

2023-1 Provincial & Municipal CED Policy Framework & Lens

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba should honour and reactivate a CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments and crown corporations by:

- a. Forming a specific position within government to implement a Lens, which provides the tools to use CED across government, and a Framework, which provides the accountability and assessment of the community impact of CED.
- b. Giving the highest committee of cabinet direction to use the CED Framework and Lens within decision-making.

Because: Manitoba faces significant economic and social challenges. Manitoba continues to have the highest rates of child and family poverty in the country. Social exclusion and inequality has grown, particularly due to the ongoing impacts of colonization. Labour shortages in many industries continue as the economy recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rising cost of living is challenging individuals, families, and businesses, with profound impacts on those already experiencing poverty. Manitobans need more support to strengthen our climate resiliency. Low-income Manitobans are already dealing with the cost of climate change.

Because: These complex social, economic, and environmental challenges call for innovative approaches. These challenges must be addressed with a holistic and flexible approach. Community economic development (CED) provides that approach.

Because: 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.

Because: CED enterprises such as social enterprises, cooperatives, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are building up our local economies while strengthening the social fabric of our communities. They adopt a 'triple bottom line' approach - considering people, planet, and profit.

Because: Manitoba would benefit from more use of a CED approach and governments can help make it happen. 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. A CED Policy Framework would spur the development of specific strategies like a Social Enterprise Strategy, Cooperative Development Strategy, Social Procurement Policy, or Community Development plan.

Because: CED in Manitoba is based on the 11 Neechi Principles, a holistic approach to social and economic development designed by Neechi Commons Worker Cooperative. 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

Because: The Province of Manitoba has developed a cross-governmental CED Policy Framework and Lens in the past that provided a tool to shape government policies and programs aligned with CED principles stemming from the Neechi principles. The framework put CED on the radar in the bureaucracy, enabling more collective, community-minded decision-making with economic and social linkages. It provided a guide for departments across governments to use when developing new policies and programs and to assess existing programs and initiatives. While implementation of the previous CED Framework and Lens' could have been improved, its existence and political prominence ensured departments were paying attention to the framework when designing and implementing programs.

Because: The CED Framework and Lens ensured large scale economic development projects were examined with CED in mind, and often approved only if they demonstrated how they were implementing local hiring, training, and procurement policies (such as the Floodway Initiative, Hydro Development, Manitoba Housing, and others). It helped spur numerous programs and initiatives, including procurement with workforce integration social enterprises, a CED lens on the Neighbourhoods Alive! Program, and ecosystem development supports.

Because: A whole-of-government approach to using CED would mandate its effectiveness across social, economic, and environmental decision-making and set direction for the bureaucracy

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. It will be part of advocacy to whomever forms government after the October 2023 election. The We Want to Work coalition is including a call for this Framework as part of its provincial priorities.