

Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation

Moved by: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

This is a renewed resolution from 2019 with significant updates.

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. The Province released its renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy, Pathways to a Better Future, in March 2019. This government's plan to address the many challenges facing people living in poverty is woefully inadequate. There are no new initiatives introduced in the plan and no new funding in the budget to address poverty. A poverty reduction strategy will be more effective if targets are bold and progress is measured. The targets and timelines set by the province for reducing poverty have already been achieved. The provincial government has claimed that poverty has been reduced as of 2021, but this takes into account the boost in incomes due to the CERB benefit, and many Manitobans have fallen into deeper poverty due to the pandemic.

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: The City of Winnipeg acknowledged its role in addressing poverty by introducing its poverty reduction strategy in November 2021. This represented an important milestone for the City as the strategy demonstrates leadership and elected officials acknowledging that the

municipality does have an important role to play in addressing poverty. Other Manitoba municipalities are taking action to reduce poverty in their communities.

Whereas: In 2018, 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. This report was the catalyst for the development of Winnipeg's Poverty Reduction Strategy. However, the strategy passed with no new resources for its implementation and for key strategic priorities stemming from Winnipeg Without Poverty. If the City is really serious about its role in addressing poverty, adequate dollars for implementing it and funding key priorities is desperately needed.

Whereas: A comprehensive poverty reduction strategy will help achieve the objectives of community-based poverty reduction and neighbourhood renewal efforts.provides a framework within which various pieces of a CED policy agenda can come together, particularly focused on the outcome of reducing poverty, building stronger communities, and increasing community wealth.

Whereas: This resolution fits within the 'Ending Poverty' theme of the CCEDNet Public Policy Road Map, representing a comprehensive solution to help address and end poverty.

Be It Resolved That: The Province of Manitoba revise and strengthen its comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy, with outcome-based targets and timelines for measuring results. Also, that the Province of Manitoba should ensure that cross-governmental policy decisions are in line with both their own and the federal poverty reduction strategies. Also, that the Province of Manitoba respond to applicable recommendations from any municipal poverty reduction strategies and recommendations within the community plan, The View From Here.

Be It Further Resolved That: The City of Winnipeg fully resource its Poverty Reduction Strategy and key recommendations stemming from Winnipeg Without Poverty.

Be It Further Resolved That: Manitoba municipalities partner with community based organizations and key stakeholders to create and implement comprehensive poverty reduction strategies with targets and timelines.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: Make Poverty History Manitoba remains the leading coalition on this advocacy, either through its Provincial Working Group or City Working Group. MPHM has a robust campaign developed around both, including prior to upcoming election campaigns, and currently has a seat at the City of Winnipeg's poverty reduction strategy development core working group. CCEDNet Manitoba supports this coalition through resources, staff time, and some administrative support.