

2025-9 Reform of the Public Guardian and Trustee Office (PTGO)

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This is a new resolution.

The Province of Manitoba should initiate an external review and comprehensive reform of the Public Guardian and Trustee Office (PGTO) to ensure its practices are transparent, human rights compliant, and aligned with The Adults Living with an Intellectual Disability Act (ALIDA), including the implementation of annual transparent accounting, accessible complaint mechanisms, timely decision-making, and the exploration of culturally appropriate alternatives for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Because: Manitobans with intellectual disabilities represented by the PGTO face systemic barriers, including lack of transparency, delayed decision-making, limited access to their own financial information, and insufficient inclusion in decisions that affect their lives. The current system often fails to provide timely responses, clear communication, and accessible recourse for complaints, resulting in significant harm and a power imbalance between the PGTO and those it serves.

Because: These issues undermine the rights and dignity of adults with intellectual disabilities, contravening both ALIDA and The Human Rights Code. Individuals are often excluded from decisions about their own lives, experience arbitrary restrictions on their finances, and lack opportunities to develop decision-making skills, all of which negatively impact their quality of life and well-being.

Because: The PGTO must be held accountable to transparent, person-centered practices. This includes providing regular, accessible accounting of client funds, establishing clear and public policies, ensuring timely and direct communication, creating robust quality assurance and appeal mechanisms, and resourcing the office to meet its legal obligations. Alternatives to the current model, including non-profit and culturally appropriate options, should be explored to better serve diverse needs.

Because: Reforming the PGTO aligns with Manitoba's commitments to upholding human rights, advancing equity and inclusion, and ensuring that government services are accessible, accountable, and responsive to the needs of all citizens, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Because: Empowering adults with intellectual disabilities to participate in decisions about their finances and lives supports their economic inclusion, autonomy, and community participation. Transparent and accountable systems foster trust, reduce poverty, and enable individuals to contribute to and benefit from local economies, which are core principles of Community Economic Development.

Because: This resolution directly supports the theme of Ending Poverty by addressing systemic barriers that limit financial autonomy and access to resources for people with intellectual disabilities. It also advances Sustainable Community-Led Development by centering the voices and rights of those most affected in the design and delivery of services.

How this Resolution will be Advanced:

This resolution will be led by a coalition of organizations including Abilities Manitoba, Inclusion Winnipeg, Community Living Manitoba, and allied advocacy groups. Members can express solidarity by endorsing the resolution, sharing impact stories, participating in public consultations, and advocating for legislative and policy changes. CCEDNet will amplify community voices, and progress toward implementation.