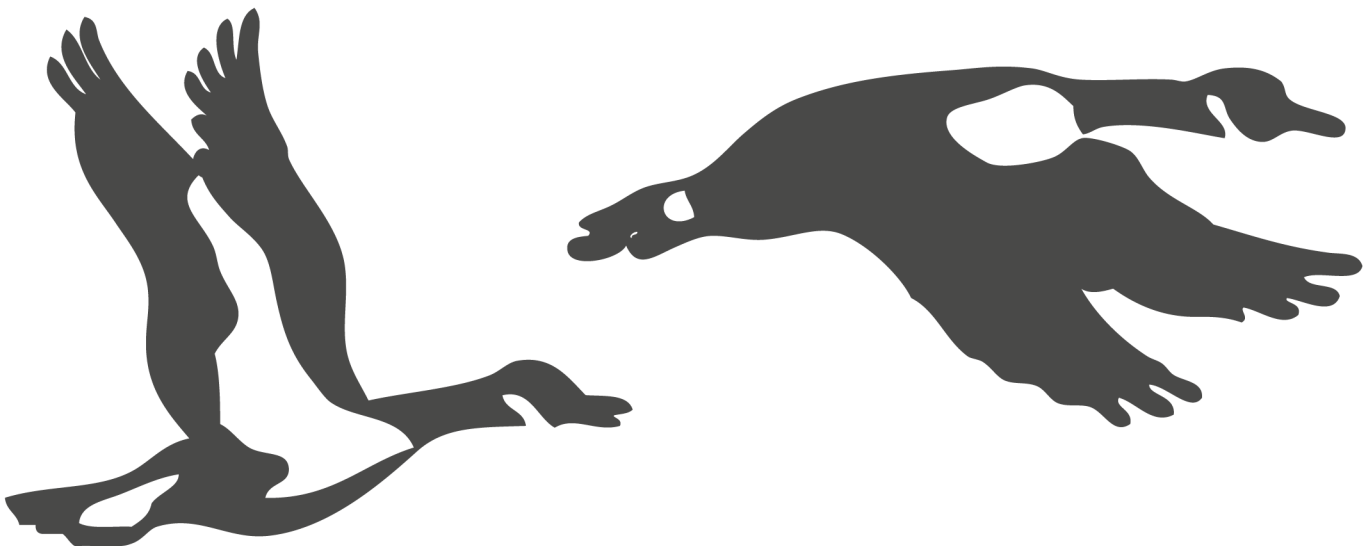


Manitoba Provincial & Municipal  
**Policy Resolutions 2016**



Every year, members of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network – Manitoba (CCEDNet – Manitoba) work together to create a pragmatic, wide-ranging and solutions-focused set of public policy resolutions to strengthen their work and address issues related to poverty, social exclusion and fair economies. Each resolution describes the current context and conditions in areas relevant to CED activity. They also explain how a policy change would impact those CED activities and the communities who benefit from them. Finally, they clearly state a position and/or policy that CCEDNet – Manitoba will work to advance in the coming years.

At our annual policy summit, members gather to discuss and ratify these ideas after completing consultations and drafting resolutions. This collective process allows for well-rounded discussions, and not only produces smart and helpful policy suggestions, but also increases the knowledge and skills of our Network. This document includes all of CCEDNet – Manitoba's current policy resolutions. Resolutions are active for three years unless re-submitted in an amended form.

Some policy resolutions address the basic needs that allow communities to participate in CED activities such as access to housing, child care and accessibility rights. Others support specific areas of CED activity, such as job creation, education and training, community owned renewable energy, social enterprise, and housing co-operatives. Many urge governments to act more strategically and in ways that integrate solutions to social, economic, or environmental challenges. These constitute important pieces of the CED puzzle which represents our members' work of building fairer and stronger local economies, reducing poverty and homelessness, and creating more sustainable communities.

While not an exhaustive set of policies, this package provides a solid collection of ideas that if implemented, would create significant change in people's lives and in our communities. It would also create a more supportive and enabling environment in which our members could more effectively achieve their missions and goals. These are the priorities of our membership for 2016. They will be revisited when we look ahead to 2017, providing an opportunity once again for the membership to draft resolutions and collectively decide on which to adopt as priorities for our network in Manitoba.



Sarah Leeson-Klym, Manitoba Regional Director

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The Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) is a national association of several hundred organizations and individuals in every province and territory working to create sustainable and inclusive communities directing their own social, economic and environmental futures. CCEDNet and its members are committed to the values of inclusion, diversity and equity. Our methods are participatory, democratic, innovative and entrepreneurial.

The CED model is action led by people locally to create economic opportunity and improve social conditions in communities, especially those who need it most. Across Manitoba, CED and social economy initiatives foster economic revitalization, local ownership of resources, poverty reduction, labour market development, social development, environmental stewardship and access to capital.

More than one hundred members are represented by CCEDNet – Manitoba. Our membership is broad, and works with thousands of community members across the Province. Our membership is diverse, spanning a multitude of methods, models, and organizational structures, with non-profits, co-ops, social enterprises, for-profits and individuals included. We acknowledge that our work in Manitoba takes place on Indigenous land, particularly noting our offices and events in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 Territory, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

CCEDNet – Manitoba works to strengthen our members' practice, increase knowledge on CED issues and models, connect members to each other and resources, and build our collective voice to speak clearly to government, the public and new partners. By bringing organizations together, providing essential communications and knowledge building opportunities, CCEDNet – Manitoba enables our members to engage in collaborative and efficient strategic action towards achieving their shared vision.

Our wide range of work reflects our diverse membership base, but the common objective of building strong, fair, equitable and sustainable communities is our most important commitment.

For more information about CCEDNet – Manitoba, including our policy work, please visit our regional website at [www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/manitoba](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/manitoba). You can also contact our office at 204-943-0547 or [sleesonklym@ccednet-rcdec.ca](mailto:sleesonklym@ccednet-rcdec.ca).

Every year, members of the Canadian CED Network – Manitoba are invited to submit policy resolutions beginning in September, with the support of our policy staff team. Resolutions include relevant information that clearly articulates the issue, provides examples of what other jurisdictions are doing to address similar issues, and end with a clear policy suggestion. In addition to this open process, staff approach members who might not be able to join the policy summit, as well as convening members around particular issues.

After a draft deadline and a final deadline, members gather at the Fall Policy Summit, held each year in November. Every resolution is moved, debated, possibly amended, and voted on. The event produces our final package of policy resolutions, which remain active for three years.

Following the policy summit, CCEDNet – Manitoba staff develop a policy action plan taking into account potential impact, achievability, political will and context, the relevant stakeholders, and available resources. This plan identifies some areas where our members are the leaders, and others where the Network itself is best placed to lead. Our policy actions include formal policy and budget submissions, research, meetings with government partners and public engagement.

CCEDNet – Manitoba staff also engage with members throughout the year, inviting them to participate in actions, and offering learning opportunities to build capacity around government relations and public policy development.

To find electronic copies of the resolutions, and updates on progress, visit [www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/mbpolicy](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/mbpolicy).

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## 2016 Policy Resolutions

2016 – 1 Creating Jobs and Improving Food Security in Northern & Remote Communities*	6
2016 – 2 Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation**	7
2016 – 3 Endorsement of the “Make Poverty History Manitoba” 2016 Provincial Election Campaign	8
2016 – 4 Community Owned Green Energy	9
2016 – 5 Investing in Community Safety, Stability & Prosperity	11
2016 – 6 Rural Economic Development	13
2016 – 7 Co-operative Housing Land Trust	14
2016 – 8 Timely and Effective Implementation of <i>The Accessibility for Manitobans Act</i>	15
2016 – 9 Early Learning & Child Care	16
2016 – 10 Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations	18
2016 – 11 Winnipeg-based Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations	19

## 2015 Policy Resolutions

2015 – 1 Energy Efficiency & Social Enterprise	20
2015 – 2 End of Operating Agreements	21
2015 – 3 Affordable & Social Housing	22
2015 – 5 Food Policy Councils***	24
2015 – 6 Non Profit Organization Strategy	25
2015 – 7 Tax Credit in Support of Social Enterprise	26
2015 – 8 Labour Market Intermediaries	27
2015 – 9 Pre-Development Funding for New Co-operative Housing Projects	28
2015 – 11 Endorsement of “You Hold the Key” Cooperative Housing Campaign	29
2015 – 12 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas	30

## 2014 Policy Resolutions

2014 – 1 CED Tax Credit	31
2014 – 2 Co-op Visioning Strategy	32
2014 – 3 Housing, Green Jobs – A Pathway Out of Poverty	33
2014 – 4 Living Wage for All Manitobans	34
2014 – 5 Local & Sustainable Food Procurement	35
2014 – 6 Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy	36
2014 – 8 Procurement for Community Benefit & Poverty Reduction	37
2014 – 9 Provincial & Municipal CED Policy Framework & Lens	38
2014 – 11 Co-op Housing Appeal Tribunal Reform	39

## 2013 Policy Resolutions

Policy resolutions are active for three years. 2013 policy resolutions adopted by members in the fall of 2012 expired in the fall of 2015 unless they were resubmitted as new resolutions.

\* Moved to replace policy resolution 2015 – 10 Creating Jobs & Improving Food Security in First Nations through Social Enterprise

\*\* Moved to replace policy resolution 2015 – 4 Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation

\*\*\* Moved to replace policy resolution 2014 – 10 Municipal Food Policy Councils

# 2016 – I Creating Jobs and Improving Food Security in Northern & Remote Communities\*

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## Mover: Aki Energy

**Whereas:** A combination of factors, including but not limited to poverty, geographic remoteness and a history of colonial policies means northern and remote communities in Manitoba have an acute lack of access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food. In 2011, 24% of Manitoban primary caregivers on First Nations reserves reported not being able to afford enough food for the children in their care.

**Whereas:** Diabetes was rare among the Aboriginal population prior to 1940, but has now reached epidemic levels in some communities across Canada. More than half of all seniors and almost one quarter of adults aged 35 to 54 in Manitoba First Nations report having diabetes. The increasing prevalence of diabetes in Manitoba First Nations is linked to a) the replacement of traditional foods, which provide a protective effect from diabetes, with imported and unhealthy foods that increase the risk of diabetes, and b) high rates of poverty.

**Whereas:** In 2010, the economic burden of diabetes in Manitoba was estimated to be approximately \$86 million in direct costs and an additional \$412 million in indirect costs.

**Whereas:** First Nations people living on reserves have access to few employment opportunities, exemplified by a formal unemployment rate for youth living on reserves of almost 50%. Social enterprises can create training and employment opportunities for people who have limited experience in the workforce.

**Whereas:** Investment and development in northern and remote communities will be most effective if guided by community members, thereby ensuring resources meet community needs and build leadership capacity amongst community members.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba's Northern Healthy Foods Initiative primary focus is to support local food self-sufficiency, and has taken important steps to promote local, healthy food production in many northern and remote communities through increasing opportunities for gardening, poultry raising, and the harvesting of traditional foods such as fish and berries.

**Whereas:** *All Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy* identifies food security as a key priority, and an action item for food security commits to responding to challenges in northern communities by building upon local efforts. Furthermore, the All Aboard Action Plan: Food Security commits to strengthening NHFI to better support local food production.

**Whereas:** Manitoba's Budget 2015 committed to further investments in NHFI, and specifically providing support to community-based strategies to expand local food production.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to support community-led efforts to address local challenges of food insecurity and unemployment in northern and remote communities by:

- a. Increasing investment in the Northern Healthy Foods Initiative to enable expanded support for existing NHFI communities and increase the number of communities able to access support through NHFI partners.
- b. Supporting the scale up of healthy food production and consumption in northern and remote communities through approaches such as social enterprise.

\* Moved to replace policy resolution 2015 – 10 Creating Jobs and Improving Food Security in First Nations through Social Enterprise.

# 2016 – 2 Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation\*

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## **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.

**Whereas:** 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.

**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. The Premier of Manitoba acknowledged the comprehensive approach of *The View From Here 2015* recommendations and initiated action through the Premier's Advisory Council on Education, Poverty and Citizenship and the 2015 provincial budget including jobs and training for people with barriers to employment, social housing and child care.

**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:** 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 make ALL Aboard more comprehensive and effective by implementing the recommendations in the renewed *The View from Here* and by identifying outcome based targets and timelines for measuring results.

**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.

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\* Moved to replace resolution 2015 – 4 Poverty Reduction Plan and Legislation



# 2016 – 3 Endorsement of the “Make Poverty History Manitoba” 2016 Provincial Election Campaign

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## 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 well-being and prevents full participation in community life. Aboriginal people, newcomers, people with a disability, people with mental health challenges, single parents, seniors and women are more likely to live in poverty.

**Whereas:** A comprehensive and integrated approach must be taken to effectively address the multiple and inter-related causes of poverty and social exclusion. MPHM continues to advance the full list of recommendations from *The View from Here 2015*, which includes a comprehensive policy and legislative framework, enhancement of existing programs and services to achieve maximum benefit to reduce poverty.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba is committed to 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.

**Whereas:** The Make Poverty History Manitoba (MPHM) coalition coordinated the call to the Province of Manitoba to increase shelter allowances to 75% of the median market rent for Manitobans on Employment and Income Assistance, and to do so immediately. The province responded by creating Rent Assist, which will be fully implemented December 1, 2015.

**Whereas:** MPHM has developed a 2016 Provincial Election Campaign asking allied organizations to raise the following issues with all candidates, and levels of government to increase coordinated efforts to reduce poverty in Manitoba. Interested organizations and individuals are invited to participate in MPHM’s campaign directly, please visit [www.makepovertyhistorymb.com](http://www.makepovertyhistorymb.com) for more information.

**Whereas:** MPHM held a community forum March 10, 2015 at the Aboriginal Centre where over 70 people participated in prioritizing the recommendations from *The View from Here 2015*. Recommendations were prioritized based on impact, the breadth and depth of poverty and those that were deemed “achievable.” Prioritized recommendations from this session were summarized into the six recommendations in the MPHM provincial election campaign:

- Immediately establish a target and timeline for reducing poverty and social exclusion in Manitoba.
- Incrementally increase the minimum wage to \$15.53 per hour (equivalent to the Low Income Cut Off- Before Tax (LICO-BT 2013) for a single parent with one child) and index annually to the LICO-BT.
- Beginning in Budget 2016 invest in building a minimum of 300 net new units of rent-geared to income housing annually for five years.
- Increase Employment & Income Assistance rates to reflect the actual costs of purchasing basic needs beginning with a doubling of the basic needs allowance in Budget 2016.
- Provide the provincial leadership to add 12,000 new licensed, funded non-profit child care spaces by 2021 with priority given to low socio-economic neighbourhoods and immediately provide a full fee subsidy for families living below the poverty line (LICO AT).
- Double funding for community-based mental health services that serve low-income Manitobans.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba endorse Make Poverty History Manitoba’s 2016 Provincial election campaign, advance this campaign at every available opportunity and encourage CCEDNet – Manitoba members to consider endorsing the campaign.



## 2016 – 4 Community Owned Green Energy

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### **Mover: Aki Energy**

**Whereas:** First Nations spend large sums of money on heating their buildings on an annual basis, which is money that leaves the community having created little local employment. Some First Nations in Manitoba have to allocate more money towards electricity than is spent on housing and good food initiatives combined.

**Whereas:** Energy usage on First Nations can be lowered by a) insulating buildings; b) using geothermal or biomass for space heating; and c) generating electricity locally, through solar and wind power, to replace costly imported electricity.

**Whereas:** Four First Nations in Manitoba are saving a total of \$1 million annually through reduced energy expenses after installing geothermal energy in 400 homes. The 3-year accomplishment and \$8 million investment will be financed by reductions in energy bills. Furthermore, these investments have created approximately 40 jobs on First Nations, as well as developing the two biggest residential geothermal companies in Western Canada.

**Whereas:** The green energy sector is an internationally booming industry, and in the past 5 years \$25-billion has been invested in Canada's green energy sector, with employment increasing 37% to approximately 26,900 jobs. From 2010-2014, Manitoba invested \$1.7 billion in clean energy.

**Whereas:** Manitoba is one of the windiest jurisdictions in North America and one of the sunniest jurisdictions in Canada.

**Whereas:** Models of collectively owning renewable energy empower Manitoba communities to own and direct local economic development in a way that ensures profits remain in Manitoba. Local ownership of community-scale renewable power produces five times the local economic benefits compared to large projects that are owned by outside investors.

**Whereas:** Jurisdictions such as Germany, Denmark and Nova Scotia have successfully supported the development of community-sized renewable energy by using supportive legislation, including a "Feed-In-Tariff" (FIT), which sets (through an independent body) a fixed price utilities must pay for community-owned renewable energy, allowing predictable and stable revenue projections for the planning and financing of community-owned renewable energy.

**Whereas:** Manitoba Hydro allows customer-owned energy generation under 10 MW to tie into its energy grid to meet the customer's own needs and/or possibly sell the excess production to Manitoba Hydro. Generators producing less than 200 kW will be purchased at a standard residential run-off rate, while generators producing 200 kW or greater are negotiated on a case by case basis.

**Whereas:** Manitoba is a national leader in terms of its clean grid and commitment to renewable energy due to Manitoba Hydro, however has no community-sized wind or solar projects and the Act governing Manitoba Hydro was written in 1961, when climate change and energy-poverty were not known issues.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba committed to developing 1000 MW of wind power before 2015, 50 MW of which would be from community wind power projects.

## 2016 – 4 Community Owned Green Energy (Cont'd)

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**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro to develop a strategy, and allocate the necessary resources, to initiate the development of renewable energy on all 63 First Nations within 10 years.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to update the Manitoba Hydro Act to support the creation and maintenance of community-owned renewable energy, including:

- a. Implementing a long-term Feed-In-Tariff along with provisions to appoint an independent committee to set an acceptable price.
- b. Allowing and directing Manitoba Hydro to purchase power from community-owned renewable energy projects and that these projects be developed in consultation with the communities affected.

# 2016 – 5 Investing in Community Safety, Stability & Prosperity

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## Mover: Manitoba Green Retrofit

**Whereas:** The Auditor General of Manitoba reports that the Province of Manitoba has spent \$182 million in capital expenses to increase jail capacity, and will need to allocate another \$600 million to meet projected prison population growth, at a projected \$220,000 per new bed in capital costs. Operating costs are estimated at \$60,000 per year per inmate.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has a political commitment to rebuild the Dauphin jail for a capacity of 100 inmates at a capital cost estimated at over \$200 million, and the Women's Correctional Centre, completed in 2012, cost \$79.5 million for 193 beds – a capital cost of over \$400,000 per bed.

**Whereas:** Recidivism rates in Manitoba after two years following release are 31% (2013) when tracking new criminal convictions, and 72% (2011) when tracking new criminal charges, meaning nearly 3 out of 4 people released from custody were in contact with the criminal justice system again within two years.

**Whereas:** A criminal justice system focused on suppression and incarceration has failed to alleviate, and in some cases made worse, the problems of drugs, gangs, and violence not only in Winnipeg's inner-city, but in jurisdictions across North America.

**Whereas:** Incarceration rates in Manitoba disproportionately impact the Indigenous community, in that a) 78% of inmates in Manitoba's correctional institutions are Indigenous, which is more than five times their proportion of Manitoba's population, and b) many Indigenous inmates were at one time wards of Child and Family Services.

**Whereas:** Living in poverty is a major risk factor contributing to incarceration. 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.

**Whereas:** Social enterprises in Manitoba providing employment with wrap around supports for people at high risk of offending or re-offending have demonstrated reductions in recidivism rates to approximately 20%, at a fraction of the cost of incarceration.

**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.

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

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has set an ambitious goal of creating 75,000 jobs by 2020, which will require many individuals currently not connected to the labour market to become employed.

**Whereas:** The Winnipeg Police Service *Strategic Plan 2015-2019: A Culture of Safety For All* commits to crime prevention through social development, and the Winnipeg Police Service has been supportive of social enterprises being a component of this strategy.

**Whereas:** Interventions that address the root causes of crime, focusing on poverty, employment and mental health – as opposed to incarceration – are increasingly receiving bi-partisan support across North America, exemplified by organizations such as the Republican-dominated “Right on Crime” in Texas.

## 2016 – 5 Investing in Community Safety, Stability & Prosperity (Cont'd)

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**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba committed in 2014 to enhance the use of restorative justice and community-based solutions to increase the effectiveness of the justice system by identifying and addressing the root cause of offenders' behavior.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to immediately reverse its trend towards increasing incarceration and instead focus on addressing the root causes of crime, including meaningful employment, through:

- a. Directing the Department of Justice to lead cross-departmental engagement with social enterprises as a component of reintegration for appropriate offenders.
- 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 recidivism into community-led, poverty reduction priorities.

# 2016 – 6 Rural Economic Development

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## **Mover: Economic Developers Association of Manitoba**

**Whereas:** Rural communities contributed 35% of Manitoba's GDP each year from 2002 to 2012, and constitute nearly 40% of Manitoba's population.

**Whereas:** Provincial funding for local economic development organizations and initiatives, such as Regional Development Corporations and Community Development Corporations, has either ceased or been drastically reduced in recent years.

**Whereas:** Despite the diversity of sectors that exist in rural Manitoba economies (e.g. agriculture, mining, logging, manufacturing) there are significant challenges faced by those who remain committed to maintain and grow the rural economy, including:

- Aging populations and workforces;
- Out-migration of youth;
- Labour shortages;
- Limited access to healthcare services; and
- Limited availability of affordable housing.

**Whereas:** In 2015 the Province of Manitoba, in partnership with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities, embarked on a consultative process to develop a long-term strategy for rural economic development, and a similar process is under way for Northern Manitoba.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to create, implement and resource a comprehensive rural economic development strategy that recognizes and addresses the diversity of local economies, demographics and geography in Manitoba.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to recognize the importance of local decision-making processes and provide adequate support to achieve manageable and sustainable goals, through consultation with stakeholders.

## 2016 – 7 Co-operative Housing Land Trust\*

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### **Mover: Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada**

**Whereas:** There are more than 45 housing co-operatives in Manitoba providing more than 2,700 families with safe, affordable homes.

**Whereas:** Housing co-operatives offer housing that is much more affordable and stable than average private sector rental costs, offer security through democratic decision making by the members, build capacity in members through their participation in the governance structure and create a permanent community asset.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to preserve and increase the number of safe affordable housing units available to Manitobans in perpetuity, and has developed a Co-op Community Strategy with the co-op community. Through the Strategy, the Province of Manitoba funded the 2014 Winnipeg Co-operative Land Trust Research that includes recommendations for further research to address the questions resulting from the research, and to initiate a community outreach component to identify partners and advocates for the development of a land trust.

**Whereas:** In 2009 The Province of Manitoba signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada to support and advance the operations of housing co-operatives in Manitoba and promote a long term, healthy, soundly managed co-operative housing sector. The province also maintains responsibility for the administration of existing continuing housing co-operatives that were transferred to the province by the federal government in 1998.

**Whereas:** Land acquisition and land ownership are critical components of financing the development of new affordable housing co-operative units.

**Whereas:** The current approaches to land leases or land purchase to finance expansion results in insufficient leveraging of a major asset, and lacks the required flexibility.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to continue to work with the co-op housing community to implement the recommendations from the 2014 Winnipeg Co-operative Land Trust Research for a co-operative-based central and trust as a mechanism to finance the growth of sustainable mixed income housing in Manitoba.

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*\*Community Land Trusts (CLTs) are locally based, private non-profit organizations that acquire and hold land for community benefit. The philosophy is based on providing perpetually affordable housing to low- and moderate-income households, through the collective sharing of resources, and equitable access.*

# 2016 – 8 Timely and Effective Implementation of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*

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**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* in December 2013 to provide for the comprehensive prevention and removal of barriers.

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

**Whereas:** Barrier Free Manitoba is calling for the province to ensure the timely and effective implementation of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act* provincial accessibility-rights legislation 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.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba support Barrier Free Manitoba’s call for the timely and effective implementation of *The Accessibility for Manitobans Act*.



## 2016 – 9 Early Learning & Child Care

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### Mover: Child Care Coalition of Manitoba

**Whereas:** Investments in early learning and child care stimulate the local economy and create jobs. Every \$1 invested in childcare in Manitoba returns \$1.58 to rural and northern economies and \$1.38 to the Winnipeg economy. For every childcare job created, 2.15 other jobs are created or sustained. Child care affects over 12,700 households in Winnipeg alone, allowing mothers and fathers to work or study, and to earn an estimated \$715 million per year. Accessible and affordable childcare is a major factor in helping women access education, employment and alleviating child poverty. Wages for child care assistants and Early Childhood Educators brings money to their families and the local economy.

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

**Whereas:** The Online Child Care Registry indicates demand for child care services by age and by community. According to the Registry, there are at least 12,000 children on the wait list for child care spaces. Wait times range from months to years across all age groups. The distribution of childcare services tends to advantage higher-income neighbourhoods with greater social capital and newer infrastructure (i.e schools and community centres) and disadvantage lower-income neighbourhoods. Beyond that, low income families are even less likely to access quality childcare because of the \$2 per day fee for each child in fully subsidized child care unless the family is receiving social assistance.

**Whereas:** It is difficult to attract and retain a diverse and qualified child care workforce which creates an imbalance between the number of new spaces and the availability of the childcare workforce. Recruitment of employees with the qualifications required by the Community Child Care Standards Act continues to be a challenge in Manitoba, especially in rural and Northern regions. Some centres are less capable of recruiting and retaining staff due to higher operational costs, including rent and maintenance.

**Whereas:** There is a pressing need for culturally and linguistically appropriate child care services for Aboriginal, Francophone and other minority communities. This requires more resources and training supports for Aboriginal, 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 child care services.

**Whereas:** The Government of Manitoba is committed to reducing poverty through the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*. The *ALL Aboard: Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy* has identified Early Childhood Development and Parenting Supports as a priority area that the strategy will focus on between 2012-2016.

## 2016 – 9 Early Learning & Child Care (Cont'd)

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**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to work with the early learning and child care sector to follow the recommendations from *The View From Here 2015*:

- a. Add 12,000 new licensed and funded not for profit child care spaces while also investing resources to ensure existing spaces are sufficiently funded. Operating funding should be sufficient 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 proportion of trained staff in the 12,000 new spaces.
- c. Immediately eliminate the \$2.00 daily child care fee and increase the income level at which families are eligible for a full fee subsidy, with annual indexing to ensure families do not unfairly lose out on subsidies in the future.
- d. Establish 30 community-based Aboriginal head start programs in and around high-needs schools across Manitoba by 2020.

# 2016 – 10 Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations

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

**Whereas:** Currently in Manitoba there are thirteen neighbourhood renewal corporations (NRCs) doing neighbourhood revitalization work in urban and rural communities. 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 (Thompson, Brandon, Flin Flon, The Pas, Selkirk, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie; in Winnipeg the following areas are funded: Central, Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews, North End, Spence, West Broadway, Chalmers). This funding should be adequate to meet the needs of existing NRCs and any new funding allocated should be consistent with existing NRCs.

**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.

**Whereas:** 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:** The NRCs funding from the NDA has not changed significantly since the beginning of this program. Many activities also considered core and ongoing by NRCs are funded through the 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 leaves less funding available for new and emerging projects in NRCs and other eligible communities.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba will advance the need for neighbourhood renewal corporation projects funded from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and included in their Non-Profit Organization Strategy agreements be moved into the Neighbourhood Development Assistance portion of the agreement, with an administrative increase to match the project, (15% per project) so to make more room in the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for community projects and create greater stability for neighbourhood renewal corporations’ core activities.

# 2016 – 11 Winnipeg-based Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations

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## **Mover: Spence Neighbourhood 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.

**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.

# 2015 – I Energy Efficiency & Social Enterprise

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## **Mover: Aki Energy**

**Whereas:** There are thousands of Manitobans with barriers to employment who stand to benefit from the training and employment opportunities provided by social enterprises. There are at least eight social enterprises who generate some of their revenue through energy efficiency activities (e.g. installing geothermal and solar thermal systems, insulating, installing high efficient natural gas furnaces, and implementing water retrofits). However, there is much more potential to scale up these activities – further reducing unemployment rates and lowering high utility bills for low-income families and their service providers.

**Whereas:** There are approximately 15,000 homes in 63 First Nations in Manitoba that are using expensive electric heat. Aki Energy, a social enterprise, has installed geothermal heat systems in 280 of these homes - creating sustainable employment in four First Nations. There are many other cost-saving renewable alternatives to electric heat that can be implemented through partnerships between social enterprises and First Nations businesses to create further employment in First Nations.

**Whereas:** Manitoba Hydro estimates that there are over 50,000 homes where low-income people live that have not participated in Manitoba Hydro's Affordable Energy Program. As a result, there is a large market for insulating and installing high efficient furnaces in these homes, which creates further potential job growth within Manitoba's social enterprise sector.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has accepted the recommendation of the Public Utilities Board to establish a new arm's-length entity that would be responsible for energy efficiency in Manitoba, and for setting and measuring targets around energy efficiency.

**Whereas:** Manitoba Hydro has the tools but no mandate to lower utility bills by working with social enterprises who create employment for low-income people. An improved demand-side management program provides an opportunity to rapidly expand the energy efficiency work that social enterprises are doing in low income communities across Manitoba. There is an opportunity to ensure the new program has the tools and a strong mandate to set targets and timelines for achieving energy efficiency in a way that provides work for social enterprises who meet social objectives by creating jobs and lowering utility bills for low-income Manitobans.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba send a letter to the Province of Manitoba in support of a new and improved demand-side management program that will be responsible for energy efficiency in Manitoba.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to work with Manitoba Hydro, the private sector, social enterprises, and community organizations to:

- a. Ensure that the improved demand side management program has a strong mandate and adequate resources to develop and implement separate strategies to create job opportunities through energy efficiency efforts in low-income neighbourhoods and in First Nations.
- b. Ensure that energy efficiency strategies are accompanied by targets and timelines, including targets for the number of units to be retrofitted annually by social enterprises.

# 2015 – 2 End of Operating Agreements

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## **Mover: Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada**

**Whereas:** A majority of federal housing agreements for Canada’s housing co-operatives and non-profit and Provincial housing providers are scheduled to end between 2014 and 2021.

**Whereas:** Affordable and social housing saves taxpayers money through reduced health, social services and justice system costs. Housing assistance leads to positive outcomes for our society. It gives low-income people the ability to live in secure and permanent housing. Low-income households include seniors, single-parent working households, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people and new Canadians.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to increasing the number of safe, affordable and social housing units available to Manitobans.

## **Be It Resolved that: CCEDNet – Manitoba work with allies to urge the Province of Manitoba to:**

- a. Work with governments at all levels to design and deliver a new cost-shared rent subsidy and operational cost supplement program to replace expiring federal subsidies.**
- b. Maintain rent-gear-to-income assistance for all low-income people living in housing co-ops, non-profit housing and Provincial housing units that are no longer in federal jurisdiction.**
- c. Call on the federal government to commit now to reinvest the savings from expiring federal housing agreements to share the costs of funding this rent subsidy and operational cost supplement program. This funding can be phased in over time, as operating agreements expire.**

## 2015 – 3 Affordable & Social Housing

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### Mover: Right to Housing

**Whereas:** Although the vacancy rates in Manitoba's cities are creeping up (Winnipeg's vacancy rate for a two bedroom apartment has gone from less than 1% to 2.2%, Thompson's from .2% to 1.1% and Brandon's from less than .1% to 2.8%), we are still experiencing an affordable housing crisis. In 2011, nearly 13,080 Winnipeg households were paying 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 have, over the past 40 years, acted to slow the creation of social and affordable rental housing. Our existing stock is aging and is not being adequately replaced. At the same time rental stock is being eroded through demolition and conversion to condominium. All of 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, newcomers and Aboriginal people). The ongoing expiration of operating agreements presents a further threat to maintain our existing social housing stock.

**Whereas:** Creating new housing projects is extremely complicated and many community organizations lack capacity to take advantage of funding opportunities despite being in the most need of housing.

**Whereas:** 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:** The City of Winnipeg has recently passed the Housing Policy Implementation Plan that 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 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 and the Housing Policy Implementation Plan will expand access to funding for other neighbourhoods. Without significant increases to the HRIR allocation, the capacity of the City to support neighbourhood renewal and affordable housing development will be limited.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has developed two documents that direct it to be more proactive in housing and 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:** In Budget 2014 the Province of Manitoba committed to the creation of 500 new units each of social and affordable rental housing throughout the Province over the next three years.



## 2015 – 3 Affordable & Social Housing (Cont'd)

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**Whereas:** The City of Brandon has recently 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:** CCEDNet – Manitoba will continue to work with the Right to Housing Coalition to ensure that:

- a. The City of Winnipeg supports the Province of Manitoba's housing commitment by using the planning, regulatory and financial tools and powers at its disposal to support at least 350 new units of affordable rental housing and 350 new units of social housing over the next three years.
- b. The City of Winnipeg 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%, and adopt inclusionary zoning to increase the number of affordable housing units in all housing developments.
- d. 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.
- e. The Province of Manitoba eliminates the further erosion of rent-geared-to-income housing, such that the existing commitment to create 500 each of new social and affordable housing units represents a net increase in social housing, while also planning for further net increases, beyond these existing commitments, to the supply of affordable and social rental housing province-wide for those most in need.
- f. The Province of Manitoba builds the capacity of non-profit and coop 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. The Province of Manitoba lobbies its provincial counterparts and the federal government to create and fund a national housing strategy.

## 2015 – 5 Food Policy Councils\*

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### **Mover: Food Matters Manitoba**

**Whereas:** There are significant opportunities in Manitoba to enhance food security, green our communities, engage neighbourhoods in urban agriculture and create economic opportunities in our communities.

**Whereas:** Chronic diseases related to diet cost our province billions of dollars, with diabetes alone costing \$500 million in 2010.

**Whereas:** The food economy and food programming are key components of vibrant, healthy communities.

**Whereas:** Governments can play a key role in facilitating and planning for a food secure community and developing an enabling regulatory structure.

**Whereas:** Other Canadian jurisdictions have developed food policy councils and food security strategies, fostered cooperation between government departments and community agencies, and encouraged citizen involvement in the food system.

**Whereas:** Comprehensive food strategies strengthen food security, improve health and create economic opportunities for producers and processors in a strong local food economy.

**Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba and Manitoban municipalities to create Food Policy Councils mandated to develop and implement a food security strategy in partnership with the local food movement and community agencies.**

*\*Moved to replace resolution 2014 – 10 Municipal Food Policy Councils*

# 2015 – 6 Non Profit Organization Strategy

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

**Whereas:** Many community-based non-profits 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 and strategic action through a comprehensive approach.

**Whereas:** Short-term funding from multiple sources creates an administrative burden that can result in inefficiencies and less time to engage the community in the long-term thinking, planning and action that is needed to achieve long-term results.

**Whereas:** Short-term funding tends to provide insecure, low-paying jobs with inadequate benefits that makes it difficult to attract and retain qualified staff, leads to turnover and diminishes organizational capacity and stability.

**Whereas:** On April 8, 2011 the Province of Manitoba announced a two-year, four-point strategy to cut red tape and make it easier for non-profit organizations in Manitoba to provide valuable services, including by piloting multi-year and multi-program funding with a representative group of non-profits with proven track records of success, and by eliminating duplication in reporting requirements for organizations dealing with multiple provincial programs. The Province of Manitoba is expected to renew and expand the strategy, enabling more organizations to participate.

**Whereas:** An evaluation of the strategy has suggested that multi-year, multi-program funding has helped enable participating community-based non-profits to plan and act long-term, attract and retain qualified staff, and improve overall organizational capacity, stability and efficiency.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has not sufficiently communicated information to participating NPO-funded agencies regarding the process for renewing multi-year funding agreements. In particular, the failure to confirm funding agreement renewals in a timely manner has left many agencies in a state of uncertainty about how to plan for operational sustainability. Agencies require sufficient notice of renewal confirmation in order to plan for meeting the application deadlines of alternative government funding sources.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to build upon and improve the NPO Strategy by:

- a. Working with NPO-funded agencies to establish a clear process for renewing multi-year funding agreements, which would include providing a year's notice of renewal decisions to ensure agencies have sufficient time to plan for ongoing operational sustainability.
- b. Extending the length of funding agreements from the current three years to a maximum of five years including cost of living increases on an annual basis.
- c. Creating effective communication channels between the Province of Manitoba and NPO-funded agencies so that agencies know where to provide feedback, make recommendations, and raise concerns or support for NPO Strategy initiatives.
- d. Consulting with NPO-funded agencies when the Strategy is evaluated and when changes to the Strategy are considered.
- e. Creating a sustainable way to expand the NPO Strategy to support additional community-based non-profit

## 2015 – 7 Tax Credit in Support of Social Enterprise

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### Mover: SEED Winnipeg

**Whereas:** Social enterprises owned and controlled by charitable organizations reduce poverty and stimulate local economies when they create jobs by hiring hard-to-employ Manitobans facing barriers to employment.

**Whereas:** Social enterprises struggle to find start-up capital and business mentorship opportunities, while Manitoba corporations have available capital and expertise to support social enterprises.

**Whereas:** A tax credit incentive would motivate Manitoba corporations to donate capital and expertise in social enterprises that reduce poverty and social exclusion by creating jobs for Manitobans with barriers to employment.

**Whereas:** The *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* and CED Policy Framework express the Province's commitment to reducing poverty and social exclusion, increasing local employment opportunities for marginalized individuals, and supporting the development and growth of social enterprises in Manitoba.

**Whereas:** Budget 2011 introduced the 30% Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit for Manitoba corporations that contribute a minimum of \$50,000 toward an organization with charitable status for the purpose of starting a new social enterprise that hires Manitobans facing barriers to employment.

**Whereas:** The Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit has not been sufficiently utilized by potential funding partners within the corporate community due to a lack of promotion and outreach. There is a need to facilitate partnerships between potential funders and charitable organizations who wish to establish new, or develop existing, social enterprises in Manitoba.

**Whereas:** There are concerns that the Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit has been insufficiently utilized in part because the minimum corporate contribution (\$50,000) towards organizations with charitable status is set too high.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to ensure the Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit contributes to social enterprise development by partnering with the social enterprise sector and other stakeholders to develop a strategy to:

- a. Support the promotion of the Tax Credit to potential funding partners in the corporate community.
- b. Build partnerships between the corporate community and charitable organizations that wish to establish new, or develop existing, social enterprises in Manitoba.
- c. Reassess the minimum amount that needs to be donated to receive the tax credit.

## 2015 – 8 Labour Market Intermediaries

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

**Whereas:** Recent research has identified a gap in policies and services that exist to strengthen the long-term labour market attachment of people with barriers to employment. Multi-barriered jobseekers and the employers who hire them often require access to comprehensive supports during and after a transition from training to employment. However, community-based organizations providing employment development supports are not sufficiently resourced to continue to offer comprehensive supports after participants exit their programs. The research has suggested that the policy gap can be effectively addressed by a community-designed and delivered Labour Market Intermediary (LMI) situated within the neighbourhoods that it serves. In addition to deploying caseworkers to provide long-term support to employers and jobseekers through the transition to employment, LMIs simplify relationships between employers and community-based training organizations by bringing them together through a single entity.

**Whereas:** There are many Manitobans with barriers to employment who are currently shut out of the workforce (e.g. Aboriginal people, new Canadians, persons with disabilities, and persons with low socio-economic status). There is a great potential for these individuals to improve their social and economic wellbeing through employment and to provide a significant source of labour to the local economy. However, without access to ongoing and comprehensive supports, many of these individuals will fall off their path to sustained employment. Given the growing Aboriginal population and its relatively weaker labour market outcomes, it makes sense to focus the activities of an LMI on Aboriginal people, while not limiting access to other populations with unique challenges.

**Whereas:** Current approaches to improving labour market outcomes for people with barriers to employment have been government-centred. Furthermore, they have not provided neighbourhood-based access to the full range of supports that employers and jobseekers need over the long term. Community-based training organizations have developed strong relationships with the people who use their services. A community-designed and directed LMI would be situated within the neighbourhood it serves. It would offer a different approach through a comprehensive and long-term model that builds on the collective knowledge existing organizations have about what is needed to support multi-barriered job seekers.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba's Strategy for Sustainable Employment and a Stronger Labour Market recognizes the importance of investing in programs and services to help people with barriers to employment find and keep good jobs and to help employers access skilled workers. The Province's Manitoba Works! initiative contains some features that are similar to an LMI approach, but it can be scaled up more efficiently through the development of an actual LMI.

**Whereas:** Initiatives that support sustained employment for people with barriers to employment contribute to fairer and stronger local economies, reduced poverty, and safer communities.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to fund the initial set up and operating costs of a community-designed and delivered Labour Market Intermediary in Winnipeg, rural Manitoba, and in the North to improve labour market outcomes for multi-barriered job seekers, with a primary focus on Aboriginal people.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province to work with the community, including the social enterprise sector, to identify and address gaps in services for multi-barriered job seekers.

# 2015 – 9 Pre-Development Funding for New Co-operative Housing Projects

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## **Mover: Co-operative Housing Development Group**

**Whereas:** Housing co-operatives offer housing at a cost that is much more affordable than average private sector rental costs, offer security through democratic decision making by the members and build capacity in members through their participation in the governance structure.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has long encouraged and supported the development of housing cooperatives of all types. It has committed to increasing the number of safe affordable housing units available to Manitobans and is developing a renewed Co-op Visioning Strategy and a new Co-op Housing Strategy.

**Whereas:** Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation's (MHRC) present proposal funding guidelines limit the amount of funding available to new co-operatives at the pre-development stage, both in amount and use of funding. These limits prevent new housing cooperatives from undertaking important activities that are needed to properly prepare a proposal for financing, which makes it difficult to produce reliable estimates of project costs.

**Whereas:** MHRC's present proposal funding guidelines restrict funding to non-profit housing cooperatives, meaning that multi-stakeholder (other than not-for-profit) and limited equity housing cooperatives are ineligible for funding.

**Whereas:** These factors act as constraints upon the ability of the cooperative sector to increase affordable housing options.

**Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to review and revise the Proposal Development Funding Guidelines applicable to all Manitoba communities with an aim to:**

- a. Increase the maximum amount of funding available to new housing cooperatives to amounts that would enable sufficient work to be completed at the proposal stage to allow for more accurate project costing.
- b. To review the activities for which this funding can be used.
- c. To allow this funding to be made available to all new housing cooperatives, including all multi-stakeholder and limited equity housing cooperatives.

# 2015 – II Endorsement of “You Hold the Key” Cooperative Housing Campaign

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## **Mover:** Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

**Whereas:** A majority of federal housing agreements for Canada’s housing co-operatives are scheduled to end between 2014 and 2021.

**Whereas:** Housing co-operatives can offer housing that is much more affordable than average private sector rental costs, offer security through democratic decision making by the members and build capacity in members through their participation in the governance structure.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to increasing the number of safe and affordable housing units available to Manitobans and is developing a renewed Co-op Visioning Strategy and a new Co-op Housing Strategy.

**Whereas:** CHF Canada has developed a national campaign asking housing co-operatives and allied organizations to speak out to all levels of government to protect affordable housing cooperatives.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba endorse CHF Canada’s “You Hold the Key – Fix the Co-op Housing Crunch” campaign.



# 2015 – 12 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas

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**Mover:** Richard Dilay

**Whereas:** Neighbourhood renewal corporations (NRC), resident associations, community centres and other community-based organizations are successfully planning and coordinating community development, community economic development, and neighbourhood revitalization initiatives in communities experiencing issues related to safety, inadequate recreation opportunities, and a lack of affordable housing.

**Whereas:** These community-based organizations may currently already be receiving operating support from a level of government (e.g. NRCs currently receive operational funding from the Province of Manitoba through Neighbourhoods Alive! and may also receive support for Housing Coordination from the City of Winnipeg), as well as funding for projects from sources such as a level of government and/or charitable foundations.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has been a leader in neighbourhood renewal including being a partner in tri-partite agreements such as the Winnipeg Core Area Initiatives, Winnipeg Development Agreement, and the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement, as well as current bi-partite agreements such as the Homelessness Partnership Strategy and Building Community Initiatives.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg currently has provision for Business Improvement Zones (BIZ), funded through a special addition to the business tax generating over \$3 Million dollars annually for the existing BIZs, that allow BIZS to make local improvements, operate services such as the Downtown Watch, and generally promote their business communities.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has provided for Housing Improvement Zones (HIZ), with funding of approximately \$1 Million annually, for selected inner-city neighbourhoods and Aboriginal housing including local housing coordination as well as physical improvement projects with neighbourhood renewal corporations, resident associations and other relevant partners.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg had previously designated 12 inner-city neighbourhoods as Major Improvement Areas (MIA) that have been used by the Province of Manitoba to determine Neighbourhoods Alive! designated neighbourhoods in Winnipeg.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has already committed to establishing neighbourhood reinvestment areas.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the City of Winnipeg to establish Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIA), including:

- a. Providing for funding for housing (replacing HIZ), safety and crime prevention, recreation, active transportation, improvement coordination and projects in high-needs neighbourhoods requiring this assistance.
- b. Annual funding level on par with that of existing BIZs (\$3 Million from the City's operating budget).
- c. Partnering with neighbourhood renewal corporations, resident associations, community centres and other relevant stakeholders in the planning and delivery of NIAs.
- d. Partnering with the other levels of government and funders (e.g. Winnipeg Foundation) to better align neighbourhood renewal efforts.

# 2014 – I CED Tax Credit

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## **Mover: Peg City Car Co-op**

**Whereas:** Communities acting together to create local economic opportunities to enhance social conditions, employment 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 service 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 businesses 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 that include the mobilization of individuals as investors and the provision of equity investments with financial incentives are succeeding across Canada, and a recent report by CCEDNet - Manitoba analyzes the need and potential for a Manitoba-specific model.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has created the CED Tax Credit that has been successfully used to create approximately a dozen community-owned businesses around Manitoba, investing approximately \$2.25 million in community enterprises.

**Whereas:** There is insufficient support for community groups to apply for the Manitoba CED Tax Credit and 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: CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to strengthen the Manitoba CED Tax Credit by:**

- a. 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.**
- b. Implement commitments made in 2012 to streamline and simplify 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.**
- c. Build and support a central resource housed in the co-operative community to champion the CED Tax Credit, through public promotion, applicant support and network capacity building.**
- d. Develop tools and a strategy to educate and train co-op developers, existing co-operatives in Manitoba, economic development officers and anyone else 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. Increase investment incentive by raising the CED Tax Credit from 30% to 35% and by creating additional incentives for investment term renewals after five and ten years.**

## 2014 – 2 Co-op Visioning Strategy

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### **Mover: Manitoba Cooperative Association**

**Whereas:** There are more than 375 co-operatives, credit unions and caisses populaires in Manitoba, comprising of over 900,000 memberships and more than \$22 billion in assets. Co-operatives 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 ten years, the figures are 44 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

**Whereas:** A comprehensive strategy for the strengthening and growth of cooperatives in Manitoba is required to ensure that results for our economy and our communities are achieved.

**Whereas:** A strategic action plan for co-op development is most effectively achieved through the sufficiently resourced co-production of the vision, policy and action plans.

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

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba, in partnership with the co-operative sector, has co-constructed and co-produced good policy, public education and co-op development results from a successful five year Co-op Visioning Strategy that is set to expire.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to build upon their commitments to strengthening the co-op community by allocating the required resources to co-create and co-produce a second 5-year Co-op Visioning Strategy in full partnership with the co-op sector.

# 2014 – 3 Housing, Green Jobs – A Pathway Out of Poverty

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## **Mover: Manitoba Green Retrofit**

**Whereas:** Manitoba's social housing inventory includes approximately 18,000 homes meeting the needs of low-income people, yet much of the social housing requires substantial condition and energy efficiency upgrades. There is also a great need to build more social housing units to meet the needs of 85,000 Manitobans in core housing need.

**Whereas:** Residents of social housing often have shared characteristics, which include living in areas with high rates of poverty and unemployment, facing multiple barriers to employment and requiring comprehensive training and supports to succeed in the work force. Thus, those in need of social housing are also those in need of jobs with comprehensive supports. Ensuring that training and job opportunities benefit people with barriers to employment will reduce the growing need for housing assistance and income support.

**Whereas:** The Province has committed to establish 1500 affordable housing units and 1500 social housing units between 2009 – 2014, committed to establish an additional 500 affordable housing units and 500 social housing units over three years in Budget 2013, committed to increasing the quality and functionality of their existing housing portfolio, and has included affordable housing, training and employment as target areas for its *ALL Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion Strategy*.

**Whereas:** Increasing energy prices grow the financial burden to social housing providers and low-income households paying their own utilities while decreasing the affordability of adequate housing for low-income Manitobans. This adds pressure to the Province's housing and income support programs to bridge the affordability gap of housing for low-income Manitobans.

**Whereas:** Construction, maintenance, and energy efficiency retrofits provide the most immediately available, attainable and cost effective job investment opportunities for employment development. Job creation with the necessary supports and training programs, particularly when focused on creating opportunities for marginalized populations such as the rapidly growing young population within the Aboriginal community, helps to stabilize communities and raise people out of poverty. Furthermore, generating local employment can keep money circulating in the local economy, thus improving social and economic conditions for all.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province, utility corporations, housing providers and Manitoba municipalities to ensure the creation, renovation, maintenance and energy and water efficiency improvements for affordable housing incorporates employment development strategies that target low-income people, such as contracting social enterprises to do the work.

# 2014 – 4 Living Wage for All Manitobans

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## **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 and 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:** The living wage alleviates severe financial stress for families by lifting them out of poverty and providing a basic level of economic security.

**Whereas:** Research has shown that paying a living wage has concrete benefits for employer:

- Reduced absenteeism;
- Increased skill, morale and productivity levels;
- Improved customer satisfaction; and
- Enhanced employer reputations.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoban 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:** Governments have a responsibility for the well being of the citizens in their jurisdiction, their families, and the local economies.

**Whereas:** 140 US cities and a number of municipalities in the United Kingdom have implemented a living wage; New Westminster, BC is the first Canadian city to implement a living wage policy. In Manitoba, the Assiniboine Credit Union has adopted a living wage policy.

**Whereas:** The living wage in Manitoba in 2013 for a family of four with two parents working fulltime is \$14.07/hour.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba and Manitoban municipalities to adopt a Living Wage Policy, to be determined in partnership with the community, for their employees and contracted services for the purpose of reducing poverty.

## 2014 – 5 Local & Sustainable Food Procurement

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### **Mover: Food Matters Manitoba**

**Whereas:** Manitoba municipalities and the Province of Manitoba, including all related agencies and institutions, purchase significant amounts of food for its institutions and food services.

**Whereas:** Food is connected to health, the environment, the economy and community. Therefore, the purchase of this food can be used to enhance the local economy and environmental sustainability.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to sustainable procurement in the *Sustainable Development Act*, committed to healthy communities through the creation of the Department of Healthy Living, and to the well being of rural communities and our local agricultural producers through the creation of the Department of Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Development.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to a two-year pilot project for voluntary institutional purchasers to track and increase their purchasing of local and sustainable food products in partnership with Food Matters Manitoba.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge Manitoban municipalities and the Province of Manitoba to mandate its own departments and agencies (academic institutions, school boards and health and social service providers) to participate in the pilot and develop a long-term framework to build on this pilot towards local, sustainable procurement by provincial institutions with targets and timelines for incremental implementation.

# 2014 – 6 Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy

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## **Mover: Manitoba Green Retrofit**

**Whereas:** Social enterprises strategically use a business model to realize social outcomes, such as the creation of jobs for people with barriers to employment, provide important community services, generate revenue for non-profits, and are more effective at building fairer, stronger and more sustainable local economies and communities than traditional business models.

**Whereas:** Creating a robust social enterprise ecosystem in Manitoba requires a methodical and strategic approach to ensuring:

- The ability to identify opportunities and mobilize stakeholders to create social enterprises;
- Development of management capacity;
- Access to appropriate funding and financing;
- Expanded access to markets;
- Recognition and promotion of the added value to our communities and economies of social enterprises;
- A supportive policy environment; and
- Support and participate in networks and opportunities for knowledge exchange.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba, in partnership with the co-operative sector, has co-constructed and co-produced good policy, public education and co-op development results from a successful five year Co-operative Community Strategy and also invests significant resources in supporting the creation and growth of traditional businesses in Manitoba.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has adopted the Community Economic Development Policy Framework and Lens, created the Neighbourhoods Alive Tax Credit in support of social enterprise capitalization, partnered with CCEDNet Manitoba's Enterprising Non-Profits program to support social enterprise development, engaged social enterprises through government procurement in support of job creation for people with barriers to employment and invested in the creation of the Social Enterprise Centre and other social enterprise support organizations.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to build upon their commitment to social enterprise development by allocating the required resources to co-create and co-produce a Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy in full partnership with the social enterprise community, with a particular focus on social enterprise development, where the mission is job creation and training for people with barriers to employment.



# 2014 – 8 Procurement for Community Benefit & Poverty Reduction

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## **Mover: Local Investment Towards Employment (LITE)**

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoban municipalities purchase significant amounts of goods and services, while social enterprises and co-operatives use a business model to create community benefit: creating jobs, reducing poverty, providing community services, renewing communities and building a fairer, stronger and more sustainable local economy.

**Whereas:** Increasing purchases from social enterprises and co-operatives will scale up their impact and their intended economic, social and environmental outcomes.

**Whereas:** The procurement policies and practices of the Province of Manitoba and Manitoban municipalities would be greatly enhanced by building into a procurement process an effective valuation of social, environmental and economic benefit through Community Benefit Clauses.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to sustainable procurement in the *Sustainable Development Act*, committed to purchasing from Aboriginal businesses through the Aboriginal Procurement Initiative, created the Community Economic Development Policy Framework and Lens, committed to poverty reduction through the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*.

**Whereas:** Shifting purchases and contracts to social enterprises and co-operatives will result in greater return on investment to government and society, and will result in more jobs for people with barriers to employment, poverty reduction, increased community services, community renewal and fairer, stronger and more sustainable economies and environments.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and other Manitoban municipalities to implement a procurement strategy that takes into account the added economic, social and environmental value of purchasing through the weighted inclusion of Community Benefit Clauses in contracts and purchases.

**Be It Further Resolved:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to immediately implement a procurement strategy targeting social enterprises that create jobs for people facing barriers to employment.

# 2014 – 9 Provincial & Municipal CED Policy Framework & Lens

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## **Mover: Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation**

**Whereas:** Manitoban communities face complex challenges including poverty, social exclusion, income inequality, unemployment, urban decline, environmental and ecological degradation, and community sustainability. CCEDNet recognizes that 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. By 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:** Manitoba has implemented a cross-governmental CED policy framework with an accompanying lens.

**Whereas:** Many municipalities in Manitoba should adopt and apply a CED lens to their policies and programs.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba work to strengthen the awareness, understanding and implementation of the CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments at the provincial level.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba work to strengthen the awareness, understanding and implementation of the CED Policy Framework and Lens with municipal governments throughout Manitoba.

# 2014 – II Co-op Housing Appeal Tribunal Reform

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**Mover:** Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

**Whereas:** There are 49 housing co-operatives with 2,814 homes in Manitoba.

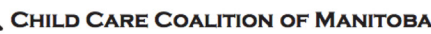
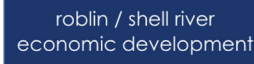
**Whereas:** Consultations facilitated by the Registrar of Cooperatives were held with housing co-operatives to discuss proposed amendments to *The Cooperatives Act* during 2010 and 2011.

**Whereas:** The amendments to reform the special tribunal that hears appeals from members of housing co-operatives facing eviction or termination of their membership were passed in 2011 as part of Bill 17, *The Cooperatives Amendment Act*.

**Whereas:** The reforms to the tribunal process would enhance procedural protections and fairness and would result in better-trained tribunal panellists.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet – Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to proclaim into law the reformed appeal tribunal process that was passed in 2011 as part of Bill 17, *The Cooperatives Amendment Act*.

# Canadian CED Network | Manitoba



Together we are creating **stronger, fairer, more sustainable communities!**

[www.ccednet-rcdec.ca](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca)

# Canadian CED Network - Manitoba Members

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg  
Aki Energy  
Assiniboine Credit Union  
Belgian Club / Branch 107 R.C.L  
Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation  
BUILD  
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives MB  
Child Care Coalition of Manitoba  
Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba  
Community Futures Manitoba  
Community Futures Westman  
Co-op Housing Development Group Inc.  
Cooperative Housing Federation - CHF Canada  
Daniel McIntyre / St. Matthews Community Association  
DSI Tandem Co-op Resources Ltd.  
Economic Developers Association of Manitoba  
Elmwood Community Resource Centre & Area Association  
Family Dynamics  
Flatlanders Inn  
Food Matters Manitoba  
Fools & Horses  
Frank Atnikov Business Consulting  
Green Action Centre  
Hive Management  
ImagineAbility Inc  
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba  
Indigenous Family Centre  
Investors Group  
LAHRK Consulting Worker Cooperative  
Literacy Partners of Manitoba  
Local Investment Toward Employment (LITE)  
Manitoba Cooperative Association  
Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)  
Manitoba Green Retrofit  
Manitoba Housing and Community Development  
Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities  
Mosaic Newcomer Family Resources Network  
Natural Cycle Federation  
North End Community Renewal Corporation  
North Point Douglas Women's Centre  
PeaceWorks Technology Solutions  
Peg City Car Co-op  
Portage La Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation  
Pregnancy & Family Support Services  
Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet, Province of Manitoba  
Pulford Community Living Services Inc.  
Reconnaissance Management Consulting Group  
Red Road Lodge  
Right to Housing Coalition  
Roblin / Shell River Economic Development Office  
Rural Development Institute  
SEED Winnipeg, Inc.  
Small Farms Manitoba  
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg  
Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc.  
Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation  
United Way of Winnipeg  
Urban Eatin' Landscapes  
Volunteer Manitoba  
West Broadway Community Organization  
West Central Women's Resource Centre  
Winnipeg Rental Network

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Published December 2015

