizations, because together we can prevent women, trans, Two-Spirit and gender non-conforming individuals from falling through the cracks.

**Whereas:** Ending homelessness must be a priority for all levels of government. While the Federal Government developed a National Housing Strategy using a GBA+, it fails to address root causes of gender-based homelessness. The Province of Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy also falls short on the immediate and comprehensive action that is needed to end homelessness. Winnipeg has End Homelessness Winnipeg to guide them, but need to also adopt Connecting the Circle if they really want to see an end to homelessness.

**Whereas:** The recommendations in Connecting the Circle were developed in partnership with women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness. They are holistic and address the multitude of barriers this population faces with regards to program/policy design and delivery, gender-based violence, housing and the shelter system, income security, substance use, the justice system, CFS, health, and preventing system exits to homelessness. These recommendations fit neatly into several CED Guiding Principles:

- Long term employment of local residents
- Local skill development
- Local decision making
- Public health
- Neighborhood stability
- Human dignity

**Whereas:** Working towards an understanding of gender-based homelessness relates clearly to three CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map themes:

- Ending Poverty: Women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people are over-represented in low-income statistics not only in Winnipeg but across Canada. To end poverty, we must end gender-based homelessness, and vice-versa.
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access: An intersectional gender-based analysis of homelessness highlights the traditionally marginalized voices of women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people. Including these voices helps to increase the diversity, equity, and accessibility of programs and policies designed to end homelessness.
- Directing Our Own Future: Connecting the Circle was developed in partnership with women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness. They are directing their own future through this strategy and its implementation.

**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba and all Manitoba municipalities adopt and implement the recommendations from *Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba and its members adopt and implement the recommendations from *Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*.

**How the Resolutions will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba will support the efforts of Connecting the Circle - who will take the lead in the implementation of the recommendations as long as funding allows - by informing and advocating to their members and governments.

## 2020-11 Livable Basic Needs Benefit as a part of a Comprehensive Poverty Reduction Plan

**Mover:** Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

**Whereas:** Far too many Manitobans continue to live with inadequate incomes and face multiple barriers, which impacts their health and wellbeing, and prevents their full participation in the community. Indigenous people, newcomers, people with a disability, people who experience mental illness, single parents, seniors, women, trans people, Two Spirit people, and gender non-conforming people are more likely to live in poverty.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba passed The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act in 2011 and an updated Pathways to a Better Future: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy was launched in 2019, which included a suite of 13 indicators to track progress.

**Whereas:** A comprehensive and integrated approach must be taken to effectively address the multiple and inter-related causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion. Such an approach is outlined in The View from Here 2015, a community-based poverty reduction plan for Manitoba that was endorsed by more than 100 organizations. It calls for investments in food security, childcare, housing, job training, wages, income supports, education, mental health and other social services.

**Whereas:** Make Poverty History Manitoba (MPHM) is a collaborative coalition working for the elimination of poverty in Manitoba. It is leading a campaign based on community consultation that among six main policy priorities, is calling on the Province of Manitoba to ensure that Manitoba's comprehensive poverty reduction plan include an increase to the basic needs benefit in Budget 2020.

**Whereas:** EIA's basic needs budget has barely increased in two decades while the cost of living has gone up by more than 40 percent. Single adults and persons with mental or physical disabilities on EIA have not been supported as much as families, and live in deep poverty with total incomes that equal 53% and 68% of the poverty line, respectively.

**Whereas:** Replacing EIA's basic needs budget with a new and enhanced portable benefit for low-income Manitobans, on and off EIA, could bring the total incomes of all Manitobans to at least 75% of the poverty line. This enhanced benefit would target single adults and persons with a physical or mental disability as families already have total incomes above 75% of the poverty line.

**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba increase the basic needs benefit through a new and enhanced portable benefit for people on and off EIA, as part of a comprehensive provincial poverty reduction plan.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** The Make Poverty History Manitoba coalition's Livable Basic Needs Benefit campaign will advance this resolution throughout the year. A chapter on Employment & Income Assistance will be included in the 2020 Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba Alternative Provincial Budget that details how this enhanced portable benefit would work. CCEDNet Manitoba is encouraged to advance this campaign at every available opportunity and encourage CCEDNet Manitoba members to consider endorsing the campaign.

## 2020-12 Monitoring and Investigating Tax Rebate Discounters

**Mover:** SEED Winnipeg Inc.

**Whereas:** Income tax refunds and benefits accessed through the personal income tax system play a significant role in stabilizing the income of low-income households. Community-based agencies have partnered with Canada Revenue Agency and the Province of Manitoba to assist low-income Manitobans to file personal income tax returns through the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). Two of these agencies, SEED Winnipeg and Community Financial Counselling Services, and our community partners support low-income community members to access over \$40 million in tax refunds and related benefits each year.

**Whereas:** Private sector tax preparers also file personal income tax returns for low-income community members. The Government of Canada and the Province of Manitoba allow some of these tax preparers, who register as “tax rebate discounters,” to charge a legislated fee to provide a tax refund prior to filing a return. In exchange for receiving what is commonly known as a same-day or instant refund, clients pay a fee of up to 15% of their tax refund. This fee is specified in the Income Tax Act (Manitoba) and the Tax Rebate Discounting Act (Canada).

**Whereas:** Tax rebate discounters have statutory obligations to register with the Province of Manitoba Department of Finance, to maintain records, and to provide an annual report to the Department of Finance on tax refunds acquired in the previous year. However, data regarding the number of registered tax rebate discounters and the number of tax returns acquired is not readily available from the Department of Finance.

**Whereas:** The provincial Department of Finance has the statutory authority to monitor and investigate tax rebate discounters under the Income Tax Act (Manitoba), Part IV, and the Tax Rebate Discounting Regulation (Manitoba). However, the level of resources that the provincial Department of Finance has allocated towards monitoring and investigating tax rebate discounters is unclear. For instance, tax rebate discounting is not mentioned in the three most recent annual reports from Manitoba Finance.

**Whereas:** Community members and community-based agencies have reported that tax rebate discounters have been acquiring income tax returns from low-income community members in November and December for the following year. Moreover, community members have reported that tax rebate discounters have assumed a role as their authorized representative with Canada Revenue Agency and have acquired and filed income tax returns for subsequent tax years without their express consent. It is unclear whether these practices comply with provincial and federal legislation and regulations on tax rebate discounting.

**Whereas:** Public data on tax rebate discounting is required to understand the extent of tax rebate discounting among low-income Manitobans and to assess whether further regulation, investigation, and monitoring is necessary to protect low-income Manitobans.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada support community-based agencies and volunteers to file income tax refunds for low-income community members free of charge. Access to data on the use of tax rebate discounters would enable government and

community-based agencies to more efficiently allocate resources to communities with the greatest level of need and allow for better targeting of free community-based tax filing services.

**Whereas:** Further regulation and monitoring of tax rebate discounters could decrease the high costs that some low-income Manitobans pay to access their income tax refunds and related benefits.

**Whereas:** This resolution fits within the Ending Poverty theme as it calls attention to a high-cost means of income tax filing with the aim to increase the share of tax refund income that flows to low-income Manitobans.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba Department of Finance publicly and regularly report on the extent of tax rebate discounting in Manitoba, including a list of registered tax rebate discounters and the number of tax refunds acquired each year. Released data should be anonymous but disaggregated to enable analysis by household income level, geography (forward sortation area), and month of filing.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba Department of Finance ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to monitor, investigate, and regulate tax rebate discounters.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** With the support of CCEDNet, Community Financial Counselling Services, and partner agencies, SEED Winnipeg will lead engagement with the Province of Manitoba to advance this resolution.

## 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

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

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



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.

## 2020-14 Composting and an Organics Disposal Ban for Winnipeg's Metropolitan Region

Mover: Green Action Centre

**Whereas:** In signing the Vancouver Declaration, Premier Pallister has committed Manitoba to implement greenhouse gas mitigation policies that meet or exceed Canada's 2030 target of a 30% reduction below 2005 levels of emissions. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that the global warming potential (GWP) of methane is 28-36 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period, and the GWP of nitrous oxide is nearly 300 times that of carbon dioxide.

**Whereas:** Manitoba's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases are Koch Fertilizer Plant and Brady Road Resource Management Facility. Chemical fertilizers release nitrous oxide into the atmosphere, and the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter in landfills releases methane into the atmosphere. Aerobic composting not only eliminates methane emissions, it creates a natural fertilizer that sequesters carbon from the atmosphere.

**Whereas:** Organics make up approximately 40% of Winnipeg's residential waste stream, but only an estimated 30% of Winnipeg households compost their organic waste. Winnipeg's waste diversion rate doubled from 17% to over 30% after the introduction of a yard waste collection program, but Winnipeg is still significantly below the waste reduction rates of other major Canadian cities. Per capita, Canadians are one of the highest waste-producing OECD countries, and Manitobans are the third highest waste producers in this country, exceeded only by Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**Whereas:** There is a strong correlation between provincial policies and municipal action when it comes to the management of organics. Nova Scotia has the lowest per capita waste generation rate among the Canadian provinces, thanks to a full organics ban introduced in 1998 that diverts all compostable material (including yard waste and food scraps) from the landfill. In the absence of a full provincial organics ban, a regional ban can provide crucial leadership without insisting that a one-size-fits-all approach can address the unique requirements for composting in northern regions of Manitoba.

**Whereas:** The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) includes 18 municipalities and represents roughly two-thirds of Manitoba's population. The WMR has identified two goals in its action plan that are directly compatible with an organics ban: i) implement programs and incentives that promote waste diversion, resource recovery, and composting, and ii) reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Whereas:** Winnipeg is the largest city in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, and the last city of its size in Canada without a residential composting program. In Manitoba, green bin programs exist in Brandon, Morden, Winkler, Carman, Morris, and Altona. Progress on implementing curbside organics collection in Winnipeg has been stalled multiple times, and these delays have indirect costs for taxpayers. Elected officials continue to suggest that composting is an optional route for disposal, rather than an urgent necessity for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba estimates that every 10,000 tonnes of organic waste composted instead of going to a landfill, will create seven new jobs. Approximately 87,140 tonnes of organic waste collected from residential sources in Winnipeg is sent to the Brady Road Landfill annually. As

long as composting organics remains optional, most businesses will continue to send compostable waste to the landfill. This discourages the development of composting businesses and social enterprises that can support municipalities by serving the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector. Implementing policies, funding and social procurement programs supportive of small businesses, social enterprises, and community initiatives that meet environmental, social and economic goals will encourage the growth of composting businesses and social enterprises within local economies.

**Whereas:** Local communities and businesses have been diverting organics from the Brady Road Resource Management Facility for at least 15 years, providing employment and improving community volunteerism, yet these efforts are rarely supported by provincial and municipal policies or funding. Requests for waste management proposals continue to rely on outside expertise, stunting the growth of local expertise within existing community and non-profit organizations, social enterprises and small businesses. Green Action Centre launched Compost Winnipeg in 2016 - a social enterprise offering organic waste collection services for residences, businesses, and multi-unit dwellings. The social enterprise is diverting organics from the landfill, providing local employment at a fair wage, and is improving community sustainability resources; demonstrating an example of what other social enterprises can form from supportive provincial and municipal policies or funding.

**Whereas:** Encouraging composting and an organics disposal ban fits within the Tackling Climate Change theme, particularly relating to ecological health through waste management. Organics management through composting is an important part of a CED agenda, reducing emissions while supporting fair, local economies, local job creation, and being an important part of Manitoba's just transition to a more sustainable future.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba announce a deadline of 2022 for a full organics disposal ban in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba support the transition to improved organics management by:

- A. Offering a financial incentive to approved transfer stations and facilities that compost organic material in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.
- B. Introducing and enforcing a phased fine for any organic material that is landfilled in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region after 2020, with an initial threshold of 25% organic matter landfilled and decreasing to 5% by 2023.
- C. Making municipal waste management plans that include the diversion and composting of organic materials mandatory for the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.
- D. Creating a provincial waste management plan that builds on the community expertise gathered in earlier government consultations.
- E. Implementing policies, funding and social procurement programs to support small businesses, social enterprises, and community initiatives that meet environmental, social and economic goals (i.e. diverting organics from landfills, improving community sustainability resources and providing local training and jobs).

**Be It Resolved That:** The City of Winnipeg approve a curbside composting pick up program for all residences across the City by:

- A. Reinstating Winnipeg's Waste Diversion Advisory Committee to review best practices and evaluate potential measures.
- B. Framing organics diversion as responsible waste management (like sewage treatment) to avoid negative environmental impacts and resource loss, not as an optional personal service. Evaluate proposals for their ability to divert organics, reduce GHGs and other impacts, and recover organic matter for beneficial use.
- C. Seeking federal and provincial green infrastructure funds to help with capital expenditures for a composting facility.
- D. Containing collection costs by reducing rather than increasing the number of home pickups as Toronto does (e.g. weekly green bin collection, and alternating biweekly recycling and garbage pickup).
- E. Taking advantage of the infrastructure and expertise that exists in this city (i.e. Master Composters, community composting sites, and non-profit organizations that coordinate such programs). Model this city's waste reduction efforts after the New York City Compost Project, where the Department of Sanitation uses volunteers and community compost bins to complement their municipal composting program.

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** Green Action Centre has been the leader working with the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba to attempt in moving this resolution forward. Green Action Centre has been coordinating responses to media inquiries and from the public, delivering presentations to City Council, and coordinating and participating in meetings related to a residential composting program, all while citing best practices and the information in the resolution above. CCEDNet members looking to support this resolution should contact Green Action Centre for information about getting involved.

## 2020-15 Reduced-Speed Residential Streets in Winnipeg

**Mover:** Green Action Centre

**Whereas:** The safety of vulnerable road users is a serious issue in Winnipeg, with roughly 12 pedestrians killed and 160 injured every year in Manitoba and 4 cyclists killed and 78 injured (MPI).

**Whereas:** Winnipeg is the most car-dependent of the 8 largest Canadian cities when it comes to residents living less than 5km from their workplaces choosing to drive. (Statistics Canada)

**Whereas:** Winnipeggers need better access to healthy, accessible, and safe transportation options to shift them away from relying on private cars.

**Whereas:** Car dependence is a major contributor to the current epidemic of physical inactivity and the climate crisis, both of which pose huge risks to community health and well-being:

- Safety concerns have pulled children from the streets and into cars and indoor environments, depriving them of active play opportunities they need to build community and resilience.
- Putting children at higher risk of, asthma, type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure, & depression.
- Residential vehicles are a major contributor to the climate crisis, representing the single largest source of Winnipeg's greenhouse gases emissions at 32.1% as of 2011

**Whereas:** Transportation injuries and deaths are an equity issue; vulnerable and marginalized people, including children and seniors, are disproportionately affected by unsafe streets as they are more likely than other demographics to be using non-car forms of transportation.

**Whereas:** Numerous authorities recognize the safety and health justification of lowering speed limits in residential areas:

- The World Health Organization:
  - "Setting and enforcing speed limits are two of the most effective measures in reducing road traffic injuries"
  - "...pedestrians have been shown to have a 90% chance of survival when struck by a car travelling at 30 km/h or below, but less than 50% chance of surviving an impact at 45 km/h."
  - "A safe speed on roads with possible conflicts between cars and pedestrians, cyclists or other vulnerable road users is 30 km/h."
- International Transport Forum of the OECD: "Where motorised vehicles and vulnerable road users share the same space, such as in residential areas, 30 km/h is the recommended maximum."

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has the power and the obligation to reduce the danger to pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users by setting speed limits consistent with the expected use of residential streets — low-traffic areas where children should be assumed to be playing outside, and people on bikes don't have protection from vehicles travelling at legal but deadly speeds.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg should reinforce reduced residential speed limits with traffic calming measures that result in slower vehicle speeds, of which there is a range of fast and affordable options, including:

- Adjustable Bike Lane Curbs (already piloted in Winnipeg for McDermot and Bannatyne Ave bike lanes)
- Staggered Parking, in which the side of the street where vehicles park is changed periodically to visually narrow the roadway (as used in Toronto)
- Temporary Traffic Calming Curbs (As used in Calgary to narrow roadways and reduce pedestrian crossing distances)

**Whereas:** Lowered speed limits combined with appropriate traffic calming will accelerate progress on numerous City of Winnipeg goals, opportunities, and key directions relating to transportation:

- Transportation Master Plan: “A safe and secure transportation system in which pedestrians, cyclists and motorists co-exist is also essential. In addition, ensuring equitable access to mobility and a high quality of life for all citizens, regardless of their personal ability level, requires universal access to the transportation system.”
- Climate Action Plan: “Key directions aim to directly shift residents out of single-occupancy vehicles through sustainable transportation options with lower or no emissions (walking, cycling, public transit, carshare, and carpooling)”
- Road Safety: “We want our roads to be a safe space for all users; when data, statistics, and incident reports indicate the need for change, we do everything we practicably can to make that change.”

**Whereas:** Safe, accessible, and healthy transportation allows everyone to participate fully in community life. Reduced speeds on residential streets will increase the safety and comfort of walking, cycling, and other active modes, thereby strengthening community health, creating opportunities for social interaction and leisure, and reducing our unsustainable use of fossil fuels.

**Be it resolved that:** The City of Winnipeg support safe, accessible, and healthy transportation options through:

- A. Adopting a city-wide default residential speed limit of 30 km/h for residential roads and 40 km/h for collector roads (i.e. the connectors between residential streets and arterial roads)
- B. Developing a strategy for quick-build traffic calming to facilitate cost-effective compliance with reduced speed limits, including but not limited to expanded use of adjustable bike lane curbs, temporary traffic calming curbs, and staggered parking.
- C. Streamlining and simplifying the process for implementing permanent traffic calming measures, such as curb extensions (to shorten crossing distances and improve pedestrian visibility), raised crosswalks/intersections, and median crossing islands

**How the Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet member organizations can support the reduced-speed residential streets in Winnipeg by writing and calling their city councillors endorsing safe residential speed limits through their own perspectives, and by connecting the Mover (Green Action Centre) with potential allies and supporters. Green Action Centre will assist by offering shareable



resources (fact sheets, precedents, etc.) to help increase general public support for city-wide default residential speed limits of 30 km/h and collector street speed limits of 40 km/h.

## **2019 - 1 Timely and Effective Implementation of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act***

**Mover: Patrick Falconer**

**Whereas:** Manitobans with disabilities face a multitude of barriers that prevent their full participation in the economy and in their communities in areas including education, job training, communications, housing, public and private transportation, health care and government services.

**Whereas:** The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, The Canadian Human Rights Act and The Manitoba Human Rights Code reflect an abiding commitment to equitable access for persons with disabilities as a basic human right.

**Whereas:** In October 2013, CCEDNet - Manitoba supported the call for strong and effective provincial accessibility-rights legislation in Manitoba given that existing laws, policies and mechanisms were unable to provide for the comprehensive prevention and removal of barriers.

**Whereas:** The Manitoba Legislature passed the landmark *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* by a unanimous vote of all members in December 2013 to provide for the comprehensive prevention and removal of barriers.

**Whereas:** Barrier Free Manitoba has called for the province to ensure the timely and effective implementation of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* that will meet the following nine principles:

- Cover all disabilities.
- Reflect a principled approach to accessibility that respects human rights enshrined in provincial, national and international law.
- Provide for the development and enactment of mandatory and date-specific standards in all major areas related to accessibility that:
- Apply to the governmental, private and not-for-profit sectors.
- Provide for the prevention and systemic removal of barriers at the earliest possible date.
- Establish, operate and report on proactive and comprehensive monitoring and enforcement of these standards.
- Incorporate and sustain ongoing leadership roles for the disability community, as well as meaningful and timely opportunities for consultations with all persons affected by disabilities.
- Be as transparent and open as the law allows, including the public availability of clear, accurate, complete, relevant and timely information on both process and outcomes.
- Provide for public accountability of progress and results.
- Provide for the completion and publication of an inclusive and independent review of the legislation and its implementation within four years of the passage of the legislation.
- Not diminish other legal and human rights protections.

**Whereas:** *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* establishes the Minister's responsibility for achieving significant progress toward achieving accessibility within the first decade following passage of the Act (by 2023) but does not establish date-specific requirements for measures beyond the tabling of plans and reports.



**Whereas:** CCEDNET previously approved a 2016 - 18 policy resolution in support of Barrier-Free Manitoba's call for the timely and effective implementation of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

**Whereas:** Only one of five promised accessibility standards was in force after almost five years of implementation and the province has missed many of its own date targets for progress.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet - Manitoba continue to support Barrier Free Manitoba's\* call for the timely and effective implementation of The Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

\*CCEDNet's support will extend to disability community representatives, beyond Barrier Free Manitoba, advocating for the Act's the timely and effective implementation.

## 2019 - 2 Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations

### Mover: North End Community Renewal Corporation

**Whereas:** Currently in Manitoba there are twelve neighbourhood renewal corporations (NRCs) coordinating community development and community economic development in urban and rural communities characterised by high levels of poverty and a number of other factors associated with older neighbourhoods and municipalities in need of revitalization. These include Thompson, Brandon, Flin Flon, The Pas, Selkirk, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie; and in Winnipeg, neighbourhoods including Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews, North End, Spence/Central, West Broadway, and Chalmers.

**Whereas:** NRCs coordinate, plan, and often implement strategies/programming impacting local affordable housing development, community safety, food security, green space development, recreation, healthy living, formal and community- based training, and more. The priorities of NRCs are set by the communities they serve; they are often anchor institutions within their respective communities, and operate as a key source of community social/ economic development, and community safety initiatives throughout Manitoba.

**Whereas:** A 2017 report on the collective impact of these organizations showed impressive outcomes since the program started in 2000. For instance, NRCs have collectively engaged nearly 560,000 community members - nearly half of the population of Manitoba. They have helped create 1226 jobs through direct employment, pre-employment volunteer opportunities, and training, social enterprise development and local procurement practice. Through NRC coordination, nearly \$9,000,000 has been invested in housing and nearly \$31,000,000 leveraged in affordable housing investment. Nearly \$900,000 has been strategically and effectively invested in community safety.

**Whereas:** NRCs receive core funding through the Neighbourhoods Alive! Neighbourhood Development Assistance (NDA) fund within the Province of Manitoba Ministry of Municipal Relations. In 2010, the evaluation of the NA! Program found that the NDA funding contributed greatly to improved coordination of community revitalization efforts. However, issues related to safety, economic hardship, and lack of affordable housing continue to affect these and other Manitoba communities. Funding aimed at solving these challenges should be adequate to meet the needs of existing NRCs and any new funding allocated should be consistent with existing NRCs.

**Whereas:** NRCs leverage their stable, core funding from NDA to access additional public, philanthropic, and private funding, they work across sectors, engaging small and medium-sized enterprises, and they streamline some administrative services to reduce overhead costs while focusing their fundraising efforts on program delivery.

**Whereas:** The funding available through the NDA has not changed significantly since inception of this program, despite rising costs. Moreover, many activities now also considered core and ongoing by NRCs are funded instead through NA!'s Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and many of these are now included in the NRCs Non-Profit Organization (NPO) Strategy multi-year agreements. This use of the NRF in particular leaves less funding available for new and emerging projects by NRCs and other eligible community organizations.

**Whereas:** The Premier of Manitoba mandated the Minister of Municipal Relations, through the October 2018 mandate letters, to focus on "renewing the delivery of our community development

programs to promote community capacity and sustainability, focus on outcomes, and enhanced community partnerships that best serve the needs of neighbourhoods, communities and vulnerable Manitobans.”

**Be It Resolved:** that the Province of Manitoba renew its community development programs; both honouring long-term, core funding commitments to Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations and considering potential administrative increases to NDA funding as well as integration of long-term, effective NRF funded NRC programs into NDA agreements.

**Be It Further Resolved:** that the Province of Manitoba maintain the NRF, enabling more organizational stability and sustainability, continued ability to leverage additional community development funds, and the building of community capacity by NRCs and other eligible community organizations in designated communities.

**Be It Further Resolved:** that the Province of Manitoba recognize the role that NRCs play as anchor institutions within Manitoban communities by reducing red-tape within Provincial funding streams, renewing reporting and outcome measuring mechanisms in collaboration with NRCs, and making application processes less burdensome.

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## 2019 - 3 Winnipeg-based Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations

**Mover:** Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association

**Whereas:** Currently there are six neighbourhood renewal corporations (NRCs) doing neighbourhood revitalization work in Winnipeg communities (Central, Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews, North End, Spence, West Broadway, Chalmers). NRCs coordinate and plan Community Development (CD) and Community Economic Development (CED) in communities with high incidences of poverty. NRCs coordinate local affordable housing development, community safety, food security, green space development, recreation, healthy living, formal and community-based education on CD and CED, coordination and planning, plus more. The priorities of NRCs are set by the communities they serve.

**Whereas:** NRCs are funded by Neighbourhoods Alive! through the Neighbourhood Development Assistance (NDA) fund within the Province of Manitoba Ministry of Housing and Community Development. Through the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve, the City of Winnipeg funds \$1 million annually to housing programs and activities (e.g. neighbourhood housing plans and coordinators, repair and rehabilitation) that build community capacity and invest in Winnipeg's housing stock.

**Whereas:** The work of the NRCs advances CED principles and works to reduce poverty by building community capacity and empowering communities to revitalize these priority neighbourhoods, towns and cities. The last completed evaluation of the NA! program in 2010 found that NDA funding contributed "greatly" to improved coordination of neighbourhood revitalization efforts. However, the evaluation found that the original neighbourhoods included in the NA! program continue to experience issues related to safety, economic hardship and lack of affordable housing and that neighbourhood revitalization work is still needed.

**Whereas:** In 2011, the City of Winnipeg approved the OurWinnipeg plan that outlines land use and development activities for 25 years. The City currently undertakes planning activities for the neighbourhoods served by NRCs and described as Reinvestment Areas. OurWinnipeg outlines its goals for Reinvestment and Vitality to: deliver a coordinated integrated, and seamless service response to address community needs and priorities that contribute to building healthy communities, and to work in partnership with communities to identify and address neighbourhood issues.

**Whereas:** NRCs undertake extensive, consultative five-year planning processes for these neighbourhoods, and implement activities that align and overlap with OurWinnipeg goals, such as safety and crime prevention, housing, community economic development, transportation, environmental sustainability, recreation, diversity and inclusion and creativity, but are often not recognized by the City's planning processes.

**Whereas:** The Winnipeg Without Poverty community report recommends that the City of Winnipeg provide core funding to Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations to support community-led efforts toward implementing OurWinnipeg, as an important step in achieving a Winnipeg without poverty. This community plan has received traction from political and civil service actors at the municipal level, and steps toward a municipal poverty reduction plan are in place.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the City of Winnipeg to acknowledge that the NRCs are well situated to take a leading role in implementing OurWinnipeg in their neighbourhoods and to provide core funding to NRCs to help achieve the goals in the plan.

## 2019 - 4 On-street Parking for Carshare Vehicles

### Mover: Peg City Car Co-op

**Whereas:** Peg City Car Co-op is the only carshare operator in Winnipeg, with over 30 vehicles and 1200 members. With carsharing providing more mobility options, and reducing vehicles on the road by 15-20 for every carshare vehicles in operation. Peg City Car Co-op currently relies on private parking arrangements to expand its fleet, which is a barrier to expansion, increases operating costs and is a hindrance to optimal fleet utilization.

**Whereas:** Providing on street parking is the national and global standard for carshare operators. Carsharing is a form of public transportation and should be recognized as such by the City of Winnipeg. By allowing on street parking, Peg City Car Co-op will have fewer barriers to expand, which means more growth and a reduction of private vehicles on city roads.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg needs to amend its policies and/or by-law to allow designated or free-floating on street parking for carshare operators. And where other co-operatives can support another co-operative in its endeavour to improve carsharing policy in Winnipeg.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has committed to creating more sustainable communities within OurWinnipeg and other guiding documents.

**Whereas:** Peg City Car Co-op is a locally owned carshare company that provides alternatives to private automobile ownership, creating better mobility options, and saving individuals money. Carsharing allows people to use other modes of transport, while still having access to a vehicle from time to time.

**Whereas:** Carsharing data shows that for every carshare vehicle, 15-20 vehicles are taken off the road and that on average individuals reduce the amount of kilometres driven in an automobile, which reduces congestion and pollution.

**Whereas:** The average consumer spends \$8,000 a year on private automobile ownership, of which 80% leaves the local economy. The average carshare member spends \$1,500 a year on usage, which means potentially increased spending in the local economy and in the co-operative sector.

**Be it Resolved That:** The City of Winnipeg amend its policies and/or by-laws to implement an on-street parking program for carshare operators, which will promote the expansion of carsharing in Winnipeg.

## 2019 - 5 Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation

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

**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. 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. 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 2009 and implement the outstanding recommendations. The Poverty Reduction Act requires the province to update its poverty reduction plan every five years and currently the province is overdue on this requirement by 1.5 years.

**Whereas:** Over 100 organizations endorsed The View from Here 2015: Manitobans call for a renewed poverty reduction plan, a comprehensive community-based plan, updated from the original 2009 report, which includes priority recommendations for the provincial government.

**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:** Over 100 organizations endorsed Winnipeg Without Poverty: Calling on the City to Lead, a comprehensive community-based plan, which includes 50 priority recommendations in 13 theme areas. The City of Winnipeg is moving forward with an inventory of current municipal poverty reduction policies and programs, and recommendations within existing budgets.

**Whereas:** A comprehensive poverty reduction strategy 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 finalize and release its comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy, with outcome-based targets and timelines for measuring results. At the same time, the Province of Manitoba should ensure that cross-governmental policy decisions are in line with both their own, and the federal poverty reduction strategy, and respond to applicable recommendations from any municipal poverty reduction strategies, while striving to meet the recommendations within the community plan, The View From Here.

**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.



## 2019 - 6 Leveraging Canada Revenue Agency Infrastructure to Deliver Financial Assistance to Eligible Manitobans

Mover: SEED Winnipeg

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba provides financial assistance to low-income Manitobans through Canada Revenue Agency via personal income tax returns (e.g., the Personal Tax Credit and Education Property Tax Credit) as well as through direct income transfers to Manitobans (e.g., Employment and Income Assistance, RentAssist, the Manitoba Child Benefit, and the 55 PLUS Manitoba Income Supplement).

**Whereas:** These financial assistance programs are integral to ensuring that low-income Manitobans can support themselves and their families to procure necessary goods and services including housing, food, and other personal and household needs.

**Whereas:** Take-up of programs such as the Manitoba Child Benefit and the 55 PLUS Manitoba Income Supplement may be underutilized as a result of the bureaucracy through which these benefits are delivered, which requires eligible Manitobans to learn about eligibility criteria and application processes and to submit application forms to Provincial Services each year. This process poses an administrative burden for the Province of Manitoba, eligible Manitobans, and non-profit organizations which support eligible Manitobans to apply for these programs.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to reducing Red Tape in the 2016 and 2017 Speeches from the Throne, through the Red Tape Reduction Task Force, and through the Red Tape Reduction and Government Efficiency Acts. The Province of Manitoba could continue these efforts to increase the efficiency of provincial benefit programs established under the Social Services Administration Act by partnering with the Government of Canada to administer these programs. The Canada Revenue Agency has the existing infrastructure to determine eligibility and administer provincial benefit programs to Canadians, and does so for provinces including Ontario and Saskatchewan, among others.

**Whereas:** Increasing access to these financial assistance programs will improve the well-being of Manitobans living in poverty or may assist in moving Manitobans out of poverty.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba partner with Canada Revenue Agency to administer the 55 PLUS Manitoba Income Supplement and Manitoba Child Benefit through Canada Revenue Agency. Eligibility for the 55 PLUS Program Manitoba Income Supplement should be automatically assessed by utilizing income tax filing data, and benefits paid quarterly through Canada Revenue Agency alongside the GST/HST Credit. Similarly, eligibility for the Manitoba Child Benefit should be automatically assessed by utilizing income tax filing data, and benefits paid monthly through Canada Revenue Agency as a supplement to the Canada Child Benefit.

## 2019 - 7 Facilitating Access to Birth Certificates for Low-income Manitobans

Mover: SEED Winnipeg

**Whereas:** Manitoba-born individuals must obtain birth certificates from the Vital Statistics Agency, which serve as a foundational piece of identification (ID) that is needed in order to obtain photo identification. Having a birth certificate or other identification is required for citizens to access a wide range of government benefits, employment opportunities, and mainstream financial services. The Vital Statistics Agency charges a \$30.00 fee for each birth certificate application. SEED Winnipeg has established an ID Fund to cover the costs of these applications and support community members through the application process; this ID Fund is now available through eight other community-based agencies. However, community-based agencies are unable to keep up with community need for ID.

**Whereas:** Access to personal identification is integral to social and economic inclusion. The \$30.00 application fee per certificate and application process create barriers for low-income and other vulnerable Manitobans to obtain the ID they require to fully participate in the economy and society. Over three quarters of the community members who applied for birth certificates through the ID Fund identify as Indigenous, access to identification may be seen as a step towards reconciliation in line with the Truth and Reconciliation Call for Action #17.

**Whereas:** Barriers that prevent low-income and other vulnerable Manitobans from obtaining identification - including cost and complex application processes - should be addressed to facilitate access to identification and the corresponding social and economic benefits. While the Province of Manitoba has invested in providing access to birth certificates for Employment and Income Assistance recipients and through a network of community-based agencies, EIA caseworkers and frontline service providers face difficulties in supporting community members with complex ID applications, and have had to create additional layers of bureaucracy in order to administer these programs.

**Whereas:** The Minister of Families has a mandate to reform the child welfare system to transition youth out of care, and to work with the Minister of Education & Training to support EIA recipients to obtain employment. Having personal identification is critical for individuals to succeed without the supports of these systems. In addition, facilitating access to ID by Indigenous peoples will advance the Province's commitments to reconciliation and enhanced opportunities for economic development with the full participation of Indigenous communities, as stated in the Mandate for the Minister of Indigenous & Northern Relations. Furthermore, The Province of Manitoba has committed to reducing Red Tape in the 2016 and 2017 Speeches from the Throne, through the Red Tape Reduction Task Force, and through the Red Tape Reduction and Government Efficiency Acts. As the Vital Statistics Act and Vital Statistics Forms, Fees and Registrations Regulation already include a provision to waive fees (Section 9 of the Regulation), this provision could be harnessed to provide more efficient and cost-effective access to birth certificates by low-income Manitobans.

**Whereas:** Increasing access to birth certificates and secondary forms of identification, including photo identification and Social Insurance Numbers, will enable low-income and other vulnerable community members to increase their incomes through employment and government benefits, to vote in elections, and to participate in the local economy and community.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba implement the recommendations outlined in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report on Access to Identification for Low-Income Manitobans, including:

- A. Establish a streamlined and non-stigmatizing fee waiver system that enables low-income Manitobans to obtain or replace a birth certificate free of charge.
- B. Provide timely supports to ensure that incarcerated individuals be provided with necessary identification, if lacking upon entering incarceration, and youth exiting Child and Family Services be provided the same prior to transitioning out of care.

## **2019 - 8 Reversing Child Apprehension through Addressing Poverty, and promoting Meaningful Employment through Social Enterprise**

**Mover: BUILD Inc.**

**Whereas:** Forty per cent of all children in care were zero to two years of age when they first came into care. Almost 60 percent of children in care are permanent wards, meaning they are under the permanent guardianship of a Child and Family Services (CFS) agency and the guardianship rights of their parents have been terminated. Fifty-four per cent of all permanent wards are under the age of 10.

**Whereas:** Half the participants in the Street Census who are experiencing homelessness had spent time in Child and Family Services Care. Close to two-thirds of participants in the census who had been in CFS care became homeless within a year of leaving care.

**Whereas:** It costs approximately \$47,000 a year to offer supports to each child in care. Funding for Child and Family Services has increased exponentially over the last few decades, but the number of children in care has only increased.

**Whereas:** Living in poverty is a major risk factor contributing to child apprehension. 43% of Indigenous people living in Winnipeg - compared to 16% of non-Indigenous people - have recently been estimated to be living under the low-income cut-off. Almost 90 per cent of all children in care are Indigenous. This overrepresentation in the CFS system is caused by a legacy of social exclusion, colonization, economic marginalization, and systemic poverty.

**Whereas:** Social enterprises in Manitoba providing employment with wrap-around supports for people have successfully provided meaningful employment for individuals formerly involved with CFS. Social enterprises, with a social, economic, and environmental triple bottom line offers a tested alternative to ongoing homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion for individuals involved in CFS, as well as their families.

**Whereas:** Manitoba Housing has been supporting social enterprise through its procurement for the past ten years, has committed in the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy to double the amount of money it spends on social enterprise by 2018, and has more purchasing opportunities for social enterprise. In 2016, Manitoba Housing, in partnership with four social enterprises they contract and Simpact Strategy Group, conducted a Social Return on Investment analysis for Manitoba Housing's social procurement. The analysis found that "through a total investment of \$2.56 M by Manitoba Housing and other government and non-profit agencies, the four social enterprises created a social and economic return on investment with a total present value of \$5.995 M. This means that for every dollar invested \$2.23 of social and economic value was created." Four areas within the Provincial government experienced a total value of \$1.1 M as a result of the work of these social enterprises (Treasury, Justice, Social Services and Public Insurance). This \$2.56 M investment and the economic multiplier represents the extra costs of supporting WISE and their employees, and does not include the cost and economic multiplier of the goods and services received. This supports approximately 220 jobs."

**Whereas:** Social enterprises see a great return on investment. From the 2014 Manitoba Social Enterprise Sector Survey, over 125 social enterprises in Manitoba covering a wide range of social missions, paid over \$30 million in wages in 2013. Between 2015-2018, 2,433 people gained training or employment opportunities from the Manitoban workforce-integration social enterprises. At any given time, there may be several hundred people in training-focused positions, and several hundred more in employment-focused positions. For an investment that will be made through government procurement regardless, social enterprises offer savings in other government areas, including justice, health, and social services, and are a proven sound investment to achieve social, economic, and environmental goals.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities have many opportunities to increase purchasing from social enterprises within their various departments and institutions.

**Whereas:** Reducing the number of children and youth in care through transformational reforms to our child welfare system, guided by the recommendations of the Legislative Review Committee and in partnership with families, communities, Indigenous leaders and the Government of Canada, is a priority of the government of Manitoba; as well as reducing the number of people on social assistance through access to meaningful employment for those who are able to work.

**Whereas:** Bill 223 passed in the Manitoba Legislature in November 2018, amending the Child and Family Services Act so that no child can be apprehended solely because of poverty.

**Whereas:** Interventions that address the root causes of crime, focusing on poverty, employment and mental health - as opposed to increasing the number of child apprehensions and increased involvement with the CFS system - have proven to be successful in our province, and lead to better social and economic outcomes.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to immediately reverse its trend toward increasing child apprehension and the number of children and youth in care, and instead focus on addressing the root causes of poverty, including meaningful employment, through:

- A. Directing the Department of Families to lead cross-departmental engagement with social enterprises as a component of poverty reduction, reducing number of children and youth in care, and support Manitobans who wish to work to access education, training, and meaningful work. The Province should adopt a comprehensive government-wide approach to social procurement and purchasing, with a focus on social benefit and community employment clauses.
- B. Ensuring social enterprises can access the necessary wrap-around supports for their employees, including housing, addictions treatment, and cultural healing.
- C. Reinvesting the savings accrued by social enterprise through reductions in child apprehension into community-led, poverty reduction priorities.

## 2019 - 9 Supporting Community Employment Benefit on Infrastructure

Mover: BUILD Inc.

**Whereas:** The federal government's infrastructure agreements with provinces, announced in June 2018, includes a community employment benefit on new project spending. The agreement between the federal and provincial government stipulates that when Manitoba is the ultimate recipient of infrastructure dollars estimated at ten million dollars or more, the provincial government will report on community employment benefits provided to at least three of the federal target groups (apprentices, Indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities, veterans, youth, new Canadians, or small- medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises). When the provincial government is not the final recipient, they will ensure that the agreement will include community employment benefit reporting. The federal government will contribute one-third of project funding for provincial projects if these conditions are met.

**Whereas:** Community Employment Benefits support local investment, meaningful employment for marginalized individuals, and support enterprises with social, economic, and environmental missions. Stipulating reporting on Community Employment Benefit introduces accountability on government infrastructure spending, and ensures government dollars are reaching innovative community education, training, and employment practices, such as social enterprise.

**Whereas:** Addressing the root causes of poverty, child apprehension through the CFS system, or overrepresentation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system must be focused on economic empowerment and social inclusion. Ensuring community employment benefit on major government infrastructure spending will lead to healthier communities and meaningful employment.

**Whereas:** The Government of Manitoba can waive the community employment benefit requirement, having to provide the Government of Canada a rationale for not reporting on community employment benefits. This could jeopardize the potential social, economic, and community impacts of the community employment benefit and the potential for community development for targeted groups.

**Whereas:** Innovative social procurement and purchasing policy change and opening up government infrastructure spending could be a major catalyst for bolstering community economic development.

**Be it Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba ensure that community employment benefits be reported on for projects where the provincial government is the ultimate recipient, and when another level is the ultimate recipient, that reporting be required as well. The opt-out clause of this important element for community economic development should not be utilized.

## 2019 - 10 Restore Business and Enterprise Development Support Services

**Mover:** SEED Winnipeg

**Whereas:** The Department of Growth, Enterprise & Trade's Cooperative Development Services branch, the Entrepreneurship Manitoba Special Operating Agency, and the Crown Corporation Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) have restructured, halting some services such as business consulting and self-serve business library research, reducing cooperative development services, and putting others under moratorium such as the CEDF Business Loan program to rural communities and individuals.

**Whereas:** The Business Services Division of Entrepreneurship Manitoba provided business consulting services to 13,140 clients in 2016-17 but had stopped reporting this service on its performance outcomes for the 2017-18 year (Entrepreneurship Manitoba Annual Report 2016-17, page 25 and Annual Report 2017-18, page 18).

**Whereas:** The Cooperative Development Branch of Growth, Enterprise & Trade continued a one-third reduction in cooperative developer salary expenditure from the 2016-17 budget to the 2017-18 budget (Growth Enterprise and Trade Annual Report 2016-17, page 46 and Annual Report 2017-18, page 15).

**Whereas:** Rural individuals and communities need access to a developmental loan fund to leverage funding from commercial lending institutions and other loans. In 2016/2017, CEDF provided \$4.45 million in business loans, which led to 160 jobs created or retained (CEDF Annual Report 2018, page 16). The moratorium of the CEDF business loan program that began in 2017/18 results in significantly less economic development and fewer jobs.

**Whereas:** Third party non-profit business service providers who deliver business development, cooperative, and social enterprise development services have had funding decreased or cut as a result of the Partnerships for Economic Growth program (a 'consolidation of funding to third party not for profit organizations aligned with the province's economic development priorities') introduced in the Manitoba Government Budget 2017. The reduction of grants as a result of this decision totaled \$2 million in 2017/18 (MB Growth, Enterprise & Trade Annual Report 2017/18, page 51).

**Whereas:** Community-based agencies continue to deliver small business, cooperative, and enterprise support services; however, some services have ceased, or have been reduced to specific demographic groups. Many community-based agencies are no longer able to reach the general population of low-income and rural Manitobans resulting in inadequate business and enterprise development supports for these Manitobans.

**Whereas:** Requests to community non-profit organizations for business and enterprise support services have increased since the reduction in services formerly provided by Entrepreneurship Manitoba, even though World Trade Centre Winnipeg does deliver some (but not all) of those services.

**Whereas:** The Department of Families' Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program continues to refer low-income individuals to SEED Winnipeg Inc. and Community Futures Development Corporations for EIA recipients who seek self-employment business support services and access to the Enhanced Income Assistance Program.

**Whereas:** Micro enterprises and small businesses, including cooperatives and social enterprises, increase household incomes, create employment and democratic workplaces, and reduce government expenditure on social services and income assistance programs. Low-income and rural Manitobans, as well as other groups facing barriers to full participation in the local economy, require tailored services to meet their business development needs. Community-based agencies have a history of demonstrated success in supporting these clients and communities to develop businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises.

**Whereas:** There is a gap of business and enterprise support services for Manitobans that is most acutely felt by the self-employed and would-be entrepreneurs who live on low incomes and/or in rural Manitoba.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has a stated priority to provide economic development services, including cooperative and social enterprise development services to all Manitobans via the Department of Growth, Enterprise & Trade, Entrepreneurship Manitoba, and the Communities Economic Development Fund.

**Be It Resolved That:** The Province of Manitoba increase the grants provided to third party not-for-profit business and enterprise support services to 2016/17 levels (prior to the 2017/18 cuts of the Partnerships for Economic Growth program) so that low-income and rural Manitobans can receive robust and timely access to accessible business, cooperative, and enterprise development training and consulting supports.

**Be It Further Resolved that:** The Province of Manitoba fill the vacant co-op developer position of the Cooperative Development Services branch of Growth, Enterprise & Trade.

**Be It Further Resolved that:** The Province of Manitoba lift the moratorium on the CEDF business loan program for rural communities and individuals.



## 2019 - 11 Early Learning & Child Care

### Mover: Childcare Coalition of Manitoba

**Whereas:** Investments in early learning and child care stimulate the local economy and create jobs, while also supporting children and families, and promoting women's equality. National data shows that childcare has one of the highest GDP multipliers and the highest employment multiplier of all major industries. Research shows that for every dollar invested in ECEC the estimated net present value of benefits is \$2.54, and the estimated net hourly benefit for children and mothers is \$4.27.

**Whereas:** Accessible and affordable childcare is a major factor in helping women access education, employment and alleviating child and family poverty.

**Whereas:** High quality early learning and child care services promote healthy child development, help identify children with additional support needs to provide enhanced early intervention programs, and assist parents in their important role as their child's first teacher and caregiver.

**Whereas:** Manitoba has a licensed childcare space for less than one in five children.

**Whereas:** There are over 16,000 names on the Manitoba Online Child Care Registry, a sign of unmet childcare need. Parents in Manitoba wait an average of 15-20 months in order to access a licensed childcare space. Much of Manitoba is a childcare 'desert,' a neighbourhood where few childcare spaces exist.

**Whereas:** Although Manitoba's childcare fees are low in national comparison, they are still too expensive for many families, and fee subsidies are inadequate. A family has to be well below the poverty line to qualify for a childcare fee subsidy, and even when a very poor family does qualify, they are usually charged a \$2 per day fee for each child.

**Whereas:** Inadequate provincial operating funding means that it is difficult to recruit and retain qualified early childhood educators, or pay them adequate wages. Estimates are that one-third of Manitoba childcare centres are operating with an exemption to their license because they do not have the required share of qualified early childhood educators.

**Whereas:** There is a pressing need for culturally and linguistically appropriate and inclusive child care services for Indigenous, Francophone and minority communities. Closing this gap requires more resources and training supports for Indigenous, Francophone and other minority groups to enter the child care profession. The Université de Saint-Boniface (offering the francophone Early Childhood Education diploma program) remains the only public post-secondary institution without its own childcare centre.

**Whereas:** Many currently operating childcare centres do not receive full operating funding to sustain their services.

**Whereas:** Manitoba will receive an additional \$47 million federal dollars between 2017 and 2020 under the Bilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to updating and launching a provincial poverty reduction strategy, of which early learning and not-for-profit childcare must be an essential part.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet - Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to work with the early learning and child care sector to:

- A. Create at least 16,000 new funded not-for-profit childcare spaces, while also investing resources to ensure all existing spaces receive ongoing operating funding. Operating funding should be increased to fairly compensate and retain Early Childhood Educators and to enable the delivery of sustainable, community-based, and culturally-relevant early learning and child care programming for families in high socio-economic needs areas.
- B. Invest in initiatives to recruit and train enough early childhood educators to meet the legislated requirements for trained staff in existing centres and homes, as well as the 16,000 new spaces.
- C. Immediately eliminate the \$2.00 daily childcare fee for subsidized families, and increase the income level at which families are eligible for a full fee subsidy, with annual indexing to ensure low income families have effective access to childcare services.
- D. Establish 30 community-based Indigenous head start programs in and around high-needs schools across Manitoba by 2020.

## **2019 - 12 Implementing Change: Supporting Wa Ni Ska Tan, Indigenous and Grassroots Calls for Ethical Energy in Manitoba**

**Mover: Wa Ni Ska Tan: An Alliance of Hydro-Impacted Communities**

**Whereas:** Manitoba lies within the ancestral lands of many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit peoples and are Aboriginal peoples as so defined within the constitution of Canada. Aboriginal peoples in Manitoba possess Aboriginal rights and include inherent and treaty rights, where applicable.

**Whereas:** Manitoba, through its publicly owned utility Manitoba Hydro, produces 97% of the hydropower used in Manitoba and serves more than 580,000 electric customers. Thus, hydropower is of key economic importance to Manitoba. Manitoba Hydro is governed by a publicly appointed board and the Manitoba Hydro Act.

**Whereas:** Manitoba Hydro operates 15 generating stations as part of its integrated system in Manitoba, most of which lie on the traditional lands of First Nation communities and there have been many negative consequences as a result of energy production. The production of hydroelectricity has been largely unethical.

**Whereas:** Manitoba, the Manitoba Hydro Board, and on occasion Canada, have entered into agreements with various Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities relating to adverse effects and impacts resulting from Hydro activities in their respective territories such as the Northern Flood Agreement, which has never been fully honoured.

**Whereas:** There is widespread and polarizing perspectives concerning the various Hydro agreements that have been made to date and the views concerning the implementation of these agreements is equally varied; some communities have raised significant concerns related to environmental damage, impacts on local and regional economies, the loss of traditional lands and livelihoods, impacts to cultural activities, among other concerns.

**Whereas:** While nominal steps have been taken toward providing economic opportunities in northern Manitoba, particularly where new developments are concerned, many First Nations communities have yet to benefit in a meaningful way from hydro development.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba formally apologized to First Nations communities affected by northern hydropower on January 20th, 2015, acknowledging the damages hydropower has inflicted on the environment, livelihoods, cultural identity, transportation, and way of life, and passed The Path to Reconciliation Act in March of 2016. Drawing upon the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Actions and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, this legislation commits the Province of Manitoba to act in a spirit of reconciliation.

**Be It Resolved That:** Manitoba Hydro and the Government of Manitoba, along with the various regulatory bodies, need to take responsibility for past, present, and future impacts resulting from Hydro operations throughout the province and redress the cumulative environmental effects and harms caused by the operation of Hydro's integrated system;

**Be it further resolved that:** Manitoba Hydro remain publicly owned and committed to working in a spirit of collaboration with all Hydro-impacted communities to redress the losses of Aboriginal cultural and economic heritage in Hydro-affected lands in Manitoba;

**Be it further resolved that:** Manitoba Hydro and the Government of Manitoba provide local and regional economic opportunities that do not appropriate Indigenous knowledge.

**Be it further resolved that:** Manitoba Hydro, the Government of Manitoba, and the Government of Canada, and implement the Northern Flood Agreement.