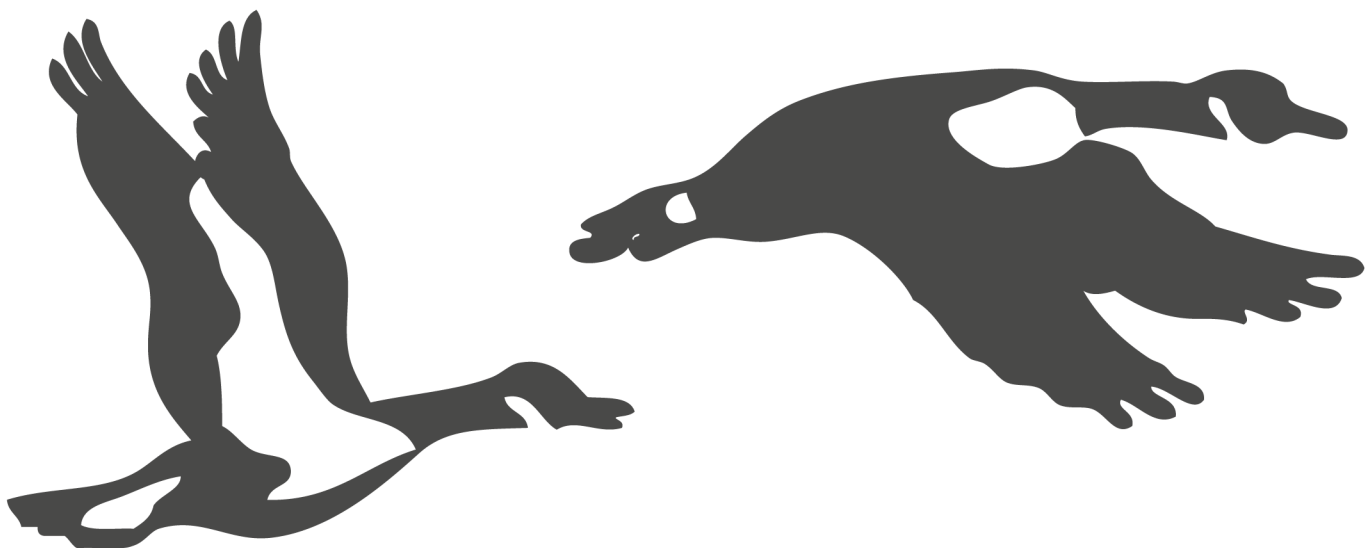


Manitoba Provincial & Municipal  
**Policy Resolutions 2018**



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 local 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 2018. They will be revisited when we look ahead to 2019, 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 with and for 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 CCEDNet 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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Policy resolutions expire after three years, and may be resubmitted as new resolutions.

\* Moved to replace 2017-2 Investing In Community-Led Development.

# 2018 – I Supporting a National Housing Strategy

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## **Mover: Cooperative Housing Development Group**

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

**Whereas:** Non-profit and cooperative housing is the most cost-efficient form of providing affordable and social housing.

**Whereas:** Community-based housing providers like non-profits and cooperatives give vulnerable households (including seniors, single parent families, newcomers, people living with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples) stable and secure homes.

**Whereas:** The Government of Canada has, on multiple occasions, stated its intention to address the sustainability of affordable and social housing providers exiting operating agreements, the vulnerability of low-income subsidy recipients who rely on that housing, and the construction of new affordable and social housing units.

**Be It Resolved That :** the Province of Manitoba engage with the Government of Canada as a full and willing partner in the National Housing Strategy with an aim to:

- a. Deliver a new cost-shared rent subsidy to replace expiring federal subsidies;**
- b. Work with community partners in the non-profit and cooperative sector to maintain the viability of existing affordable and social housing providers; and**
- c. Provide financial support on a cost-shared basis for the construction of new affordable and social housing units in Manitoba.**

# 2018 – 2 Supporting Employment Partnerships for Indigenous Job Seekers Facing Multiple Barriers

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

**Whereas:** Many Manitobans who face barriers to employment are not participating in Manitoba's workforce, including Indigenous individuals, newcomers and persons with disabilities. This presents an opportunity to both bolster Manitoba's labour market, and support marginalized individuals to break the cycle of poverty.

**Whereas:** Historical and ongoing systemic discrimination against Indigenous peoples has contributed to exceptionally high rates of unemployment in some Manitoban Indigenous communities. In Manitoba, the unemployment rate for off-reserve Indigenous Manitobans was 10.2%, as compared to 6.2% for non-Indigenous Manitobans (2015). This challenge warrants Indigenous-specific solutions.

**Whereas:** While there are successful existing approaches to improving labour market outcomes for Indigenous people with barriers to employment, these have not succeeded for portions of the population, with documented challenges in being overly government-centered and not appreciating the necessity of place-based modelling.

**Whereas:** Surveys have demonstrated Manitoba employers want to recruit and hire Indigenous Manitobans, but are unsure how to successfully do so. One issue employers have identified is the need for cultural awareness education for businesses.

**Whereas:** The Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council (WPRC) has undertaken a plan of action called TRC92: Youth Employment, named after the 92nd Call to Action in the 2015 *National Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report*. The WPRC has established an 'Employer Consortium', which brings together 10 private sector employers for business-to-business learning as they embark on this call to action.

**Whereas:** Canada's labour force growth is slowing due to an ageing population. It is estimated that closing the labour-force participation gap for Indigenous people would add as much as a fifth of the growth in labour force in the next 20 years.

**Whereas:** Canada's Indigenous population is young and is the fastest growing population in the country. Over the next decade, about 400,000 young Indigenous people are expected to join the close to 900,000 Indigenous people already at working age.

**Whereas:** There is a gap in services to support long-term success in the labour market for individuals facing barriers to employment. Notably, both employers and job seekers often require supports for a longer period than just the initial hire or match. This gap could be filled by an entity dedicated to supporting employers and multi-barriered job seekers through a transition phase. Caseworkers would simplify bringing together employers, training organizations and supportive resources through a single point of contact that stayed with the employee throughout their efforts entering the labour market.

**Whereas:** Community-based organizations have established strong relationships with the communities they serve. This model of community ownership should be replicated when supporting multi-barriered individuals after entering the labour market.

**Whereas:** Investments and initiatives to support labour market outcomes for Indigenous communities should be Indigenous-led and culturally appropriate if they are to be most impactful.

**Whereas:** More than 80 organizations have signed onto the City of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord, committing to reconciliation through the TRC 94 Calls to Action.

## 2018 – 2 Supporting Employment Partnerships for Indigenous Job Seekers Facing Multiple Barriers Cont'd

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**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba, in its participation in the Forum of Labour Market Ministers, has identified and agreed on the need of increasing labour market outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

**Whereas:** The Department of Municipal Relations has been mandated to make Manitoba the most improved province in partnership initiatives with business and communities.

**Whereas:** The Department of Families has been mandated to support business, social and community partnerships in tackling complex poverty.

**Whereas:** The TRC's Call To Action #92 calls "upon the corporate sector in Canada to .... ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and .... provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism."

**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:** the Province of Manitoba provide the necessary resources and policy supports to organizations and initiatives providing long-term supports to Indigenous job seekers facing multiple barriers to employment and employers committed to inclusive hiring.



# 2018 – 3 Rent Supplements, RGI and transitioning to Rent Assist

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## **Mover: Cooperative Housing Federation of Canada**

**Whereas:** A majority of federal housing agreements for Canada's housing cooperatives are scheduled to end between 2014 and 2021, and rent-geared-to-income (RGI) rent supplements typically expire with these operating agreements.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has expanded the Rent Assist Program (linked to 75% of Median Market Rent) as its base rent supplement offering to non-profit and cooperative housing providers that are exiting operating agreements.

**Whereas:** Effective July 1, 2017 the social housing RGI rate has increased to 28% (from 25% - 27%) on lease agreements for new households and effective Nov. 1, 2017 the rate increased to 28% on existing tenant lease renewals.

**Whereas:** KPMG's Manitoba Fiscal Performance Review identifies that from 1992-2015 Median Household Income has gone up 15% while average rent on a two-bedroom apartment has increased 86%.

**Whereas:** KPMG's Manitoba Fiscal Performance Review further identified that the average recipient transitioning from an RGI subsidy to Rent Assist will be required to pay an addition \$3302 in annual rent, representing a 75% increase over the recipient's current portion.

**Whereas:** Such a rent increase to low-income households would result in undue hardship, forcing families from their homes and communities into substandard and overcrowded housing.

**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba deploy any resources available (including cost-sharing agreements under the National Housing Strategy) to ensure that the present recipients of rent-geared-to-income receive support that is introduced in a timely and seamless manner and is equal in both depth and breadth to the support they currently receive.

# 2018 – 4 Community Led Development: Reducing Red Tape and Increasing Value for Money \*

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## **Mover: Spence Neighbourhood Association**

**Whereas:** Complex community challenges like unemployment, urban and rural decline, poverty, social exclusion and environmental degradation require comprehensive responses, and that those responses have proven to be most effective and sustainable when they are community-led.

**Whereas:** Many community-based organizations 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, strategic and comprehensive action.

**Whereas:** When community development receives funding from the Province of Manitoba, it is primarily through the Department of Municipal Relations. Most urban community development is funded through the Neighbourhoods Alive! program.

**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 front line jobs with inadequate benefits that makes it difficult to attract and retain qualified staff, leads to turnover and diminishes organizational capacity and stability.

**Whereas:** Evaluations have demonstrated that multi-year, streamlined funding has helped community-based organizations to be more efficient and effective. Streamlined, multi-year funding improves long-term planning and acting, attracting and retaining quality staff, and overall organizational capacity, stability and efficiency.

**Whereas:** Flexible funding programs allow community-based organizations to leverage additional resources from non-government sources or the different levels of government that address community-prioritized challenges and opportunities.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has demonstrated a trend towards shorter contracts with decreasing information about program renewals and criteria, providing limited certainty to community-based non-profit organizations.

**Whereas:** Problems in process, such as a failure to confirm funding agreement renewals in a timely manner, has left many agencies in a state of uncertainty about how to maintain operational sustainability.

**Whereas:** Multi-year, streamlined funding for community-based organizations will help protect frontline services and the jobs of the workers who deliver these services, as well as bringing greater value for money to government investments.

**Whereas:** In January 2017, the Province of Manitoba launched a Red Tape Reduction Task Force, with a specific focus on non-profits.

**Whereas:** There is no short-term solution for transforming social, economic and environmental conditions in Manitoba's struggling communities. Community organizations doing this work require sustained, long-term funding that enables them to take corresponding long-term and strategic action.

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\* Moved to replace policy resolution 2017 – 2 Investing in Community Led Development

# 2018 – 4 Community Led Development: Reducing Red Tape and Increasing Value for Money Cont'd

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**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba support community-led development with multi-year, streamlined funding with the following characteristics:

- a. A targeted approach that identifies and invests in key neighbourhoods and communities in the greatest need of physical, social and economic revitalization;**
- b. Multi-year agreements to a maximum of five years, including cost of living increases on an annual basis; and**
- c. Creating effective communication channels between the Province of Manitoba and community-based organizations, allowing agencies to provide feedback and make recommendations, as well as providing agencies with a year's notice of renewal decisions, thereby ensuring agencies have sufficient time to plan.**

# 2018 – 5 Energy Efficiency and Social Enterprise

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## **Mover: Wa Ni Ska Tan Hydro Alliance**

**Whereas:** There are thousands of Manitobans with barriers to employment who stand to benefit from the training and employment opportunities provided by social enterprises.

**Whereas:** Manitoba Hydro has announced its intention to seek rate increases of 47% in the next 5 years, which will negatively impact electric heating customers, many of whom are on already economically marginalized First Nations in Manitoba.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba's proposed carbon tax will increase the cost of natural gas, having an impact on low income families in mostly urban areas.

**Whereas:** There are approximately 50,000 urban, rural and on-reserve homes that could benefit from energy- and water-efficiency retrofits. Energy and water retrofits in these homes would save homeowners, the Province of Manitoba and the Federal government money while creating employment. Retrofits would include improved insulation, ground source heat pumps (geothermal), high efficient gas furnaces and low-flow toilet and showerheads. Replacements to housing stock that is beyond repair should meet Passive House building standards for energy use and air quality.\*

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to develop Efficiency Manitoba, a stand-alone demand side management agency to help Manitobans become more energy efficient. The Public Utilities Board will be responsible for setting targets and establishing how Efficiency Manitoba will operate. Without a mandate to implement strategies that target these high-value opportunities in low-income communities, including First Nations, these opportunities will be missed.

**Whereas:** Community enterprise is one of four approaches in the Province of Manitoba's Look North Economic Task Force Report and Action Plan, including building and supporting a local social enterprise and NGO sector. Furthermore, this report and action plan articulates the increased value of targeting procurement to build local skills and capacities.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba launched A Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan, which highlights the importance of local innovations, local decision making and not-for-profit partners in achieving a sustainable economy in Manitoba.

**Whereas:** Initiatives and policy that improve environmental sustainability in Manitoban communities can leverage more value for money if a community economic development lens is applied, such as engaging social enterprises who train and hire people facing barriers to employment for Manitoba's green jobs.

## **Be It Resolved That: in developing Efficiency Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba and the Public Utilities Board:**

- 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.**
- c. Establish long term partnerships with social enterprises and community organizations to accomplish their energy efficiency goals.**

\* [www.passivehouse.com](http://www.passivehouse.com)

## 2018 – 6 Enabling Social Finance in Manitoba

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### Mover: SEED Winnipeg

**Whereas:** The Winnipeg Social Finance Working Group (WSFWG) has been gathering since 2016 to identify gaps, challenges and opportunities in the financing ecosystem for the social economy, including non-profits, cooperatives and social enterprises. Its membership is comprised of the Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg, Assiniboine Credit Union, the Canadian CED Network Manitoba, the Jubilee Fund, Local Investment Toward Employment, the Manitoba Cooperative Association, SEED Winnipeg, the United Way Winnipeg, The Winnipeg Foundation and the University of Winnipeg Community Renewal Corporation.

**Whereas:** There are more than 400 cooperatives, credit unions, and caisses populaires in Manitoba, comprising of over 900,000 memberships and more than \$22 billion in assets. Cooperatives are a more sustainable business model given their collective ownership and community commitment; 62% of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35% for other new businesses. After 10 years, the figures are 44% and 20% respectively.

**Whereas:** In 2013, social enterprises in Manitoba earned at least \$63.6 million in revenues, including \$43.9 million in sales of goods and services. Social enterprises provided employment for at least 4,450 workers, who earned more than \$34.4 million in wages and salaries.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba is engaged in social finance through the Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit, operating subsidies for community finance organizations, as well as a commitment to implement Social Impact Bonds.

**Whereas:** The Cooperative Loans and Loan Guarantee Board and the Neighbourhoods Alive! Tax Credit are no longer available, which has created an additional gap in financing options for the social economy.

**Whereas:** Due to differences in structure and ownership, cooperatives, non-profits and social enterprises have particular challenges that are not well addressed by the existing mainstream financial sector.

**Whereas:** Access to the appropriate capital and financing is essential to the sustainability and success of any organization. Social enterprises and non-profit organizations may need support navigating and stacking financing and grant programs to launch or expand their operations.

**Whereas:** There is both opportunity and risk for all parties involved in financing, however this is not always fairly distributed throughout the relationship.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba can play a role as a market enabler and developer, and can co-design policy and models with community stakeholders to ensure investments and policy target strategic priorities and provide for a fair sharing of risk and return.

**Whereas:** As of October 2017, the Province of Manitoba was conducting a review of existing tax credits as a part of its Access to Capital Strategy.

**Whereas:** In Budget 2017/18, the Province of Manitoba highlighted “Front-Line Services Through Innovative Partnerships”, acknowledging a continued commitment to social enterprise and social procurement.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has committed to implementing Social Impact Bonds, a financing tool to use non-government sources of capital to invest in preventive interventions that provide savings to government.

## 2018 – 6 Enabling Social Finance in Manitoba Cont'd

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

**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, and generate revenue for non-profits.

**Be It Resolved: the Province of Manitoba:**

- a. Provide engaged, knowledgeable representation to the Winnipeg Social Finance Working Group to act as a liaison between the WSWFG and the Province of Manitoba.**
- b. Commit to reviewing existing social finance policy and programming, and be open to new recommendations from the WSWFG.**
- c. Commit to a reciprocal relationship with the community of sharing knowledge, information and resources regarding social finance in Manitoba.**

## 2018 – 7 Food Councils

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

**Whereas:** There are significant opportunities in Manitoba to enhance food security, engage communities in food solutions, respond to changing urban, rural, and northern environments and create economic opportunities.

**Whereas:** Food economies and food programming are key components of vibrant, healthy communities.

**Whereas:** Over 70,000 people in Manitoba lived in food insecure households between 2011 and 2012 and nearly 62,000 people in Manitoba accessed food banks in 2016.

**Whereas:** Chronic diseases related to diet cost our province billions of dollars, with the cost of diabetes alone estimated to be \$498 million in 2010, and expected to reach \$639 million by 2020.

**Whereas:** Provincial and local governments can play a key role in facilitating and planning for food secure communities and developing enabling regulatory structures.

**Whereas:** More than 60 Canadian municipalities, including Winnipeg and Brandon, have developed food councils and/or food strategies, fostering cooperation between government departments and community agencies and encouraging citizen involvement in the food system.

**Whereas:** Successful food councils and food strategies require adequate resources, including funding from provincial and local governments.

**Whereas:** The Department of Health has grown to represent 39% of the Province of Manitoba's expenditures, at \$6.7 billion in Budget 2017/18. Food insecurity and diet-related chronic disease contribute to a significant portion of these expenditures.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has created a Winnipeg Food Council and selected its membership. The City has yet to resource the council.

**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:** the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities create and adequately resource municipal food councils mandated to develop and implement local food strategies in partnership with civil society and food system stakeholders.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** the City of Winnipeg commit \$175,000 annually to operate the Winnipeg Food Council (Coordinator: \$60,000; Administrative Supports: \$40,000; Operating budget: \$75,000).

**Be it Further Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba create and adequately resource a provincial food council mandated to develop and implement a provincial food strategy in partnership with civil society and food system stakeholders.

# 2018 – 8 Increasing Value in Programming & Policy through Co-Creation & Consultation

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## Mover: Spence Neighbourhood Association

**Whereas:** Co-creation refers to the practice of bringing multiple stakeholders together to develop policy, programming and practice that will impact the community or stakeholders in question. This is in contrast to top-down, bureaucratic methods for developing policy and programming.

**Whereas:** Consultation refers to the process by which citizens and stakeholders are engaged to influence the development of policy and programming. Meaningful consultation includes, but is not limited to, these key elements: it follows a process that all participants and stakeholders understand; it identifies roles and responsibilities of different partners; it is clear on how feedback will influence action and decision making; and it reports back to those consulted with the results of the consultation.

**Whereas:** Meaningful consultation is especially important to include the participation of vulnerable populations that have traditionally been excluded from political and economic processes.

**Whereas:** There is a growing number of examples where the co-creation of policy and programming has increased the value for money received by government and the target community or sector.

**Whereas:** Too often, the end-users or stakeholders affected by policy and programming decisions are rendered entirely passive in their design and implementation process. The consequence of this is that high-value and/or grassroots expertise is missed, thereby decreasing the efficacy and ultimately value of government investments.

**Whereas:** The challenge of policy making that does not meaningfully engage stakeholders is compounded when it intersects with marginalized and dispossessed communities. Socio-economic barriers that challenge participation in our communities also apply to advocacy and engagement with government decision-making.

**Whereas:** Manitobans should have a direct say in decisions that directly affect them. By using grassroots community organizations in design, planning, and policy we can ensure that decisions made by governments in Manitoba are guided by those who know the issues the best.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities can increase the impact and value of their policy and programming decisions by applying a co-creation framework.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has promoted the value of local decision-making for government strategies and policy, including in A Made-in-Manitoba Climate & Green Plan, and Look North Economic Task Force Report & Action Plan.

**Whereas:** The Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (2015 - 2018) and the Manitoba Cooperative Community Strategic Plan (2014-2019, cancelled 2016) are local examples of co-created and co-implemented policy and programming. In both cases, policy and programming was targeted at the highest value-for-money opportunities for sector practitioners.

**Whereas:** Co-creation processes that support local decision making and community ownership are a key component to sustainable, inclusive communities and economies.



## 2018 – 8 Increasing Value in Programming & Policy through Co-Creation & Consultation Cont'd

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**Be It Resolved That:** the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities adopt a co-creation framework, bringing together affected stakeholders for developing policy and programming decisions.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** in instances where co-creation is not a viable model, the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities will undertake meaningful consultation that includes these characteristics:

- a. It follows a process that all participants and stakeholders understand and agree upon a reasonable timeline to participate;
- b. It identifies roles and responsibilities of different partners;
- c. It is clear on how and to what degree feedback will influence action and decision making; and
- d. It reports back to those consulted with the results of the consultation.

# 2017 – I Affordable & Social Housing

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## Mover: Right to Housing Coalition

**Whereas:** Although 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 3.2%, Thompson's from .2% to 2.2% and Brandon's from less than .1% to 2.5%), many Manitobans continue to experience an affordable housing crisis. Far too many households spend 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, slowed the creation of social and affordable rental housing. Our existing stock is eroding through aging, demolition, expiring federal operating agreements, and conversion to condominium, and is not being adequately replaced. 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, women, and Indigenous people).

**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:** All three levels of government have to play a role in affordable and social housing. The Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg can be proactive in working with the federal government as it creates and funds its national housing strategy.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba can add to the supply of social and affordable housing through new builds and new subsidies, however, it has no current commitment to increase supply. Rent Assist continues to be available to support low-income Manitobans in private rental housing. The Province can also help build the capacity of community organizations to take advantage of funding opportunities to create new social housing. Ongoing resources for capital repairs and maintenance in public housing units are needed to preserve the existing stock, as are investments in addressing expiring federal operating agreements. Public housing tenants require access to resources and opportunities (e.g. mental health services, literacy training, job training, education and childcare) that enable them to maintain their tenancy, meet their basic needs and improve their quality of life.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg passed the Housing Policy Implementation Plan in 2014. It 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 supporting neighbourhood renewal and 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 five Housing Improvement Zones. The Housing Policy Implementation Plan will expand access to funding for other neighbourhoods. Significant increases to the HRIR allocation are required to ensure the City has sufficient capacity to support neighbourhood renewal and affordable housing development.

**Whereas:** The City of Winnipeg has developed two documents that direct it to be more proactive in housing and that 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.

## 2017 – I Affordable & Social Housing Cont'd

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**Whereas:** The City of Brandon 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 continue to work with the Right to Housing Coalition to ensure that:

- a. **The City of Winnipeg supports provincial and national affordable housing initiatives by using the planning, regulatory and financial tools and powers at its disposal to support affordable rental housing and social housing.**
- 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%.**
- 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 provide funding for the addition of 300 net new social and affordable housing units built by the public, non-profit and co-op sectors annually so that Manitoba does not continue to fall behind.**
- f. **The Province of Manitoba continue to make Rent Assist available to low-income Manitobans on and off of Employment & Income Assistance (EIA) and maintain the legislated formula for calculating Rent Assist.**
- g. **The Province of Manitoba make annual investments of at least \$126M to meet the estimated need for capital repairs and maintenance in public housing units by 2020.**
- h. **The Province of Manitoba ensure that all Manitoba Housing tenants have access to tenant-driven resource centres that offer comprehensive supports either on-site or nearby.**
- i. **The Province of Manitoba builds the capacity of non-profit and co-op 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.**
- j. **The Province of Manitoba lobbies its provincial counterparts and the federal government to create and fund a national housing strategy.**

# 2017 – 3 Enhancing Income Supports as part of a Comprehensive Provincial Poverty Reduction Plan

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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 wellbeing, and prevents their full participation in the community. Indigenous people, newcomers, people living with disabilities, people who experience mental illness, single parents, seniors, women, Two Spirit, transgender, gender variant and non-binary people are more likely to live in poverty.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba passed *The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act* in 2011 and launched *ALL Aboard: Manitoba's Poverty Reduction & Social Inclusion Strategy* in 2012, Although the Province failed to meet a legislated requirement that the strategy be updated in 2017, it has committed to release a revised strategy in 2018.

**Whereas:** A comprehensive and integrated approach must be taken to effectively address the multiple and interrelated causes and consequences of poverty and social exclusion. Such an approach is outlined in *The View From Here 2015*, a community-based poverty reduction plan for Manitoba that was endorsed by more than 100 organizations. It calls for investments in food security, childcare, housing, job training, wages, income supports, education, mental health and other social services.

**Whereas:** Make Poverty History Manitoba (MPHM) is a collaborative coalition working for the elimination of poverty in Manitoba. It is co-leading a campaign with Basic Income Manitoba based on community consultation that is calling on the Province of Manitoba to:

- Include a comprehensive poverty reduction plan in forthcoming budgets. It is also calling for this plan to be developed in consultation with community and to include targets and timelines for reducing poverty.
- Ensure that Manitoba's comprehensive poverty reduction plan include an increase to the basic needs benefit in forthcoming budgets.

**Whereas:** Employment & Income Assistance's (EIA) basic needs budget has barely increased in two decades while the cost of living has gone up by more than 40 percent. Single adults and persons with mental or physical disabilities on EIA have not been supported as much as families, and live in deep poverty with total incomes that equal 53% and 68% of the poverty line (based on Market Basket Measure), respectively.

**Whereas:** Replacing EIA's basic needs budget with a new and enhanced portable benefit for low-income Manitobans, on and off EIA, could bring the total incomes of all Manitobans to at least the poverty line. This enhanced benefit would target all low-income Manitobans.

## **Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba:**

- a. Endorse Make Poverty History Manitoba and Basic Income Manitoba's campaign urging the Province of Manitoba to increase the basic needs benefit through a new and enhanced portable benefit for people on and off EIA, as part of a comprehensive provincial poverty reduction plan;**
- b. Advance this campaign at every available opportunity; and**
- c. Encourage CCEDNet Manitoba members to consider endorsing the campaign.**

# 2017 – 4 The Cooperative Loans & Loan Guarantee Board and Housing Co-ops

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Moved by: Cooperative Housing Development Group

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

**Whereas:** Housing cooperatives are much more affordable than average private sector rental costs and create more permanent community assets. They also offer housing security through democratic decision-making by co-op members and build capacity in members through their participation in the governance structure.

**Whereas:** Manitoba has continued to see the development of new housing cooperatives that provide quality affordable housing on a non-profit and democratic basis and that such recent developments have required a more innovative approach to financing which includes a higher threshold of member participation through purchase of shares.

**Whereas:** Conventional credit union financing requires a level of confirmed share purchase that exceeds 80% and often approaches 100% of the target before construction can begin; credit unions have taken a leadership role in financing cooperatives.

**Whereas:** The Cooperative Loans and Loan Guarantees Board exists to provide “financing of last resort” to assist viable cooperatives in their expansion or development but historically housing cooperatives have not been able to access guarantees.

**Whereas:** The Cooperative Loans and Loans Guarantees Board recently provided bridge financing in the form of a guarantee to the Springfield Seniors Non-Profit Housing Cooperative, and that financing successfully accelerated the construction of 47 units of housing at negligible risk or cost to the Province of Manitoba or the credit union.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Cooperative Loans and Loan Guarantees Board entrench the inclusion of non-profit housing cooperatives within their eligibility criteria, and maintain this practice as a cost effective means to reducing barriers to the development of affordable housing.

# 2017 – 5 Elderly & Infirm Persons Housing Act and Tax treatment

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## Moved by: The Co-op Housing Development Group

**Whereas:** Social housing saves public money through reduced health, social services, and justice system costs and gives low-income people the ability to live in secure and permanent housing.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba passed the *Elderly and Infirm Person's Housing (E&IPH) Act* in order to provide financial assistance to social housing projects for Manitoba's low and moderate income seniors.

**Whereas:** This legislation provides an exemption from school tax for eligible E&IPH projects.

**Whereas:** The provincial assessment department classifies E&IPH projects as "Institutional" rather than "Residential."

**Whereas:** This reclassification increases the rate of municipal tax for E&IPH projects by 44%.

**Whereas:** This increase in municipal tax offsets to a large degree the savings due to the exemption in school tax.

**Be it Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to permit E&IPH housing projects to retain their "Residential" classification and to recommend that the City of Winnipeg do likewise.

# 2017 – 6 Organics Disposal Ban for Manitoba's Capital Region

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## Mover: Green Action Centre

**Whereas:** In signing the Vancouver Declaration, Premier Pallister has committed Manitoba to implement greenhouse gas mitigation policies that meet or exceed Canada's 2030 target of a 30% reduction below 2005 levels of emissions.

**Whereas:** The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of methane is 28-36 times greater than carbon dioxide over a 100-year period, and the GWP of nitrous oxide is nearly 300 times that of carbon dioxide.

**Whereas:** Manitoba's two largest emitters of greenhouse gases are Koch Fertilizer Plant and Brady Road Resource Management Facility. Chemical fertilizers release nitrous oxide into the atmosphere, and the anaerobic decomposition of organic matter in landfills releases methane into the atmosphere. Aerobic composting not only eliminates methane emissions, it creates a natural fertilizer that sequesters carbon from the atmosphere.

**Whereas:** Statistics Canada and the Compost Council of Canada indicate that up to 50% of the residential waste stream is compostable. Per capita, Canadians are one of the highest waste-producing OECD (Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development) countries, and Manitobans are the third highest waste producers in this country, exceeded only by Alberta and Saskatchewan.

**Whereas:** There is a strong correlation between provincial policies and municipal action when it comes to the management of organics. Nova Scotia has the lowest per capita waste generation rate among the Canadian provinces, thanks to a full organics ban introduced in 1998 that diverts all compostable material (including yard waste and food scraps) from the landfill. In the absence of a full provincial organics ban, a regional ban can provide crucial leadership without insisting that a one-size-fits-all approach can address the unique requirements for composting in northern regions of Manitoba.

**Whereas:** The Manitoba Capital Region includes 16 municipalities and represents roughly two-thirds of the province's population. The Province of Manitoba has a strong commitment to the Manitoba Capital Region, and the Partnership of the Manitoba Capital Region has identified two goals that are directly compatible with an organics ban: i) explore opportunities to implement new technologies and practices for waste management, and ii) reduce greenhouse gases.

**Whereas:** Winnipeg is the largest city in the Manitoba Capital Region, and the last city of its size in Canada without a residential composting program. Progress on implementing curbside organics collection in Winnipeg has been stalled multiple times, and these delays have indirect costs for taxpayers. Elected officials continue to suggest that composting is an optional route for disposal, rather than an urgent necessity for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

**Whereas:** The Federation for Canadian Municipalities estimates that composting creates up to seven times the number of jobs as landfilling. As long as composting organics remains optional, most businesses will continue to send compostable waste to the landfill. This discourages the development of composting businesses and social enterprises that can support municipalities by serving the industrial, commercial, and institutional (ICI) sector.

**Whereas:** Local communities and businesses have been diverting organics from the Brady Road Resource Management Facility for at least 15 years, providing employment and improving community volunteerism, yet these efforts are rarely supported by provincial and municipal policies or funding. Requests for waste management proposals continue to rely on outside expertise, stunting the growth of local expertise within existing community and non-profit organizations, social enterprises, and small businesses.

# 2017 – 6 Organics Disposal Ban for Manitoba’s Capital Region Cont’d

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**Whereas:** The Made-in-Manitoba Climate and Green Plan acknowledges that solid waste accounts for 5% of Manitoba’s GHG emissions, and suggests that a landfill disposal ban is one action the Manitoba government could take to reduce methane emissions from waste.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to announce a deadline of 2022 for a full organics disposal ban in the Manitoba Capital Region.

**Be It Further Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to support the transition to improved organics management by:

- a. Offering a financial incentive to approved transfer stations and facilities that compost organic material in the Manitoba Capital Region;
- b. Introducing and enforcing a phased fine for any organic material that is landfilled in the Manitoba Capital Region after 2022, with an initial threshold of 25% organic matter landfilled and decreasing to 5% by 2025;
- c. Making municipal waste management plans that include the diversion and composting of organic materials mandatory for the Manitoba Capital Region;
- d. Creating a provincial waste management plan that builds on the community expertise gathered in earlier government consultations;
- e. Implementing policies, funding, and social procurement programs to support small businesses, social enterprises, and community initiatives that meet environmental, social, and economic goals (i.e. diverting organics from landfills, improving community sustainability resources, and providing local training and jobs).



# 2017 – 7 Gender-Based Analysis Framework

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**Moved by: West Central Women's Resource Centre**

**Whereas:** Women make up 50.2% of Manitoba's population and yet remain significantly underrepresented as elected officials, making up approximately one quarter at all political levels (25% civic, 23% provincial and 26% federal). Women are underrepresented in senior management positions within Manitoba's civil service. They have lower employment rates than men across most age brackets and average weekly earnings that were 76.8% the earnings of men (2014).

**Whereas:** Women have higher poverty rates (according to the LICO-AT) than men across most age categories and family types. The gender gap is most significant among single Manitobans under 65 years of age – with poverty rates of 22.7% for males and 39.1% for females (2011), and with 57% of single women under 65 living with incomes that are 50% or more below the poverty line compared to 39% of men. Among all family types, female lone-parent families were the most likely to live in poverty with a poverty rate of 34.3%. High rates of poverty and low employment rates are more pronounced for racialized women. The rate of violent crime against women in Manitoba is double the national average and the second highest rate in the country.

**Whereas:** Women contribute more than double the amount of hours per week than men in unpaid labour both inside and outside the home (50.1 hours for women vs. 24.4 hours per men), including child care, senior care and volunteer work, making valuable contributions to the provincial economy.

**Whereas:** A gender-based analysis (GBA) framework can improve socio-economic outcomes for women by ensuring that women are taken into consideration in all government policies, programs and legislation. It can lead to greater investment in initiatives that benefit women. Women get left behind when government initiatives fail to factor in their unique circumstances. For example, women's access to training, education and employment is impacted by whether or not a GBA framework is applied to childcare policies. Women's safety is impacted by whether or not a GBA framework is applied to violence prevention policies. Women's poverty rates are impacted by whether or not a GBA framework is applied to poverty reduction strategies.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities do not appear to apply a GBA framework to government policies, programs and legislation.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has promised to make Manitoba "the most improved province in the country." Applying a GBA framework to all government policies, programs and legislation would improve the lives of women in Manitoba. Winnipeg was the first city in North America to join the UN Women's Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Initiative to reduce sexual violence against women and girls.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba does not currently recognize that there is more than just women and men, and there is limited socio-economic data available for these demographics. However, it is known that Two Spirit, transgender, transsexual, gender variant and non-binary identifying individuals experience higher rates of poverty and social exclusion.

**Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba and all Manitoba municipalities to apply a gender-based analysis framework to all government policies, programs, and legislation.**

**Be it Further Resolved: That CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba and all municipalities to recognize Two Spirit, transgender, transsexual, gender variant and non-binary individuals and include them in the gender-based analysis.**

# 2017 – 8 Reducing Emissions

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## Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba

**Whereas:** Climate change is a defining issue of our time, imposing high and escalating costs on society over the coming decades and centuries. It requires clear, effective and decisive action to reduce emissions. The OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) estimates that every dollar the industrialized world fails to invest in clean energy today will cost more than four dollars down the road.

**Whereas:** Manitoba is not reducing emissions. Our GHG emissions are approximately 15% higher today than they were in 1990, and 22.3% above the level to comply with the Kyoto Protocol and Manitoba's Bill 15, *The Climate Change and Emissions Reduction Act* (2014 numbers, Climate Change Connection).

**Whereas:** Imposing a price on carbon is only one policy mechanism by which to reduce carbon emissions. Many experts, including economist Mark Jaccard, prefer strong regulations that set clear and realistic guidelines for various industries.

**Whereas:** Notwithstanding the above, PM Trudeau has aggressively stated that if provinces don't impose a price on carbon, the federal government will impose its own price by 2018. A variety of other jurisdictions around the world have already imposed a price on carbon.

**Whereas:** Each province has a unique emissions profile and therefore each province must (a) decide what kind of policy it will implement, and (b) how the collected funds will be used. Manitoba's largest sources of emissions include transportation, agriculture and buildings.

**Whereas:** While a cap-and-trade system and a carbon tax each have their benefits and drawbacks, a carbon levy (ie. tax) is a flexible, simple, immediate and scalable tool for the government to put a price on carbon.

**Whereas:** Revenues collected through a carbon pricing system must be recycled in a way that (a) reduces costs for low-income earners through direct transfers or tax credits and; (b) helps to deploy existing technology and best practices for emissions reduction; and (c) assists with adaptation, including urban densification strategies, the adoption of consumer electric vehicles, the improvement of best agricultural management practices and more effective waste management.

**Whereas:** Emissions reduction presents opportunities to reduce social costs not only in the private sector through waste remediation, but also through inclusive employment and social enterprise.

## **Be it resolved that: CCEDNet Manitoba work with Transition Winnipeg to urge the Province of Manitoba to:**

- a. Consider imposing a carbon levy with a floor of \$30/tonne based on British Columbia's successful model, rising to \$200 over time.**
- b. Complement the carbon tax with a strong set of regulations to reduce emissions from agriculture and transportation.**
- c. Establish a carbon tax credit for Manitobans below the low-income cut-off.**
- d. Recycle the remainder of revenues to deploy low-carbon technology and energy systems that make it easier for the public to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.**
- e. Give special attention to opportunities for social enterprises (for example, BUILD and Aki Energy) where dollars spent have a higher social impact by making employment more inclusive.**

# 2017 – 9 Provincial and Municipal CED Policy Framework and Lens

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

**Whereas:** Manitoban communities face complex challenges including poverty, social exclusion, income inequality, unemployment, urban decline, environmental and ecological degradation and community sustainability. 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. In 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:** The Province of Manitoba has developed a cross-governmental CED Policy Framework and Lens. Manitoba municipalities should adopt and apply a similar 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.**

# 2017 – 10 CED Tax Credit

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## Mover: Peg City Car Co-op

**Whereas:** Communities acting together to create local economic opportunities that also enhance social conditions 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 serving the community rather than simply serving profit and have a much higher rate of sustainability. For instance, 62% of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35% for other new businesses. After ten years, the figures are 44% and 20% respectively.

**Whereas:** Collectively-owned community enterprises 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 are succeeding in supporting CED initiatives across Canada. Some include the mobilization of individuals as investors and the provision of equity investments with financial incentives. A 2013 report by CCEDNet Manitoba analyzes the need for the CED Tax Credit and provides the recommendations below.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba has created the CED Tax Credit that has been successfully used to support approximately one dozen community enterprises around Manitoba, with investments of approximately \$2.25 million as of 2012, and there is more opportunity to facilitate more private investment in community initiatives.

**Whereas:** There is insufficient support for community groups to apply for the Manitoba CED Tax Credit. There is also 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. Streamlining and simplifying 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.**
- b. 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.**
- c. Supporting a central resource housed in the cooperative community to champion the CED Tax Credit, through public promotion, applicant support and increasing capacity within the community economic development network.**
- d. Developing a strategy and tools to educate and train co-op developers, existing cooperatives in Manitoba, economic development officers and others 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. Create additional tax incentives for investment term renewals after five and ten years to further encourage investing in community enterprises.**

# 2017 – II Co-op Visioning Strategy

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## Mover: Manitoba Cooperative Association

**Whereas:** There are more than 400 cooperatives, 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% of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35% for other new businesses. After 10 years, the figures are 44% and 20% respectively.

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

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

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba, in partnership with the cooperative sector, has co-constructed and co-implemented good policy, public education, and co-op development results from a successful first phase of the Co-op Visioning Strategy (2008-2013). The second phase of the Co-op Visioning Strategy (2014-2019) has been co-constructed with the cooperative sector.

**Whereas:** This strategic action plan for co-op development is most effectively rolled out through the sufficiently resourced co-implementation of its vision, policy and action plans.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to build upon its commitments to strengthening the co-op community by allocating the required resources to pursue the implementation of the second phase of the Co-op Visioning Strategy (2014-2019) in full partnership with the co-op sector.

# 2017 – 12 Procurement for Community Benefit

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## Mover: Aki Energy

**Whereas:** Social enterprises, cooperatives and non-profits use a business model to generate community benefits: employment, reduced poverty, environmental sustainability, reduced crime, improved health outcomes and more inclusive, strong and sustainable local economies.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba, Manitoba municipalities and the broader public sector (including crown corporations, hospitals, academia and schools) purchase significant amounts of goods and services. Increasing purchases from social enterprises, cooperatives and non-profits will scale up their positive economic, social and environmental outcomes and generate a greater return on investment to government and society.

**Whereas:** One exceptional example is Manitoba Housing's use of social enterprise for the construction, maintenance and energy efficiency retrofits on Manitoba's affordable housing stock. This practice has created jobs for people with barriers and has begun to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. At the same time, energy efficiency retrofits have decreased the financial burden of rising energy bills to social housing providers and low-income households, while enhancing the sustainability of our environment. There is an immediate, attainable and cost-effective opportunity to scale these outcomes.

**Whereas:** The broader public sector purchases significant amounts of food for its institutions and food services. This purchasing can be leveraged to strengthen the Manitoba economy while improving health outcomes and environmental sustainability. Social enterprises, cooperatives and non-profits produce goods and services that the broader public sector purchases, with the additional value of positive economic, social and environmental outcomes.

**Whereas:** There have been significant cost increases in government departments that can be mitigated by social enterprises, cooperatives and non-profits. For instance, the Department of Justice's annual budget was \$586 million in 2016/17, up from approximately \$300 million in 2006. 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:** The value of public procurement can be greatly enhanced by intentionally generating economic, social and environmental outcomes. This can be done using the following three tools, or a blend of each:

- Demanding social, environmental and economic outcomes when purchasing goods and services by including them in the bid evaluation process, through tools such as Community Benefit Clauses;
- Purchasing the social, environmental and economic outcomes directly as a program (for instance, funding a social enterprise as a training program that also provides goods and services to government);
- Creating set-asides in purchasing that can only be accessed by social enterprises, cooperatives and/or non-profits.

**Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba municipalities and the broader public sector to implement procurement strategies that generate additional value through enhanced economic, social and environmental outcomes. These strategies should include tools for achieving the following objectives:**

- a. Increased purchasing from social enterprises, cooperatives and non-profits.**
- b. Increased purchasing of local and sustainable food.**
- c. Increased job and training opportunities for people facing barriers to employment.**

# 2017 – 13 Living/Minimum 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. It 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:** Government programs and services such as Rent Assist, child benefits, subsidized child care and affordable public transit play an important role in calculating a living wage. The more generous these government policies and programs are, the less a family requires in wages to achieve a decent standard of living. For example, the provision of universal child care lowers the effective living wage rate. It is incumbent, therefore, on employers to lobby government to provide such services.

**Whereas:** The living wage in Winnipeg for a family of four with two parents working full time was \$14.07/hour in 2013. A 2017 update calculates the living wage in Winnipeg for a family of four with two parents working full time at \$14.54/hour.

**Whereas:** The living wage alleviates severe financial stress for families by helping to lift them out of poverty and providing a basic level of economic security. Research has shown that paying a living wage has concrete benefits for employers including: reduced absenteeism; increased skill, morale and productivity levels; improved customer satisfaction; and enhanced employer reputations.

**Whereas:** The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba 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:** 140 US cities and a number of municipalities in the United Kingdom have implemented a living wage. New Westminster, BC was the first Canadian city to implement a living wage policy. Recently the City of Vancouver launched a plan to implement a living wage and Quesnel, BC implemented a living wage policy. Both Vancouver's plan and Quesnel's policy include the companies they contract out to. In Manitoba, the Assiniboine Credit Union has adopted a living wage policy that applies to its employees.

**Whereas:** Paying a living wage is voluntary. By adopting a living wage policy, governments can demonstrate leadership and set an example for other employers in the private sector to emulate on a voluntary basis. This is a different approach compared to the minimum wage, which creates a mandatory 'floor' that every business is legally required to meet. Efforts to raise the minimum wage to at least a living wage are an important part of the discussion about how to end working poverty.

**Whereas:** From 1999 - 2015 the minimum wage was increased a small amount every October 1st. October 1st, 2016 was the first time in nearly two decades that the minimum wage was not increased. The minimum wage is still not high enough to bring full-time minimum wage workers to the poverty line, according to the Low-Income Cut Off - Before Tax (LICO-BT). Single-parent households are much more likely to live in poverty compared to households with two-parents and two children. Predictable increases to the minimum wage to a level that will bring single-parent households above the poverty line will also close the gap for one-person households and for households with two parents and two children. Predictable increases to the minimum wage ensure that businesses have an opportunity to plan for meeting those increases.

## 2017 – 13 Living/Minimum Wage for all Manitobans Cont'd

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**Whereas:** Tax measures are needed to assist lower income earners. However, increases to the basic personal income tax exemption, which provide minimum benefit, should not be viewed as an alternative to increasing the minimum wage. The recent increase to the basic personal income tax exemption will provide the lowest income earners with an additional \$16 annually, compared to an additional \$400 that would come from a basic inflationary-adjusted increase to the minimum wage. Minimum wage workers spend their money in the local economy so regular increases to the minimum wage also produce greater benefit to our local economy. Further, the cumulative effect of increasing the basic personal exemption impacts all tax brackets and results in a loss of much needed tax revenue to pay for public services that all Manitobans rely on.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities to adopt a Living Wage Policy co-constructed with community stakeholders to ensure their employees and contracted services are paid at least a living wage.

**Be it Further Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to incrementally increase the minimum wage through a series of pre-announced steps to the LICO-BT for a one-parent, one child household by 2020, and index annually to the LICO-BT.



# 2017 – 14 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:** Social enterprises contribute to economic growth and often prevent costly social and environmental problems.

**Whereas:** CCEDNet Manitoba partnered with the Province of Manitoba to co-develop and co-implement the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy, from 2015 - 2018. The Strategy is a set of policy and programming recommendations to create a robust ecosystem for work integration social enterprises (social enterprises providing job and training opportunities for people facing barriers to employment). Its focus is:

- Identifying opportunities and mobilizing stakeholders to create new social enterprises;
- Developing management capacity, supporting networks, and enabling knowledge exchange to enhance the effectiveness of social enterprise;
- Ensuring social enterprises can access appropriate funding and financing;
- Expanding access to markets to create more jobs and other economic contributions through social enterprise; and
- Collaborating with government to create a supportive public policy environment for social enterprises.

**Whereas:** The Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy is a 3-year agreement between CCEDNet Manitoba and the Province of Manitoba (from 2015/16 to 2017/18). Its implementation is guided by a steering committee comprised of government and community leaders and received \$250,000 for years one and two, and \$175,000 for year three.

**Be It Resolved That: CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to support social enterprise development in Manitoba by committing to co-creating and co-producing a second phase of the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy beginning in 2018/19.**

# 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.

**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.**

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\* 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 has committed to revising its strategy for reducing poverty in Manitoba. According to the 2011 *Poverty Reduction Strategy Act*, a new and revised strategy was required to be released in 2017, but has not yet been released. 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 implementing 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.

**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 forthcoming community-based City of Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy is being developed, and will be released in 2018.

**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 Community Economic Development (CED) policy agenda can come together.

**Be It Resolved That:** CCEDNet Manitoba urge the Province of Manitoba to respect existing legislation by revising and implementing a new poverty reduction strategy immediately, and make it 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.

## 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.

## 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:** In 2016/17, Manitoba Housing spent approximately \$6.6 M purchasing from social enterprises employing people involved with the justice system, or at risk of involvement with the justice system. Manitoba Housing worked with the social enterprise community to set a joint goal increasing purchasing from social enterprises to \$10 M by 2017/18.

**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 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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**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.

**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 Cooperative Housing Land Trust\*

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

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

**Whereas:** Housing cooperatives 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 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: Opportunities and Barriers” 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 cooperative housing sector. The province also maintains responsibility for the administration of existing continuing housing cooperatives 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 cooperative 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 cooperative-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 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 15,000 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.

**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 15,000 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 (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 – II 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. 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.



# 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

Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg	Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)
Aki Energy	Manitoba Green Retrofit
Assiniboine Credit Union	Manitoba Housing and Community Development
Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation	Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities - MLPD
BUILD	Mosaic Newcomer Family Resources Network
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives MB	Mother Earth Recycling
Change Weavers Consulting	Natural Cycle Federation
ChangeWealth	North End Community Renewal Corporation
Child Care Coalition of Manitoba	North Point Douglas Women's Centre
Community Futures Manitoba	One Nation Exchange
Community Futures Westman	Peg City Car Co-op
Community Futures Parkland	Pulford Community Living Services Inc.
Co-op Housing Development Group inc.	Real Funding Inc.
Cooperative Housing Federation - CHF Canada	Reconnaissance Management Consulting Group
Daniel McIntyre / St. Matthews Community Association	Right to Housing Coalition, Manitoba
DASCH	Rural Development Institute
DSI Tandem Co-op Resources Ltd.	SSCOPE
Food Matters Manitoba	SEED Winnipeg, Inc.
FortWhyte Farms	Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
Green Action Centre	Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc.
Hive Management	St. Matthews Non Profit Housing
ImagineAbility Inc	Thrive Community Support Circle
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba	Tree House Cooperative
Innovative Life Options	United Way of Winnipeg
Investors Group	University College of the North
Jonah Counselling + Consulting	Urban Eatin' Landscapes
Kids 2 Cuisine	Volunteer Manitoba
L'Arche Tova Café	Wa Ni Ska Tan Hydro Alliance
Le Marche St. Norbert Farmers' Market Co-op	West Broadway Community Organization
Local Investment Toward Employment (LITE)	West Central Community Program
Manitoba Cooperative Association	West Central Women's Resource Centre
	Youth Agencies Alliance

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