

## 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.