

2023-9 Supporting Non-Profits That Make Manitoba's Communities Thrive

Mover: Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

The Province of Manitoba should provide multi-year, predictable, sustainable funding with cost of living increases for community nonprofits receiving provincial funds in order to provide a living wage for staff and operate programs successfully, while reducing burdensome reporting requirements.

The Province of Manitoba should establish a permanent 'home' in government for community non-profits and strengthen systems of collaboration between government and representative associations.

The Province of Manitoba should resource a sector-led Manitoba Community Non-Profit Strategy with a provincial approach to address the challenges facing community non-profits.

Because: Without community non-profits, more Manitobans would go to bed hungry, lack access to services that support their well-being, and miss out on vital social and cultural connections. Community non-profits are crucial for our communities, economy, health and well-being.⁵ As grassroots organizations often with volunteers on boards or staff team, they provide services that governments depend on at a cheaper cost. These essential roles include: social services, cultural programming, housing, childcare, health, arts & culture, sports & recreation, environmental conservation, climate action, employment, education, public policy advocacy, research, public education & awareness, capacity building, and more. Development has been most effective and sustainable when it is community-led.

Because: Beyond the services provided, community nonprofits are a significant contributor to the economy and labour force. There are 3,767 community non-profits in Manitoba, with \$3,972,866,394 in revenue and employing 54,380 people. However, the average community nonprofit salary was only \$34,252 in 2019. Many community non-profits offer limited or no pension or benefits plans.

Because: Community non-profits face multiple competing challenges that threaten their ability to carry out services for Manitobans: ongoing pandemic impacts, the rising cost of living, budgetary pressures, access to funding, income inequality, an aging population, changing volunteer and giving patterns, growing transitional needs of newcomers and refugees, the impacts of climate change, and needing to do more with less. At the same time, community non-profits are on the frontlines, supporting communities through complex social and economic needs. 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. 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.

⁵ Community non-profits provide goods and services to individuals and families, differing from business nonprofits, professional associations, or government nonprofits. Community nonprofits are called "nonprofit institutions serving households" by Statistics Canada.

Because: 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.

Because: Staffing is at a crisis. Inadequate wages and burned out staff leads to high rates of turnover, retirement, and retention challenges. Frozen provincial funding has not kept pace with inflation. Few organizations have multi-year agreements. Annual increases are not included for those that do. Short-term funding with no inflationary increases that arrives late in bank accounts leads to unnecessary financial stress, uncertainty, and potentially less effective community services. Stable funding agreements would let nonprofits focus on their work achieving strong outcomes.

Because: A 2020 Manitoba and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce survey⁶ identified that community non-profits have been deeply impacted by COVID-19 with specific needs for re-opening, recovery, and stability.

Because: Despite these significant barriers, the work of community nonprofits continues to create positive outcomes such as climate resiliency, addressing poverty, supporting jobs and employment, connection through arts, cultural, sports, and recreational programming, developing communities, and supporting demographic groups with specific needs.

Because: 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.

Because: Manitoba is desperately in need of a plan for addressing worker wellbeing, wages, and sick leave, better data collection about non-profits, a provincial approach to non-profit training and shared services, and support for the development of a provincial non-profit association.

Because: With increased communication and a clear understanding of who is in charge, community non-profits' role in Manitoba's economic and social development can be fully harnessed and the development and implementation of provincial policy will be more effective.

Because: Community-Led Development is a key theme area of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map. Effective funding relationships, communication, and a strategic approach between community and government are foundational to allow CBOs to continue achieving social economic development goals in Manitoba.

⁶ Survey available here from the Manitoba and Winnipeg Chambers of Commerce [here](#).

How the Resolution will be Advanced: The Network of Networks is a working group composed 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 and will help advance this resolution. The group is convened by CCEDNet Manitoba, includes Abilities Manitoba, Brandon Community Wellness Collaborative, Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, Creative Manitoba, Manitoba Association of Community Health, Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations, Manitoba Child Care Association, Manitoba Eco-Network, Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association, Manitoba Possible, Volunteer Manitoba, Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle, and Youth Agencies Alliance. The group is sharing these recommendations with all political parties and will advance advocacy on them following the 2023 election.