

Policy Resolutions 2025

Provincial & Municipal Policy Recommendations of the Canadian CED Network –
Manitoba

Includes resolutions adopted for 2025, 2024, and 2023



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2025-1 Provincial Support for Social Enterprise Manitoba

Moved by: BUILD Inc.

Seconded by: SEED Winnipeg

This resolution replaces [2023-2 Renewing the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy](#).

The Government of Manitoba should immediately commit to supporting Social Enterprise Manitoba with a five-year provincial funding commitment to spur the start-up of more social enterprises and scale existing ones. This should include five years of funding with at least \$600,000 per year for a total of \$3 million to carry out the activities of Social Enterprise Manitoba. Funding would support Social Enterprise Manitoba to carry out activities throughout the entire province with a set of sector development activities planned by sector leadership. SEM activities will be focused on Six Key Pillars* of development. Together, these Pillars will allow social enterprises in Manitoba to achieve key outcomes of economic resilience, safe, healthy communities, and meaningful employment:

- i) **Enhancing Enterprise Skills:** coaching, peer development, and skill-building
- ii) **Ensuring Access to Capital and Investment:** social finance skills, access to start-up funds
- iii) **Expanding Market Opportunities:** expanding social procurement opportunities
- iv) **Promoting and Demonstrating the Value of Social Enterprise:** measure, monitor, and celebrate
- v) **Defining and Regulating Social Enterprises:** standard certification process
- vi) **Supporting Networks and Community Engagement:** supporting ecosystem development

Because: Social Enterprise is a powerful business model that is working to tackle the many social, economic, and environmental issues facing communities in Manitoba. They embed their purpose directly into their business model, contributing to positive outcomes for communities in every corner of the province. Social Enterprises help grow the economy with good Manitoba jobs. They sell goods or services and reinvest the majority of profits or surplus into its purpose, increasing investment into economic and social outcomes for Manitobans. Social Enterprises are vital to Manitoba's economy. Prior to colonization, Indigenous peoples traded goods and services for mutual benefits and to support thriving,

sustainable communities. Social Enterprise is a model and a verb: a way of doing business that contributes to the fabric of our communities and uplifts Indigenous economies.

Because: Social enterprises are defined as businesses that sell goods and services, with at least 50% of their revenue coming from sales of goods and services, are purpose-driven, with an embedded purpose to achieve social, cultural, or environmental goals through the sale of goods and services, and reinvest the majority of the business' profits or surplus (51% or more) into their social, cultural, or environmental purpose. This definition aligns with Buy Social Canada and the Social Enterprise Council of Canada.

Because: Social Enterprises, like any other business type, require access to business support, capacity-building advice, and capital. Right now, they don't have support from the Province of Manitoba to start or grow their businesses. The Department of Business, Mining, Trade, and Job Creation has a mandate to support Manitoba businesses and help them grow. Supporting SEM would help our business model flourish across the province. A huge opportunity to achieve positive social, economic, and environmental outcomes has been missed as a result of minimal provincial involvement. While we were ahead of other provinces for some time, Manitoba is now lagging in terms of government support and sector development. The Government of Canada has invested into the development, innovation, and financing of social enterprise. In the past, the Government of Manitoba has supported sector development, including the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (2015-18). A new and innovative development approach through SEM can learn from the successes and challenges of past approaches.

Because: Social Enterprise Manitoba is a community initiative focused on the growth and development of Manitoba's social enterprise sector. Activities will occur throughout the entire province, building on existing social enterprise ecosystem and capacity building activities currently underway, such as CCEDNet's Manitoba Learns training program, Spark's social enterprise coaching matches, SEED's social enterprise development supports, and other informal peer-to-peer connections and coaching. Activities will be carried out by staff of the SEM initiative. The initiative will be overseen by a Community Advisory Team composed of social enterprise leaders and practitioners and capacity building and ecosystem development networks who will set strategy, guide activities, and oversee spending. The Advisory Team will work collaboratively with relevant government departments. The initiative will be hosted by CCEDNet Manitoba who will support development, oversee project administration, and provide a primary contact for government. Other operations partners will be engaged to deliver certain SEM activities as required, such as SEED Winnipeg, Jubilee Fund and other funders, and Manitoba Cooperative Association.

Because: As a result of the Six Pillars of Social Enterprise Manitoba, there will be more social enterprises in Manitoba and existing ones will have scaled up their impact. More social enterprise activity helps achieve key government outcomes. Funding for SEM will help support outcomes such as:

1. **Enhancing Enterprise Skills:** 20 new Social Enterprises developed as a result of programming provided
2. **Ensuring Access to Capital and Investment:** 25% increase in social enterprise revenue and investment as a result of new financing opportunities
3. **Expanding Market Opportunities:** 25% increase in employment hours within social enterprises, through new market opportunities opened
4. **Promoting and Demonstrating the Value of Social Enterprise**
5. **Defining and Regulating Social Enterprises**
6. **Supporting Networks and Community Engagement**
 - a. Social Enterprises and the Province of Manitoba will benefit from a significant growth in public and government-wide understanding of the value of social enterprise, through activities in Pillars 4-6

Because: By collaborating and supporting SEM, the Province can better achieve its goals and address problems facing the province. The social, economic, and employment benefits created by social enterprises can be leveraged. Investing in the social enterprise sector helps grow the Manitoba economy, directly supporting the Minister's mandate. Social Enterprises create a more resilient, sustainable, and circular local economy. SEM aligns well with the Province's focus on Trump-proofing Manitoba's economy by keeping money in Manitoba and creating more jobs. SEM can leverage provincial support to attract additional funders and levels of government.

Because: Social enterprises create wealth and social inclusion in communities facing high rates of poverty. They can help bring in revenue for nonprofits working to support Manitobans including those working to address the impacts of poverty. Social Enterprise Manitoba would support whole-of-government goals focused on community safety, transitioning people on social assistance into meaningful work, and fostering Indigenous economic inclusion.

Because: SEM would help the Department achieve its mandate to create more good Manitoba jobs in many industries, including the skilled trades. However, many Manitobans are excluded from the workforce because they face multiple barriers to participation. SEM helps workforce integration social enterprises grow their impact to help even more

community members actively participate in the workforce and reduce their involvement in government support programs.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: Social Enterprise Manitoba will champion it through provincial advocacy, government relations and lobbying, and engaging allies to take action. SEM is made up of leaders throughout the social enterprise community in Manitoba. Convening Social Enterprise Manitoba and helping facilitate advocacy work will be supported with staff time of CCEDNet Manitoba. The Manitoba Social Finance Working Group will also support advocacy related to the financing recommendations of a Social Enterprise Manitoba, including all revenue structures to support social enterprise.

2025-2 Create tax equity by extending refundable Manitoba tax credits to community members receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA).

Moved by: SEED Winnipeg

Seconded by: Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

This is a new resolution.

The Province of Manitoba should remove The Social Assistance Recipients' Tax Credit Eligibility Regulation from The Income Tax Act to ensure all Manitobans have access to provincially refundable tax credits. This change would:

- Address the inequality of how Manitoba Refundable Tax Credits are distributed.
- Increase income for Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) recipients through tax refunds.
- Eliminate tax filing errors associated with box 14 on Manitoba T5007 tax slips.
- Incentivize tax filing for EIA recipients.

Because: The regulation excludes EIA recipients from receiving full Manitoba refundable tax credits available to all other Manitobans. EIA issues T5007 tax slips with a box 14 indicating a fraction of tax credits a recipient is eligible for. This affects two credits: the Personal Amount (up to \$195) and the Residential Renters Credit (\$575). This fraction leaves EIA recipients with little to no refundable Manitoba tax credits at a time when prices continue to rise and EIA budgets are not adequate to cover basic needs.

Because: Introduced in 1992, the regulation was intended to embed provincially refundable credits into EIA recipients' budgets to ensure their access to the credits throughout the year. However, these tax credits were never fully embedded into EIA recipients' budgets and the introduction of box 14 to T5007 tax slips has led to complications with tax filing, adversely impacting the lowest income earners in Manitoba.

Because: The Social Assistance Recipients' Tax Credit Eligibility Regulation excludes EIA recipients from fully accessing tax credits, we ask that this regulation be removed from the Manitoba Income Tax Act, which will lead to the removal of box 14 from Manitoba T5007 tax slips.

Because: The Manitoba Government has made a commitment to address the housing crisis and to strengthen EIA to help Manitobans. By removing the regulation and extending refundable tax credits to all Manitobans, the government is able to address both of those issues while creating parity for all tax filers. This is a cost-effective, progressive tax policy that would put Manitoba in line with the rest of Canada.

Because: Extending refundable tax credits to EIA recipients will create tax equity for all Manitobans and provide an economic boost to neighbourhoods with higher concentrations of poverty. By incentivizing tax filing for low-income earners, community members can leverage further federal tax benefits, increasing federal transfers to low-income neighbourhoods.

Because: This resolution fits within the theme of poverty reduction as it will extend important income boosting tax credits to financially vulnerable Manitobans living on low incomes.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: The resolution will be advanced through direct advocacy by the Manitoba Financial Empowerment Policy Committee, chaired by SEED Winnipeg, to the Minister of Finance and the Department of Families through budget submissions, meetings with ministers, and conversations with civil servants. CCEDNET members are encouraged to advocate for this progressive policy change as they are able.

2025-3 Develop a Comprehensive Provincial Climate Plan

Moved by: Sustainable Building Manitoba

This is a new resolution.

The Government of Manitoba should develop, resource and legislate a science-aligned, comprehensive climate plan under the authority of *The Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act*, with a clear pathway to achieving a net-zero economy by 2050. This plan must:

- Include binding interim emissions reduction targets (e.g., for 2025, 2030, and 2040) aligned with climate science and Canada's international commitments, recognizing the role of cumulative emissions
- Address both climate mitigation and adaptation, including emergency preparedness and resilience planning for climate impacts such as extreme heat, flooding, drought, wildfire, and supply chain disruption
- Include sector-specific strategies to reduce emissions from:
 - Buildings (deep retrofits, net-zero-ready new construction, electrification)
 - Transportation (public transit, active transportation, fleet electrification, and sustainable freight)
 - Agriculture (methane and nitrous oxide reduction, regenerative practices, soil health, and land use)
 - Industry (fuel switching, efficiency improvements, and low-carbon innovation)
 - Waste (methane capture, diversion strategies, and circular economy initiatives)
- Include an updated green building policy for all provincially owned and funded buildings, with lifecycle costing, energy and emissions performance requirements, and operational transparency
- Accelerate adoption of higher tiers in the National Building Code and National Energy Code for Buildings
- Adopt a modern Green Building Policy for all provincial buildings
- Address the gaps left by the 2024 Affordable Energy Strategy by developing integrated policies on public and active transportation, building electrification, land use planning, waste, and agriculture that align with Manitoba's climate and affordability goals
- Establish mechanisms for transparent public reporting, independent oversight, and ongoing review to ensure accountability and continuous improvement

- Embed equity, affordability, Indigenous self-determination, and economic opportunity throughout the plan

Because: Manitoba currently lacks a legislated, science-based climate plan. While *The Climate and Green Plan Implementation Act* provides a foundation, it has not resulted in a comprehensive, enforceable roadmap for reducing emissions, preparing for climate impacts, or transitioning to a net-zero economy.

Because: Emissions are rising across multiple sectors. Without a coordinated plan, Manitoba risks locking in high-emission infrastructure, missing out on federal funding, and increasing long-term economic and social costs.

Because: Climate action cannot wait. Emissions reductions are cumulative—every tonne avoided now matters more than one avoided later. Delay increases the risk of overshooting global temperature limits, while early action reduces costs, builds resilience, and supports public trust.

Because: Interim targets are essential. A 2050 net-zero target alone is not enough without short- and medium-term goals to guide action and investment. A science-based plan must include milestones, timelines, and mechanisms for regular adjustment.

Because: Adaptation and emergency preparedness are equally critical. Manitoba communities are already experiencing the effects of climate change, from smoke-filled summers to flooding, extreme cold, and disrupted infrastructure. A robust climate plan must build resilience across sectors.

Because: Manitoba Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan is an important tool for planning electricity supply and demand—but it cannot address emissions from sectors like agriculture, landfill management, or private vehicle use. A whole-of-government climate plan is needed to align energy, land use, transportation, and emissions strategies.

Because: The Province is investing in regional and municipal climate planning, but local governments cannot address every source of emissions or manage cross-cutting systems like building codes, provincial infrastructure, or utility regulation. Many municipal climate plans, including Winnipeg's, are still years away. A coordinated provincial framework is needed to connect local efforts, fill jurisdictional gaps, and ensure consistency across Manitoba.

Because: Bold climate action supports long-term economic competitiveness. Clear policies and targets attract investment, lower operational costs, and create jobs in growing sectors like construction, clean technology, transit, energy advising, and regenerative agriculture. A

strong plan will also help identify where Manitoba's workforce needs to grow or adapt—ensuring training, education, and recruitment strategies are aligned with the net-zero economy by 2050 target.

Because: A climate plan must guide not only specific emissions-reduction programs, but also broader policy decisions across government. Applying a climate lens to infrastructure, housing, land use, procurement, and public investments ensures that today's decisions support long-term sustainability and avoid locking in future emissions and costs.

Because: A climate plan is also a public health strategy. Poor housing quality, car dependency, and extreme weather all contribute to chronic disease, stress, and health inequities. A plan that improves indoor air quality, promotes mobility options, and protects against climate extremes improves health outcomes and reduces long-term health care costs that the Province has to pay.

Because: Climate policy can reduce household costs and increase affordability. Investments in energy efficiency, transit, and building upgrades reduce utility bills, fuel costs, and maintenance burdens—especially for low-income, rural, and Indigenous communities.

Because: Indigenous Peoples must be partners in shaping Manitoba's climate future. A credible plan must honour Indigenous self-determination, recognize traditional knowledge, and support community-led resilience and low-carbon development strategies.

Because: This resolution supports the Manitoba Road Map by:

- *Ending Poverty:* through energy affordability, better housing, and access to different modes of transportation
- *Local & Fair Economies:* by creating jobs in climate-resilient industries
- *Tackling Climate Change:* by reducing emissions, preparing for impacts and helping to meet the provincial net-zero targets
- *Directing Our Own Future:* by creating a Made-in-Manitoba strategy rooted in science, equity, and long-term wellbeing while being prepared for emergency scenarios

How this Resolution will be Advanced:

Sustainable Building Manitoba, Manitoba's Climate Action Team and the Manitoba Eco Network along with CCEDNET will collaborate with allied organizations, Indigenous partners, municipalities, climate scientists, community leaders, and sector experts to support the development of a credible, accountable, and inclusive climate plan. We will work to ensure the plan reflects Manitoba's values, responsibilities, and opportunities in the global transition to a net-zero future.

2025-4 Implement Commercial Building Energy Labelling

Moved by: Sustainable Building Manitoba

The Government of Manitoba should develop and implement a mandatory energy labelling and benchmarking program for large commercial and institutional buildings. This program must include:

- A standardized energy performance label for buildings, using tools such as ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager or similar systems
- Public reporting of annual energy use, emissions, and building characteristics for buildings over a defined size threshold (e.g., 20,000 ft²), with appropriate exemptions for sensitive facilities
- A phased implementation beginning with voluntary participation and support, moving toward mandatory annual reporting and labelling
- Integration with Efficiency Manitoba incentives to support energy benchmarking, audits, and performance improvements

Because: Energy labelling and benchmarking have been shown to reduce energy use by 2-8% annually in participating buildings. When owners and managers track performance and compare it to peers, it drives investment in efficiency upgrades, reduces emissions, and lowers operating costs.

Because: Commercial tenants are increasingly seeking energy-efficient, climate-resilient spaces. Labelling enables landlords to demonstrate value, attract quality tenants, and reduce vacancy rates. It also empowers tenants to make informed leasing decisions and advocate for better performance.

Because: Large buildings contribute significantly to Manitoba's greenhouse gas emissions and electricity demand. Energy benchmarking provides the data needed to plan emissions reductions, prevent grid strain, and identify opportunities for demand-side management. The cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy we don't use.

Because: Financial institutions, insurers, and investors are beginning to incorporate energy and climate risk into valuations and lending decisions. Transparent energy labelling protects asset value, enables informed investment, and supports compliance with evolving ESG (environmental, social, governance) standards.

Because: Benchmarking enables building owners to identify poor-performing buildings and prioritize retrofits. When paired with Efficiency Manitoba incentives or low-cost audit programs, labelling becomes a tool for continuous improvement—not just compliance.

Because: The program will support Manitoba’s transition to a net-zero economy by 2050. It will create demand for energy managers, auditors, building operators, and retrofit contractors—well-paying, local jobs that cannot be outsourced. It will also drive economic development by helping Manitoba businesses cut energy costs, improve asset performance, and attract investment. By reducing waste and increasing efficiency, this policy helps Manitoba fully leverage its low-carbon hydroelectricity system to power a more sustainable and competitive future.

Because: The City of Winnipeg’s Building Energy Disclosure Project (BEDP) has demonstrated the effectiveness of voluntary energy benchmarking in enhancing transparency and promoting efficiency. In its first year, BEDP included over 160 buildings and offered performance scorecards and education. Expanding this initiative provincially provides a tested foundation and a path to deeper impact.

Because: Jurisdictions such as Toronto, Vancouver, and Edmonton have successfully implemented mandatory commercial energy benchmarking bylaws. Manitoba can build on these models to create a made-in-Manitoba approach that reflects local needs while achieving proven results.

Because: This resolution supports the goals of the Manitoba Road Map by:

- *Tackling Climate Change:* enabling tracking and reduction of commercial building emissions and supporting Manitoba’s net-zero targets
- *Local & Fair Economies:* supporting a low-carbon workforce and reducing operational costs for Manitoba businesses
- *Directing Our Own Future:* improving transparency and empowering energy-smart decision-making across Manitoba’s economy

How this Resolution will be Advanced:

Sustainable Building Manitoba and CCEDNET will work with Efficiency Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, real estate and property management stakeholders, municipalities, and technical experts to co-develop a commercial benchmarking and labelling framework. Equity, data privacy, and practicality will be core to the program design, and alignment with existing efforts like Winnipeg’s BEDP will ensure consistency and momentum.

2025-5 Implement Home Energy Labelling

Moved by: Sustainable Building Manitoba

The Government of Manitoba should develop and implement a mandatory home energy labelling program for residential properties at the time of listing for sale or rent. This program must include:

- A standardized energy performance label—based on energy assessments—that is clear, comparable, and accessible to all Manitobans
- Public investment in training and certifying energy advisors to deliver assessments province-wide
- A phased implementation strategy beginning with voluntary labelling and moving to mandatory disclosure, aligned with public education campaigns and financial support for low-income households
- Integration with Efficiency Manitoba incentives to encourage retrofits based on building performance

Because: Energy labelling has a proven track record. Canadians are already familiar with Energy Star and EnerGuide labels on appliances, vehicles, and windows—programs that have shifted purchasing decisions, improved product standards, and lowered household energy use. Homes should be no exception: when energy performance is visible, people make better choices.

Because: Home energy labelling is a matter of consumer protection. Buyers and renters often request past utility bills to estimate energy costs—but those reflect occupant behaviour, not building performance. A home kept at 17°C by an energy-conscious owner will look efficient on paper, while another kept at 23°C may appear wasteful, even if better built. Some homes may have been vacant or underused. A standardized label—produced through an on-site energy assessment—offers building-specific data on air tightness, insulation, and mechanical systems. These assessments also help owners and buyers understand which retrofit upgrades will offer the greatest impact.

Because: Energy poverty is rising in Manitoba, where many households spend an outsized portion of income on heating and electricity. Low-income renters are often left with the least efficient homes—those with aging furnaces, inadequate insulation, and drafty windows—leading to high bills and poor health. Energy labelling exposes this imbalance and helps tenants, landlords, and policymakers target the worst-performing buildings. It also supports programs that enable upgrades, reducing monthly costs and improving comfort and health outcomes.

Because: Energy efficiency is a public health issue. Poor-quality housing contributes to respiratory illnesses, stress, and other chronic conditions. Drafty, cold, or poorly ventilated homes put residents—especially children, seniors, and those with pre-existing conditions—at risk. Energy labelling can identify homes with the worst performance, supporting interventions that improve indoor air quality, thermal comfort, and overall health. Healthier homes mean fewer sick days, reduced healthcare costs, and better quality of life.

Because: Energy labelling is a catalyst for market transformation. Just as fuel economy ratings changed the auto industry, home labels can highlight high-performing buildings and identify upgrade opportunities. Assessments used to generate labels also give property owners a clear roadmap for improvements—helping prioritize upgrades that reduce emissions and utility bills. Labelling encourages the real estate market to recognize and reward energy-efficient upgrades, influencing appraisals and resale value. Builders and renovators will be incentivized to improve performance, and buyers will have confidence in their choices.

Because: A labelling program will support Manitoba's transition to a net-zero economy by 2050. It will create demand for trained energy advisors, retrofit contractors, HVAC professionals, and insulation experts—well-paying, local jobs that cannot be outsourced. These careers strengthen the workforce Manitoba needs to scale retrofits, reduce emissions, and build climate resilience in homes across the province.

Because: Energy labelling empowers informed decisions about one of the most significant costs of homeownership—energy use. Buyers deserve transparency around energy performance, just as they do for flood risk or structural integrity. Without labelling, energy efficiency remains invisible, undervalued, and underinvested in.

Because: Manitoba's housing stock is among the least energy efficient in Canada, particularly older homes. Energy labelling can spur investment in upgrades, lower utility costs, and provide the data needed to reduce residential sector emissions, which account for over 15% of the province's total GHGs.

Because: Manitoba is beginning to face electricity capacity and reliability challenges, particularly during extreme cold snaps and heat waves. Reducing residential energy demand through upgrades not only lowers costs for households—it protects the grid from strain. The cheapest, cleanest energy is the energy we don't use. Labelling enables demand-side management by making energy waste visible and actionable.

Because: The time of sale or rent is the most effective trigger point for upgrades. A well-designed label helps appraisers and lenders reflect energy performance in valuations, encourages efficiency-focused purchasing decisions, and prevents buyers and renters from unknowingly taking on homes with unaffordable energy costs—especially important in a province with high energy poverty.

Because: Other provinces have already begun to implement or pilot home energy labelling programs. In Nova Scotia, Efficiency Nova Scotia provides free home energy assessments and labels, supported by retrofit rebates—an approach that has increased demand for upgrades and strengthened the energy retrofit workforce. British Columbia and Ontario have also launched municipal and provincial labelling efforts. Manitoba can build on these lessons to implement a practical, made-in-Manitoba approach that avoids reinventing the wheel.

Because: Labelling is a proven tool for driving demand, accelerating retrofits, and building workforce capacity in energy advising and contracting. It aligns with existing federal programs like Greener Homes and Efficiency Manitoba incentives to maximize impact.

Because: The communities most affected by energy poverty—Indigenous, newcomer, and low-income households—often live in the least efficient housing. A strong labelling system, paired with equitable support, can improve health, affordability, and dignity by identifying homes most in need of upgrades.

Because: This resolution advances several Manitoba Road Map goals:

- *Ending Poverty:* by addressing the visibility and impact of energy costs
- *Local & Fair Economies:* by supporting skilled green jobs and local businesses
- *Tackling Climate Change:* by enabling data-driven reductions in building emission and supporting Manitoba's net-zero targets
- *Directing Our Own Future:* by helping residents understand and act on their energy data

How this Resolution will be Advanced:

Sustainable Building Manitoba will work with CCEDNet members, municipalities, Efficiency Manitoba, and the real estate sector to support the development of a home energy labelling

framework. We will also engage equity-seeking groups and retrofit service providers to ensure the program design is fair, practical, and grounded in Manitoba's housing realities.

2025-6 Environmental Rights and Access to Environmental Justice for Manitobans

Moved by: The Manitoba Eco-Network

The Government of Manitoba should adopt provincial legislation, e.g. an Environmental Bill of Rights, recognizing substantive and procedural environmental rights and amend new and existing environmental and natural resource laws and policies to recognize such rights.

1. The City of Winnipeg and other municipal governments in Manitoba should adopt a municipal declaration recognizing the right to a healthy environment and recognize the environmental rights of Manitobans in new and existing municipal policies and by-laws.

Because: We have an individual and collective right to a healthy and ecologically intact environment. The protection of nature is also of special significance to Indigenous peoples. A healthy environment is linked to the health of individuals, families, communities and all living things as well as economic, social and cultural sustainability.

Because: As community members and citizens, we have an individual and collective responsibility to the Earth and environment. We all share a deep concern for the environment and recognize its inherent value.

Because: Provincial and Municipal governments in Manitoba are trustees of the environment within their jurisdictions and are responsible for protecting the environment for present and future generations. Enhanced measures to protect the environment will safeguard the environmental rights of Manitobans and ensure that all Manitobans can enjoy clean water, air and land.

Because: Manitobans do not have legally recognized substantive environmental rights (e.g. the right to a healthy environment) and minimal procedural rights (e.g. access to information, independent investigations, standing to initiate legal proceedings) at the provincial level and in most municipal jurisdictions. As a result, the public has limited access to environmental justice and faces many barriers when seeking to hold government decision-makers responsible for problematic environmental actions or inaction. Manitobans lack the legal rights to adequately protect ourselves and future generations from the impacts of climate change and other environmental harms.

Because: Recognition of substantive and procedural environmental rights needs to be a priority for all levels of government and community-based organizations. Recognition of such rights will enhance and protect the public's ability to participate directly in environmental decision-making, to better access environmental justice and to hold government decision-makers accountable for their environmental protection responsibilities. Manitobans need improved access to courts and tribunals so that individuals, communities, and public interest organizations may take action to protect the environment

Because: Municipal governments in Manitoba have already passed resolutions recognizing the right to a healthy environment - The Pas, Whitemouth, Dunnottar, Thompson, Stonewall, and Selkirk. The City of Winnipeg has committed to ensuring Winnipeg is a thriving, sustainable, and resilient city, grounded in strong human rights, with an equitable and high quality of life for all in OurWinnipeg 2045 and other policy developments. Other Manitoba municipal governments have made similar commitments in their own by-laws and policies.

Because: The recognition of environmental human rights aligns with the Community Economic Development (CED) Agenda by helping move society towards a more sustainable future where both people and the environment are respected. Recognition of substantive and procedural environmental rights encourages respect for local knowledge and community-led environmental action. It also supports the transition to a circular economy where environmental rights are protected, ecological health is restored, and local communities have a meaningful role in their own development.

Because: The resolution relates clearly to four CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map themes: Tackling Climate Change, Sustainable Community-Led Development, Directing Our Own Future, and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access. Recognition of environmental rights supports community-based climate action and enables better access to environmental, energy and climate justice. Through the recognition of such rights, the ongoing obligations of all members of society from individual citizens to the government to protect the environment for current and future generations will also be enshrined. Citizens will then be better empowered to hold decision-makers accountable, undertake sustainable development initiatives, and direct their own futures.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba and all members can:

- A. Advocate for and promote legal recognition of substantive and procedural environmental rights at all levels of governments.



- B. Support the efforts of the Manitoba Eco-Network - who will take the lead in the implementation of the recommendations as long as funding allows - by educating and advocating to their members and governments.

2025-7 Affordable & Social Housing

Moved by: Right to Housing Coalition

The City of Winnipeg should:

- A. Support 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. Continue 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 and targeting a minimum of 150 net new units per year.
- C. Municipal governments in Manitoba prevent the loss of rental housing by regulating the conversion, demolition, and redevelopment of rental housing stock, mandating a unit-for-unit replacement or payment-in-lieu (where replacement is not possible) to be dedicated to housing programs.
- D. Dedicate full-time staff (at a rate consistent with the average in similar sized cities across Canada, approximately one FTE to every 100,000 residents) to ensure the full and best use of municipal tools to develop new social and affordable rental housing and prevent the loss of existing rental housing affordable to people living on low incomes.

The Province of Manitoba should:

- A. Establish a policy for all surplus land disposals that ensures non-profit, Indigenous, and cooperative housing providers are prioritized for receiving surplus land for the purpose of creating social housing.
- B. Implement the 5 pillars of the Right to Housing coalition's Social Housing Action Plan:
 - a. Increase the social housing supply owned by public, non-profit, co-op, and Indigenous housing sectors by 10,000 net new rent-geared-to-income units by 2034.
 - b. Protect existing social housing to ensure there is no loss of social housing due to disrepair, lack of subsidies or the sale of properties. An investment of at least \$1.5B needed by 2034 to bring existing social housing units to standard.
 - c. Increase and stabilize funding to ensure all social housing tenants have access to highly trained addictions, mental health and primary care professionals as well as community support workers.
 - d. Enhance security of tenure by limiting exemptions to rent regulations, limiting above-guideline rent increases, disallowing rent discounts, enhancing compensation for no-fault evictions, and ensuring evictions occur as a last resort.

e. Support and partner with social enterprises to provide people facing barriers to employment with training and employment in the construction and maintenance of social housing.

C. Reinstitute the Tax Increment Financing Program and Rental Construction Tax Credit to support community housing development that meets the affordability, sustainability, and accessibility criteria of National Housing Strategy funding programs.

D. Reinstate funding for the Canada Manitoba Housing Benefit in order to reopen intakes.

E. Continue to make Rent Assist available to low-income Manitobans on and off of EIA at an equal rate, regardless of age or ability status (Including those on the Manitoba Supports Program), and provide it at a rate of 80% of Median Market Rent and 25% of the recipient's income going towards rent. Rent assist is also available for people on income support (permanent disability). As well, continue to explore ways to make Rent Assist more accessible.

F. Develop a Capacity Program/Fund that non-profit housing organizations can easily access to help increase their capacity to develop new housing and increase their portfolios as community needs arise in order to ensure that communities in most need of housing have improved access to housing funding.

G. Examine ways to discourage properties being left vacant. This might include using tools such as a speculation and vacancy tax on buildings that are left vacant for more than one year.

H. Implement and fund an integrated design process that involves a variety of stakeholders when constructing new and renovating existing social housing to ensure universal design accessibility for all Manitobans. Stakeholders should be consulted at various stages of the design and construction process to build it right the first time, saving on materials and dollars in the future.

I. Ensure all new housing be high performance buildings, which may require exceeding current energy efficiency code standards, and that energy efficiency measures are implemented during significant renovations. This will help save residents and building managers money on their energy bills and help to meet provincial GHG targets. 3

New idea on a central registry for all affordable housing

New Idea - strengthen legislation to remove the loop hole that allows the sale of non-profit and social housing. Currently it requires government approval, but this is a big loop hole. Perhaps under a certain criteria, rather than never?

Because: The average vacancy rate in Manitoba has risen and in Winnipeg, at 5%, it is at a rate not seen since 1997. Despite a high vacancy rate, many Manitobans are unable to find a suitable and adequate home they can afford in the private market. 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.

Because: Over the past 40 years, the lack of federal leadership has slowed the creation of social and affordable rental housing. Our existing stock is eroding through aging, demolition, asset sales, 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, persons living with mental health challenges or mental illness, newcomers, women, trans people, Two Spirit people, gender non-conforming people, and Indigenous people). The Province of Manitoba has increased rents for people living in social housing from 25% of the household's income to 30%.

Because: New housing construction is needed to accommodate the distinct needs of specific demographics. Women experiencing domestic violence or sexualized violence and exploitation require housing that is designed to optimize their safety, and that is accompanied by trauma-informed support. Persons with disabilities require housing built to high standards of accessibility. People experiencing homelessness require access to housing with tenancy support. Youth aging out of the child welfare system require transitional housing with supports that enable them to move into permanent affordable housing. Many large low-income families, including Indigenous, immigrant, and refugee families who live with extended family and friends, require housing with three or more bedrooms. Indigenous Peoples, immigrant, and refugee families also require housing that is appropriate to cultural needs. All of these housing types are in short supply.

Because: Social and 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.).

Because: 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 implements and funds its national housing strategy and other federal initiatives.

Because: The Province of Manitoba can add to the supply of social and affordable housing through new builds and new subsidies, however, it has no long-term target and timeline to increase supply. Rent Assist continues to be available to support low-income Manitobans in private rental housing although cuts since 2016 have eroded the program, making fewer people eligible and reducing benefit amounts for some existing program participants. Intake to the Canada Manitoba Housing Benefit has been closed as federal and provincial funding has run out and not been renewed. The Province can also help build the capacity of community organizations to take advantage of funding opportunities to create new social housing. Ongoing investments in addressing expiring federal operating agreements as well as in capital repairs and maintenance in social housing units are needed to preserve the existing stock. Social 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.

Because: The City of Winnipeg passed the Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2021, which affirms the central importance of housing in addressing poverty. In 2022, the City passed the Affordable Housing Now program, which supports the development of new affordable rental housing with support from the Federal government. Neither of the two policy initiatives set out commitments to a specific number of new units of social or affordable housing.

Because: 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 the five Housing Improvement Zones, but the revitalization funds do not adequately address the livability and disrepair of rental units, nor is there a requirement for property owners not to raise rents when improvements are funded. Significant increases to the HRIR allocation and changes to the revitalization programs are required to ensure the City has sufficient capacity to support neighbourhood renewal and affordable housing development and renewal.

Because: The City of Winnipeg has commissioned and accepted the Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment, which outlines the housing needs of Winnipeg residents and sets modest targets for new social and affordable housing units to reduce housing need by 50% in ten years, including 75 units of transitional housing, 300 units of rent-geared-to-income housing, 300 affordable units for seniors, 100-150 units of assisted housing for seniors and support to address the affordability needs of another 1,731 households per year.

Because: The City has senior staff and City Council representation on the board of the autonomous Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation (WHRC), which develops, renovates, owns, and manages affordable housing primarily in Winnipeg's inner city.

Because: 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. **Because:** 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. **Because:** This resolution fits within the Ending Poverty theme, particularly as it relates to addressing homelessness and core housing needs.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: Right to Housing coalition is a leader in advancing the implementation of the 5 pillars of its Social Housing Action Plan alongside the coalition's many member organizations and individuals. CCEDNet Manitoba supports the coalition through the staff time of Lindsey McBain who chairs the Steering Committee. CCEDNet members are encouraged to connect with and support Right to Housing's advocacy campaigns on these issues. Sustainable Building Manitoba, with support from its network, will provide additional capacity and expertise to the energy efficiency side aspect of affordable housing.

2025-8 Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation

Moved by: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives- Manitoba

This resolution renews [2022-Poverty Reduction Plan & Legislation](#), which is expiring.

The Province of Manitoba should revise and strengthen its comprehensive Poverty Reduction Strategy, with outcome-based targets and timelines for measuring results. Also, that the Province of Manitoba should ensure that cross-governmental policy decisions are in line with both their own and the federal poverty reduction strategies. Also, that the Province of Manitoba respond to applicable recommendations from any municipal poverty reduction strategies and recommendations within Make Poverty History Manitoba's Demands for Action.

The City of Winnipeg should fully resource its Poverty Reduction Strategy with concrete resources for initiatives that actually help those in poverty. In particular, the City should prioritize funding that address the areas of housing, transit, community safety, and anti-oppression, in alignment with calls from Make Poverty History Manitoba's Winnipeg Without Poverty campaign.

Manitoba municipalities should partner with community-based organizations and key stakeholders to create and implement comprehensive poverty reduction strategies with targets and timelines.

Because: 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.

Because: A comprehensive and integrated approach must be taken to effectively address the multiple and inter-related causes of poverty and social exclusion. Outcome based targets and timelines on actions and indicators make governments accountable, provide an incentive to follow through with actions to reduce poverty and social exclusion, and provide a basis from which progress can be measured.

Because: The Province of Manitoba is committed to significantly reducing poverty in Manitoba. It passed The Poverty Reduction Strategy Act in 2011 which mandates a new poverty reduction strategy every five years. The province of Manitoba conducted

consultations on the poverty reduction strategy in the winter of 2024/2025 with a new plan to be launched later in 2025. .

Because: The City of Winnipeg acknowledged its role in addressing poverty by introducing its poverty reduction strategy in November 2021. This represented an important milestone for the City as the strategy demonstrates leadership and elected officials acknowledging that the municipality does have an important role to play in addressing poverty. Other Manitoba municipalities are taking action to reduce poverty in their communities.

Because: In 2018, Over 100 organizations endorsed Winnipeg Without Poverty: Calling on the City to Lead, a comprehensive community-based plan, which includes 50 priority recommendations in 13 theme areas. This report was the catalyst for the development of Winnipeg's Poverty Reduction Strategy. However, the strategy passed with no new resources for its implementation and for key strategic priorities stemming from Winnipeg Without Poverty. If the City is really serious about its role in addressing poverty, adequate dollars for implementing it and funding key priorities is desperately needed.

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

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

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

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

Moved by: Leanne Fenez (Abilities Manitoba)

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.

2024-1 Equitable Employment while Investing in Communities and the Environment

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba should focus on equitable employment as a key aspect of its Economic Development strategy, seeking to achieve multiple social, economic, and environmental public policy goals simultaneously. This can be achieved through policies such as:

- A. Ensuring stimulus and procurement policies and practices support climate resilience, sustainable development, strengthen local economies, and support equitable hiring particularly for people facing multiple barriers to meaningful employment, including the use of social procurement and community benefits agreements/clauses.
- A. Fulfilling the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #92 by supporting equitable access to jobs, training, and educational opportunities for Indigenous peoples, through devoting multi-year resources to organizations, particularly Indigenous-led community groups, providing long-term supports to Indigenous job seekers facing multiple barriers to employment and supports to employers committed to inclusive hiring. Training should be community-led
- A. Prioritize green infrastructure projects and building retrofits while creating and supporting decent jobs, including in Indigenous communities.

Because: The economic recovery from COVID-19 lockdowns has proven to be highly unequal. The Statistics Canada 2022 Canadian Income Survey (released in April 2024) finds that 22.9% of Canadians experienced food insecurity in 2022, up from 18.4% the previous year. The same survey found that 9.9% of Canadians lived below the poverty line in 2022, a 3.5 percentage point increase from 2021. Poverty rates are now approaching pre-pandemic levels, with recent immigrants, racialized people, and female-led single-parent families experiencing poverty at higher rates.

Because: Manitoba is still reeling from the effects of provincial austerity both prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic analysis by Lynne Fernandez found that provincial spending cuts result in less stimulus in the local economy, resulting in a total loss of labour income to Manitobans of between \$981 million to \$1.179 billion, tax revenue losses to Manitoba from \$157 to \$189 million and a total drop of provincial GDP of between \$1.289 and \$1.525 billion.

Because: 2023 marked a record-setting wildfire season in Canada. The extreme fire weather season in 2023 was driven by climate change created by carbon emissions. The effects of climate change continue to be disproportionately felt by marginalized communities in Canada. The events of 2023, along with predictions for another record setting fire season in 2024, underline the need to rapidly reduce carbon emissions to prevent runaway climate change.

Because: We need to integrate priorities that maintain a habitable planet, support reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, while providing stable, decent livings for working people, particularly as part of COVID-19 recovery. This systemic approach has been captured recently by policy proposals and plans for systemic change through a Green New Deal, Just Transition, and Just Recovery. Manitoba could implement a package of changes that emulates the call of these movements.

Because: Manitoba's road to recovery must prioritize employment for those economically impacted by COVID-19, those who were already vulnerable and excluded from the labour market prior to COVID-19, as well as supporting transitioning off fossil fuels. Of particular importance is supporting Indigenous-led green jobs.

Because: Retrofit projects are significant job creators and result in monetary savings from reduced fuel usage as well as environmental benefits. The government can play an important role in stimulating large scale projects to create economies of scale. Savings can be rolled into paying for more projects. Done right, retrofits can extend the life of a building.

Because: Manitoba has the oldest housing stock in the country which provides a massive opportunity for retrofit projects.

Because: Governments have a role to play to stimulate the local economy and help those in need. During an economic crisis such as COVID-19, borrowing money today will stimulate the economy, support employment, increase tax revenue, and save lives by providing life-sustaining services

Because: Manitoba's road to recovery should use a community economic development approach, which allows community members to democratically control development. Indigenous peoples, including many First Nations, are leading CED strategies through the social economy that demonstrates how a Green New Deal could roll out in Manitoba. Much of the Alternative Provincial Budget is rooted in CED principles and strategies. Training and investment is rooted in community economic development and environmental principles that support the Green New Deal strategy. This approach could see an increase in social economy enterprises and community-based organizations working towards a more inclusive economy, while supporting meaningful employment.

Because: This recommendation fits within the Local & Fair Economies and Tackling Climate Change theme areas of the Public Policy Road Map, supporting COVID-19 economic recovery through systemic approaches based in CED such as a Green New Deal, a just transition or just recovery.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: This resolution is advanced through a number of approaches, coalitions, and campaigns. The Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle's Community Plan includes recommendations for action on Education, Employment, and Training. The We Want to Work coalition is advocating for sustainable procurement, including community benefits agreements and social procurement. The Climate Action Team, as part of the Road to Resilience, includes calls for just transition for workers. Make Poverty History Manitoba has priorities on equitable employment and hiring as part of its campaign for provincial anti-poverty work. The Province of Manitoba is creating a new Economic Development Plan as well as a renewed Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2024. CCEDNet members are encouraged to participate in government advocacy on these strategies to advocate for include employment approaches.

2024-2 Enabling Social Finance in Manitoba

Mover: SEED Winnipeg

The Province of Manitoba should develop its support for social finance activities through:

- A. Support Manitoba's social finance intermediary (The Jubilee Fund Inc) to expand its core operations through an increase in its operating grant, such that it can accommodate an increase in impact investing activities due to receiving investment from the Federal Social Finance Fund.
- A. Support the social finance ecosystem in Manitoba by providing backbone resources for the Manitoba Social Finance Working Group and clarifying the 'home-in-government' for Social Finance activities.
- A. Enable the Manitoba social finance ecosystem to support the development of additional social finance intermediaries and other progressive social finance tools and models that support Community Economic Development activity for non-profits, social enterprises, and cooperatives

Because: The Manitoba Social Finance Working Group (MSFWG) 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. The working group comprises organizations, networks, and funders including Assiniboine Credit Union, Canadian CED Network Manitoba, Community Futures Manitoba, Jubilee Fund, Local Investment Toward Employment, the Manitoba Cooperative Association, SEED Winnipeg, United Way Winnipeg, UWCRC 2.0, and The Winnipeg Foundation.

Because: The Government of Manitoba has indicated through its Ministerial Mandate Letters and several overarching statements that it is interested in innovation, effective practice, streamlined economic development approaches, and teamwork. Several existing strategies note social enterprise and cooperatives as a viable approach, including Look North. The Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (MSES) was an emerging initiative that was working well to prepare the sector for growth, connect sector leaders and relevant government stakeholders, pilot development tools, and document sector needs. A renewed commitment to Social Finance would ensure the sector is able to capture and leverage opportunity for greater impact in Manitoba communities.

Because: Concurrently, the federal government has developed a Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy that heavily features social enterprise and includes a Social Finance Fund. This strategy included the Investment Readiness Program (IRP). The IRP was meant to create and advance new earned revenues possibilities for "social purpose organizations" through one-time grants Programs like the IRP that support investment readiness and ecosystem building are needed for a flourishing social finance system. The Social Finance Fund was announced in 2018 as \$755 million over 10 years in repayable capital for social purpose organizations. The local sector is struggling to leverage these opportunities without well organized and resourced local development support.

Because: The Province of Manitoba is active in social finance, such as through the Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit, The Social Innovation Office has a mandate to “[support] areas across government to implement innovative solution development, for example through social financing, social enterprise and social procurement.”

Because: Access to the appropriate capital and financing is essential to the sustainability and success of any organization. Despite the critical role the social economy plays in addressing social and environmental challenges, these organizations face unique challenges due to their blend of business practice and social impact.

Because: A social economy supported by a strong social finance ecosystem accomplishes CCEDNet Manitoba’s public policy roadmap themes of local and fair economies, ending poverty, tackling climate change, and sustainable community-led development.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: Manitoba Social Finance Working Group will continue to lead advocacy on this resolution. CCEDNet Manitoba and SEED Winnipeg co-facilitate this group. As well, this resolution will be advanced at the national scale through the CCEDNet Policy Council and People’s Centred Economy group, as well as through Manitoba representation on the Table of Impact Investment Practitioners.



2024-3 Affordable & Social Housing

Moved by: Right to Housing Coalition

The City of Winnipeg should:

- A. Support 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.
- A. Continue 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 and targeting a minimum of 150 net new units per year.
- A. Municipal governments in Manitoba prevent the loss of rental housing by regulating the conversion, demolition, and redevelopment of rental housing stock, mandating a unit-for-unit replacement or payment-in-lieu (where replacement is not possible) to be dedicated to housing programs.
- A. Dedicate full-time staff (at a rate consistent with the average in similar sized cities across Canada, approximately one FTE to every 100,000 residents) to ensure the full and best use of municipal tools to develop new social and affordable rental housing and prevent the loss of existing rental housing affordable to people living on low incomes.

The Province of Manitoba should:

- A. Establish a policy for all surplus land disposals that ensures non-profit, Indigenous, and cooperative housing providers are prioritized for receiving surplus land for the purpose of creating social housing.
- A. Implement the 5 pillars of the Right to Housing coalition's Social Housing Action Plan:
 - a. Increase the social housing supply owned by public, non-profit, co-op, and Indigenous housing sectors by 1,000 net new rent-geared-to-income units annually for at least 10 years.
 - a. Protect existing social housing to ensure there is no loss of social housing due to disrepair, lack of subsidies or the sale of properties. Investments of at least \$150M annually over 10 years are needed to bring existing social housing units to standard.
 - a. Increase and stabilize funding to ensure all social housing tenants have access to housing support workers with a minimum ratio of 1 support worker per 100 units.
 - a. Enhance security of tenure by limiting exemptions to rent regulations, limiting above-guideline rent increases, disallowing rent discounts, enhancing compensation for no-fault evictions, and ensuring evictions occur as a last resort.
 - a. Support and partner with social enterprises to provide people facing barriers to employment with training and employment in the construction and maintenance of social housing.
- A. Reinstitute the Tax Increment Financing Program and Rental Construction Tax Credit to support community housing development that meets the affordability, sustainability, and accessibility criteria of National Housing Strategy funding programs.

- A. Continue to make Rent Assist available to low-income Manitobans on and off of EIA at an equal rate, regardless of age or ability status (Including those on the Manitoba Supports Program), and provide it at a rate of 80% of Median Market Rent and 25% of the recipient's income going towards rent. Rent assist is also available for people on income support (permanent disability). As well, continue to explore ways to make Rent Assist more accessible.
- A. Develop a Capacity Program/Fund that non-profit housing organizations can easily access to help increase their capacity to develop new housing and increase their portfolios as community needs arise in order to ensure that communities in most need of housing have improved access to housing funding.
- A. Examine ways to discourage properties being left vacant. This might include using tools such as a speculation and vacancy tax on buildings that are left vacant for more than one year.
- A. Implement and fund an integrated design process that involves a variety of stakeholders when constructing new and renovating existing social housing to ensure universal design accessibility for all Manitobans. Stakeholders should be consulted at various stages of the design and construction process to build it right the first time, saving on materials and dollars in the future.
- A. Ensure all new housing be high performance buildings, which may require exceeding current energy efficiency code standards, and that energy efficiency measures are implemented during significant renovations. This will help save residents and building managers money on their energy bills and help to meet provincial GHG targets.

Because: The average vacancy rate in Manitoba has risen and in Winnipeg, at 5%, it is at a rate not seen since 1997. Despite a high vacancy rate, many Manitobans are unable to find a suitable and adequate home they can afford in the private market. 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.

Because: Federal tax structures and the lack of a national housing strategy (until recently) have, over the past 40 years, slowed the creation of social and affordable rental housing. Our existing stock is eroding through aging, demolition, asset sales, 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, persons living with mental health challenges or mental illness, newcomers, women, trans people, Two Spirit people, gender non-conforming people,

and Indigenous people). The Province of Manitoba has increased rents for people living in social housing from 25% of the household's income to 30%.

Because: New housing construction is needed to accommodate the distinct needs of specific demographics. Women experiencing domestic violence or sexualized violence and exploitation require housing that is designed to optimize their safety, and that is accompanied by trauma-informed supports. Persons with disabilities require housing built to high standards of accessibility. People experiencing homelessness require access to housing with tenancy supports. Youth aging out of the child welfare system require transitional housing with supports that enable them to move into permanent affordable housing. Many large low-income families, including Indigenous, immigrant, and refugee families who live with extended family and friends, require housing with three or more bedrooms. Indigenous Peoples, immigrant, and refugee families also require housing that is appropriate to cultural needs. All of these housing types are in short supply.

Because: Social and 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.).

Because: 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 implements and funds its national housing strategy.

Because: 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 although cuts since 2016 have eroded the program, making fewer people eligible and reducing benefit amounts for some existing program participants. The Province can also help build the capacity of community organizations to take advantage of funding opportunities to create new social housing. Ongoing investments in addressing expiring federal operating agreements as well as in capital repairs and maintenance in public housing units are needed to preserve the existing stock. However, the Province of Manitoba has reduced annual expenditures from a high of \$120M in 2015/16 to \$67.341 in 2021/22. 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.

Because: The City of Winnipeg passed the Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2021, which affirms the central importance of housing in addressing poverty. In 2022, the City passed the Affordable Housing Now program, which supports the development of new affordable rental housing with support from the Federal government. Neither of the two policy initiatives set out commitments to a specific number of new units of social or affordable housing.

Because: 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 the five Housing Improvement Zones, but the revitalization funds do not adequately address the livability and disrepair of rental units, nor is there a requirement for property owners not to raise rents when improvements are funded. Significant increases to the HRIR allocation and changes to the revitalization programs are required to ensure the City has sufficient capacity to support neighbourhood renewal and affordable housing development and renewal.

Because: The City of Winnipeg has commissioned and accepted the Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment, which outlines the housing needs of Winnipeg residents and sets modest targets for new social and affordable housing units to reduce housing need by 50% in ten years, including 75 units of transitional housing, 300 units of rent-geared-to-income housing, 300 affordable units for seniors, 100-150 units of assisted housing for seniors and support to address the affordability needs of another 1,731 households per year.

Because: The City has senior staff and City Council representation on the board of the autonomous Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation (WHRC), which develops, renovates, owns, and manages affordable housing primarily in Winnipeg's inner city.

Because: 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.

Because: 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.

Because: This resolution fits within the Ending Poverty theme, particularly as it relates to addressing homelessness and core housing need.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: Right to Housing coalition is a leader in advancing the implementation of the 5 pillars of its Social Housing Action Plan alongside the coalition's many member organizations and individuals. CCEDNet Manitoba supports the coalition through the staff time of Lindsey McBain who chairs the Steering Committee. CCEDNet members are encouraged to connect with and support Right to Housing's advocacy campaigns on these issues. Sustainable Building Manitoba, with support from its network, will provide additional capacity and expertise to the energy efficiency side aspect of affordable housing.

2024-4 Enhanced Opportunities in Gap Training and Bridge Programming for Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs)

Moved by: SEED Winnipeg Inc.

The Province of Manitoba should coordinate an inter-departmental committee that includes representatives from the Departments of Economic Development, Advanced Education and Training, Families, Fair Registration Practices Office and community sector leaders to:

- A. Ensure that all new Canadians choosing to settle in Manitoba can access gap training and bridge programming to continue in their professional careers,
- A. Ensure that sustained funding be allocated to support this work
- A. Increase supervised practice opportunities for regulated health care professions without bridging programs
- A. Ensure ongoing and sufficient funding for existing gap and bridge training programs

Because: Between 2015-17, more than 3,000 internationally educated professionals (IEPs) applied for registration in a Manitoba regulated profession, only 16%, or 488, of these applications resulted in full registrations in their professions. Some gap training and bridge programming in Manitoba can only support a small number of people looking to get qualified in certain regulated professions. Manitoba loses internationally-trained professionals to other provinces where gap training and bridge programming opportunities exist.

Because: Among working-aged immigrants aged 25-54, 43% hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with only 26% of those born in Canada. Immigrants aged 45-54 with a university degree earn around 18% less than those aged 45-54 with university degrees who were born in Canada. This earnings gap costs the Canadian economy an estimated \$50 billion per year.

Because: Most assessment and registration processes in the regulated professions in Manitoba are designed for recent graduates of Canadian professional programs who do not have professional experience. Manitoba needs systems that support effective assessment and the recognition of applicants from international programs with varying degrees of professional experience. Fair assessment involves providing people with an opportunity to address any gaps they may have in their professional knowledge and skills relative to Canadian standards and ways of doing things. Providing training in key areas prior to assessment in order to increase success.

Because: Manitoba has a history of developing and delivering effective gap training programs in the professions. Enabling faster credential recognition and fair processes for assessment of skills for individuals trained abroad has been identified as a priority for the Minister of Economic Development and Training, and the October 2020 Manitoba Speech from the Throne mentions welcoming new immigrants through a special immigration credential recognition program.

Because: From a community economic development perspective, gap training and bridge programming helps by providing employment skills which will help move people into higher-wage jobs, leading to poverty reduction and more sustainable livelihoods.

Because: This resolution supports the “Strategic Approaches to Ending Poverty” theme area.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: SEED Winnipeg’s Recognition Counts Program will lead this work with guidance and support from Manitoba Association of Newcomer-Serving Organization (MANSO) and CCEDNet.



2024-5 Police Accountability and the Reallocation of Resources

Mover: Social Planning Council of Winnipeg as a member of the Police Accountability Coalition

The Province of Manitoba, through Manitoba Justice, and the City of Winnipeg should meet with community-based organizations to co-create policies to address long standing concerns about police accountability, violence, and systemic discrimination against Indigenous, Black and other racialized communities with the goal of decreasing the role and eventually the cost of policing in creating safer and fully inclusive community, not just in Winnipeg but across Manitoba;

The City of Winnipeg should:

- A. Expand, rather than cut or reallocate within current recipients, funding to Community Grants program. Create a specific Call for Proposals to expand City investment in programs that promote safety through inclusive community building efforts.
- A. Establish clear targets and timelines for the measures identified in the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy, including reversing the removal of Access Without Fear section of the policy, and provide adequate funding to meet the targets of the policy.
- A. Engage with the Province to further consult with all racialized communities on how to revise the Police Services Act to expand the role of civilian led police boards to better ensure community expectations of their police services are met through defining what specific roles the police should hold to better meet community belonging and safety for all.
- A. Commit to fund fulsome and responsive community consultations on the expectations prior to the implementation of race-based data collection, the body-worn camera pilot project and the evaluation of the Transit Community Safety Officer program.
- A. Commit to working with community to develop a community led response to people in crisis as opposed to the current police led Alternative Response to Citizens in Crisis (ARCC). Winnipeg, with the Province must reverse their promised continued and expanded investment in ARCC and commit to developing a response that is embedded within community-based organizations as per PAC's position paper.
- A. Fully resource the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy to enable the City to make substantive progress on its two overarching Life Poles of Affordable Housing and Indigenous Children, Youth and Families.

Because: Indigenous, Black and other racialized Winnipeggers as well as recent Newcomers to Canada are over-represented in poverty (C2000 MB Reports).

Because: Racial profiling and the disproportionate use of deadly force against Black and Indigenous community members by the Winnipeg Police Service has been compounded by the lack of community resources to address poverty, addictions, and mental health issues.

Because: The City of Winnipeg continues to spend disproportionately high amounts, when compared to what other jurisdictions spend on policing, on the Winnipeg Police Service. Given that Winnipeg's violent crime rate rose 26% from 2021 to 2022, we are not seeing improved community safety and wellbeing to justify this investment.

Because: The Winnipeg Police Service budget has continued to increase year over year while community-based organizations continue to be under and precariously funded.

Because: Indigenous community members in Manitoba are 6.6 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population, and Black community members in Manitoba were 4.5 times more likely to be killed in police encounters when compared to the white population.

Because: Addiction and mental health services currently available are not adequately funded to meet the needs of our communities.

Because: The current mandate letter (2023) from the Premier of Manitoba to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Manitoba stipulates a "top priority to ensure that all Manitobans are safe and have access to fair and just treatment before the law. This work includes acknowledging the disproportionate representation of Indigenous Manitobans in the justice system and finding ways to respond that are correspondent to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls." And that the minister "will work closely with your colleagues in other ministries to make our communities safer, address the root causes of crime and protect vulnerable Manitobans."

Because: The City of Winnipeg needs to demonstrate fulsome commitment to the joint community and City led development of its Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Strategy by acting on the measures in the strategy and addressing systemic racism, including in the Winnipeg Police Service.

Because: Affected communities deserve input into how race-based data will be collected and then used, including who can and how it will be accessed and shared.

Because: The evidence on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras to curb police violence is mixed and other jurisdictions have implemented policies that favour the police over community members, community members here deserve input on when cameras will be in operation, who can and when access the footage and under what circumstances will footage be shared publicly.

Because: The Transit Safety Officers are armed and have the authority to detain members of the public while also potentially inflicting harm by denying someone in need of transportation access to Winnipeg Transit Services, the pilot's evaluation, unlike that of ARCC's, must involve fulsome and comprehensive community consultations before any continuation or expansion is considered.

Because: Both police services and Shared Health are systems that are hierarchical in nature and have failed to deal with the racism and other forms of discrimination within them adequately, ARCC's pilot proved it to be only a qualified success at best, people who are in a health crisis deserve a health response first and there are proven more effective community based approaches to people in crisis models.

Because: Enhancing police accountability and expanding investment in community-based organizations supports Community Economic Development by promoting sustainable livelihoods, redirecting resources to community-led development initiatives, community-based organizations, and social economy enterprises, and enhances social capital.

Because: This resolution supports the following themes: The Local and Fair Economies theme notes that local and fair economies reduce crime; the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access theme area notes that the rate of violent crime against women in Manitoba is double the national average and the second highest rate in the country and recommends applying a gender-based analysis framework to improve socio-economic outcomes for women by ensuring that women are taken into consideration in all government policies, programs and legislation; and the Ending Poverty theme area notes that there is a direct correlation between low-incomes and poverty and the justice system, the child welfare system, and health services, and that social housing, a form of affordable housing subsidized by public dollars, saves public money through reduced health, social services, and justice system costs.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: Through the Police Accountability Coalition in consultation with endorsing organizations. CCEDNet members are encouraged to endorse the above as they represent the evolution, based on the current circumstances, of the original calls outlined in the Police Accountability Coalition's Call for Police Accountability and Reallocation of Resources and consider joining PAC if they have not already.

2024-6 Expanding From the Ground Up to support targeted community-led development

Mover: Spence Neighbourhood Association

The Province of Manitoba should expand the From the Ground Up: Safe, Healthy Communities for All program to expand its focus on place-based, targeted, community-led development, particularly in communities in the greatest need of physical, social, and economic revitalization by:

- A. Increasing predictable, multi-year funding agreements for Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations as core ‘anchor institutions’ facilitating community-led development through 5-year plans, community engagement, and asset-based development.
- A. Increasing funding for program-focused community development accessed by community-based organizations including Indigenous-led groups, women’s centres, family resources centres, neighborhood groups, and non-profits who represent residents, including for existing programs that are showing impact.
- A. Increasing funding for capital projects that support neighbourhood renewal, with a particular emphasis on projects led by equity-seeking communities and ensuring the province is a primary funder.
- A. Expand the program’s focus on place-based opportunities for employment and labour market training in communities in the greatest need, including through the use of social enterprise, youth jobs programs, and employment skills programs at a community level. This work should be directly connected with a provincial Social Enterprise and Co-op Development Strategy.
- A. Establish a program review to determine the potential need for expanding focus in future years to additional neighbourhoods where circumstances are deemed promising for community-led development.
- A. Improve transparency of internal government decision-making to meaningfully share power with communities and promote effective communication channels.
- A. Fund sector development and ecosystem support to strengthen collaboration and capacity building among community development organizations in order to better leverage investments.

Because: Community-led development (CLD) is based on the understanding that local residents and organizations have the knowledge of local issues and have the best insight to find appropriate solutions that meet their needs. Using these principles, communities are encouraged to collaborate and cooperate to prioritize community needs and support local leaders as they take on various pieces of work to realize community goals

Because: An expanded provincial program should build on the strengths of community development work already happening, helping to improve community health, safety, and stability. Between 2000 and 2017, NRCs have collectively engaged nearly 560,000 community members - nearly half of the population of Manitoba. In that same time, they have helped create 1,226 jobs through direct employment, pre-employment volunteer opportunities and training, social enterprise development and local procurement practice. Through NRC coordination, nearly \$9 million has been invested in housing and nearly \$31 million leveraged in affordable housing investment. Nearly \$900,000 has been strategically and effectively invested in community safety.

Because: Provincial support for CLD models and organizations is essential to growing Community Economic Development in Manitoba. While successful CLD programs position the government as an investor, exemplar, and enabler, communities are the ones who lead and plan. The Neighbourhoods Alive! model that was ended by the government of Manitoba in 2017 was in many respects a successful CLD model. While there are opportunities for growth, NA! exemplified many of the principles of CLD best practice that could serve as framework for an expanded From the Ground Up program.

Because: A \$12.5 million program called From the Ground Up: Safe, Healthy Communities for All was announced in Manitoba Budget 2024. This replaces the previous Building Sustainable Communities Program. While always relatively small-scale, financial support for CLD in Manitoba became even more constrained in 2016 under provincial government austerity with the broader Neighbourhoods Alive! Program being dissolved and its funding dispersed. The budget for community development peaked in 2011/12 at \$17 million. From the Ground Up must be expanded to address the impacts of austerity and account for inflationary challenges.

Because: Genuine community-led development programs not only align with respecting community self-determination, but it also achieves sustainable outcomes. An expanded program can contribute to provincial goals such as increasing affordability and addressing rising inequality, facilitating community connections and combatting polarization, reducing the negative consequences of poverty, increasing social inclusion. Neighbourhoods can be transformed through physical improvements, greening projects, recreational and cultural programming, and revitalized public spaces.

Because: Community-based organizations supported through an expanded provincial program can be leveraged to contribute to and help implement provincial social, economic, and climate strategies and goals, such as the Poverty Reduction Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Housing & Homelessness strategies, and more. An ecosystem approach that strengthens collaboration and connection among CBOs would help accomplish this goal.

Because: Community development funding for community-based organizations (CBOs) is housed in the Department of Municipal Relations, generally targeted at different regional, geographic, or population groups. However, 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. Evaluations have demonstrated that multi-year funding has helped community-based organizations to be more efficient and effective, helping leverage additional resources from non-government sources or different levels of government. Additionally, many CBOs are not able to maintain enough savings or retained earnings to adequately manage during a delay in funds flowing, thus highlighting the importance of adhering to an agreed upon payment schedule.

Because: Supporting Community-Led Development is a key theme area of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map. From the Ground Up is a key funding program of the Province of Manitoba to support this kind of work. Expanding the program to support targeted, effective community development and CED work is needed for capturing the value of the sector.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba and the Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, which includes CCEDNet member NRC organizations, are leading advocacy and lobbying on this resolution. A forthcoming research report through the Manitoba Research Alliance, CCPA-Manitoba, and CCEDNet Manitoba will further detail proposed changes to the program.

2024-7 Lived Experience of Disability Analysis

Moved by: Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities

The Province of Manitoba and all municipalities should apply a Lived Experience of Disability Analysis to all policies, programs and legislation. This means ensuring the Lived Experience of Manitobans with a variety of disabilities are included in this work, and that measurable results are shared.

For the purposes of this resolution, the term disability includes anyone with an impairment that lives with barriers to accessibility and inclusion. Recognizing that disability is a western, colonial term and that some Indigenous communities and organizations prefer the term gifts.

Because: without a Lived Experience of Disability Analysis, the policies, programs and legislation in this province will continue to uphold ableist attitudes and values that will not be rectified by only removing the barriers suggested in the Accessibility for Manitobans Act.

Because: people living with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty than those without disabilities and Provincial disability benefits are below the poverty line. Many people living with disabilities face barriers to accessing Provincial programs in the areas of: poverty-reduction, employment, disability, housing security, and public services. People living with disabilities make up 29% of the Manitoba population age 15 and over, as of 2022 (StatsCan), yet remain significantly underrepresented at policy tables and in decision-making positions.

Because: while there are many disability organizations doing good work to support and advocate for Manitobans with disabilities, policies, programs and legislation have historically been created to exclude persons with disabilities. The voices of those without disabilities speaking on behalf of people with disabilities continue to be advantaged over people with lived experience.

Because: while 23.2% of Manitobans have a non-developmental disability, that is 80% of Manitobans with disabilities, there was no funding provided to organizations that directly support those Manitobans in the 2024 Provincial Budget, aside from wheelchair repairs.

Because: a Lived Experience of Disability Analysis would identify gaps in policy, and lead to the creation of more inclusive communities. Failure to use an analysis which centres the lived experience of disability increases the risk that policies and initiatives will inadvertently further increase inequalities, especially Indigenous people, People of Colour, women, seniors, and 2SLGBTQ+ people. A Lived Experience of Disability Analysis would provide a framework in which accurate data collection across departments could be encouraged and implemented, to assist policy, program and legislation development that is inclusive of people living with disabilities. Currently, data collection on the lived experience of disabilities is inadequate.

Because: the Government of Manitoba promised to build a shared future for our province. As part of that shared future, the government said they wanted to ensure that Manitobans with disabilities have a voice in the design of our disability support programs, and they want to improve employment opportunities for Manitobans with disabilities. A LEDA will support those goals.

Because: LEDA supports the CCEDNet theory of change, being community-led, community-driven, and engages and builds the capacity of community members to be agents of their own future.

Because: this resolution fits within the themes of Ending Poverty, Local & Fair Economies, and Sustainable Community-Led Development.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba and its members should apply a Lived Experience of Disability Analysis to their work, including people with lived experience of disability in relevant decision making and policy implementation processes, and encouraging the Government of Manitoba and municipal governments to adopt a Lived Experience of Disability Analysis through the Network's government relations work.

2024-8 Increasing Value in Programming & Policy through Co-Creation & Consultation

Mover: Volunteer Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities should adopt a co-creation framework, bringing together affected stakeholders for developing policy and programming decisions.

Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities should undertake meaningful consultation, in instances where co-creation is not a viable model, that includes these characteristics:

- A. It involves Indigenous representation and Indigenous-led organizations, and it prioritizes organizations and individuals from equity-seeking communities and most-affected or impacted communities of the policy and programming decisions;
- A. It follows a process that all participants and stakeholders understand and agree upon a reasonable timeline to participate;
- A. It identifies roles and responsibilities of different partners;
- A. It is clear on how and to what degree feedback will influence action and decision making; and
- A. It reports back to those consulted with the results of the consultation.
- A. Process summarized/publicly available

Because: 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 from beginning to end. This is in contrast to top-down, bureaucratic methods for developing policy and programming.

Because: Consultation refers to the process by which citizens and Rightsholders 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.

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

Because: 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.

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

Because: 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.

Because: 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.

Because: The Province of Manitoba has promoted the value of local decision-making for government strategies and policy, including in Manitoba's Economic Growth Action Plan, A Made-in-Manitoba Climate & Green Plan, and Look North Economic Task Force Report & Action Plan. The City of Winnipeg has utilized a co-creative process in developing its forthcoming Poverty Reduction Strategy as well as the Newcomer Welcome & Inclusion Policy. In all these cases, leaders in the relevant sectors were engaged in a co-creation process, with aspects of co-creation and meaningful consultation across relevant communities for each strategy.

Because: The Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (2015 - 2018) and the Manitoba Cooperative Community Strategic Plan (2009-2014 and renewed 2014 - 2019, abandoned 2017) are local examples of co-created and co-implemented policy and programming.

Because: The principle of communities leading their own social, economic, and environmental futures, supported by government as a partner, is at the heart of the community economic development model. Co-creation processes that support local decision making and community ownership are a key component to sustainable, inclusive communities and economies.

Because: This resolution is the key recommendation to the government in the "Directing Our Own Future" theme area, articulating how co-creation and meaningful consultation is crucial to CED and how it should operate.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: Throughout all direct policy advocacy, budget and other government submissions, and throughout public communications, CCEDNet Manitoba will continue to encourage the Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities to adopt a co-creation framework through broader policy advocacy such as the Public Policy Road Map, as well as through specific policy area advocacy. Members are encouraged to continuously advocate for a co-creation framework through ongoing policy advocacy work.

2023-1 Provincial & Municipal CED Policy Framework & Lens

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba should honour and reactivate a CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments and crown corporations by:

- a) Forming a specific position within government to implement a Lens, which provides the tools to use CED across government, and a Framework, which provides the accountability and assessment of the community impact of CED.
- b) Giving the highest committee of cabinet direction to use the CED Framework and Lens within decision-making.

Because: Manitoba faces significant economic and social challenges. Manitoba continues to have the highest rates of child and family poverty in the country. Social exclusion and inequality has grown, particularly due to the ongoing impacts of colonization. Labour shortages in many industries continue as the economy recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rising cost of living is challenging individuals, families, and businesses, with profound impacts on those already experiencing poverty. Manitobans need more support to strengthen our climate resiliency. Low-income Manitobans are already dealing with the cost of climate change.

Because: These complex social, economic, and environmental challenges call for innovative approaches. These challenges must be addressed with a holistic and flexible approach. Community economic development (CED) provides that approach.

Because: 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.

Because: CED enterprises such as social enterprises, cooperatives, and community-based organizations (CBOs) are building up our local economies while strengthening the social fabric of our communities. They adopt a 'triple bottom line' approach - considering people, planet, and profit.

Because: Manitoba would benefit from more use of a CED approach and governments can help make it happen. 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. A CED Policy Framework would spur the development of specific strategies like a Social Enterprise Strategy, Cooperative Development Strategy, Social Procurement Policy, or Community Development plan.

Because: CED in Manitoba is based on the 11 Neechi Principles, a holistic approach to social and economic development designed by Neechi Commons Worker Cooperative. 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

Because: The Province of Manitoba has developed a cross-governmental CED Policy Framework and Lens in the past that provided a tool to shape government policies and programs aligned with CED principles stemming from the Neechi principles. The framework put CED on the radar in the bureaucracy, enabling more collective, community-minded decision-making with economic and social linkages. It provided a guide for departments across governments to use when developing new policies and programs and to assess existing programs and initiatives. While implementation of the previous CED Framework and Lens' could have been improved, its existence and political prominence ensured departments were paying attention to the framework when designing and implementing programs.

Because: The CED Framework and Lens ensured large scale economic development projects were examined with CED in mind, and often approved only if they demonstrated how they were implementing local hiring, training, and procurement policies (such as the Floodway Initiative, Hydro Development, Manitoba Housing, and others). It helped spur numerous programs and initiatives, including procurement with workforce integration social enterprises, a CED lens on the Neighbourhoods Alive! Program, and ecosystem development supports.

Because: A whole-of-government approach to using CED would mandate its effectiveness across social, economic, and environmental decision-making and set direction for the bureaucracy

How this Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba will continue to work to strengthen the awareness, understanding, and implementation of the CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments at the provincial level and with municipal government throughout Manitoba. It will be part of advocacy to whomever forms government after the October 2023 election. The We Want to Work coalition is including a call for this Framework as part of its provincial priorities.

2023-2 Renewing the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy

Mover: BUILD Inc.

The Government of Manitoba should immediately commit to supporting the social enterprise sector by spurring the development and scaling of social enterprises, including through a renewed community-led Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy. This should include:

- a) 5 years of funding for the strategy
- b) Resourcing and funding a community-led strategy, with a government and sector decision-making body, ability to adjust work plans annually with sector engagement, strategic management by CCEDNet Manitoba, and alignment with other provincial educational and workforce development strategies, including ones developed to support Winnipeg's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan
- c) A set of sector development activities planned using sector-engagement and the 6 pillars of social enterprise development (skills & capacity, markets, finance, impact measurement, regulatory environment changes, and sector network development)
- d) Opportunities to undertake research to further document the sector's needs, current state, and impact
- e) Increasing training funding for social enterprises who work alongside low-income individuals facing barriers to employment and whose mandates include workforce integration

Because: There are encouraging opportunities for Manitoba ahead that simultaneously would help address social challenges while building an inclusive provincial economy. Social enterprises can be leveraged in Manitoba's economic recovery from COVID-19 and through tumultuous challenges.

Because: Positive stories of socially innovative approaches to complex challenges across the province inspire new thinking and challenge government to invest in and support these opportunities. Social enterprises contribute to outcomes like local employment and addressing labour shortages, reduced recidivism, family reunification, reduced poverty, improved environmental outcomes, and more.

Because: Social enterprises are building up our local economies while strengthening the social fabric of our communities. They often take a 'triple bottom line' approach - considering people, planet, and profit. Manitoba needs more of this approach. And the provincial government can help make it happen.

Because: Social enterprises grow local and fair economies by strategically using a business model that blends and values both social and financial impact. In social enterprises, surplus revenue is reinvested into the mission of the business, and the focus is on realizing social or environmental outcomes such as the creation of jobs for people facing barriers to employment, providing community services not served by traditional markets, growing green economy products and services, or generating revenue for non-profits. Since 2018, there hasn't been a consistent provincial approach to government relations or support for this impactful and ready-to-grow economic model.

Because: This model is innovative and is proving to have social and economic value in a number of communities across Manitoba as evidenced by several SROI and evaluative reports. Social enterprises are contributing to economic growth, providing opportunities for training and employment to people who might otherwise not be able to find decent work, and are filling gaps in the market in often excluded communities. These businesses make a unique impact in communities, and ensure value created is reinvested in communities. However, social enterprises have unique development and financing challenges as well as a unique relationship with the public sector, because of the blend between social and/or environmental impact and business practices.

Because: Social Enterprise is a common and increasingly favourable model for building local and fair economies. It is adaptable, responsive to community needs and assets, and typically collectively owned. Providing resources for overall sector development that are informed by evidence, co-designed and implemented by both community and government stakeholders, and aligned with emerging strategies in other jurisdictions is an effective and efficient way that the Government of Manitoba can support this model. A new phase of the Manitoba Social Enterprise Strategy (MSES) can immediately build on previous work and ready the sector to capture emerging resources from other sectors and government jurisdictions.

Because: Across Canada, governments are recognizing social enterprise impacts and needs, and are developing strategic approaches to help this model grow and increase impact. While there have been some supportive programs or initiatives in Manitoba, these continue to be piecemeal and incomplete, with waning support and consistently changing government stakeholders and priorities. For instance, the original MSES, developed collaboratively with government and community stakeholders in 2014 and financially resourced over 2015-2018, had inconsistent government staff involvement, a reduced budget in the final year, and eventually was not renewed at the end of the first phase of activity. At the same time, commitments to social procurement and social finance have been variable, and the government's economic development approach has been changing rapidly.

Because: The Government of Manitoba has indicated through its Ministerial Mandate Letters and several overarching statements that it is interested in innovation, effective practice, streamlined economic development approaches, and teamwork. Several existing strategies note social enterprise as a possible approach, including Look North. Concurrently, the Federal Government is developing a Social Innovation and Social Finance Strategy that heavily features social enterprise and will include a Social Finance Fund. The local sector will struggle to leverage those opportunities without well-organized and resourced local development supports. The MSES was an emerging initiative that was working well to prepare the sector for growth, connect sector leaders and relevant government stakeholders, pilot development tools, and document sector needs and a renewed commitment to this approach can ensure the sector is able to capture and leverage opportunity for greater impact in Manitoba communities.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba will work with existing and potential members of the social enterprise community to advance this resolution. The We Want to Work coalition will champion it through its provincial advocacy and coalition work. The Manitoba Social Finance Working Group will also support advocacy related to the financing recommendations of a Social Enterprise Strategy, including all revenue structures to support social enterprise.

2023-3 Strengthening Manitoba's Co-op Sector

Mover: Manitoba Cooperative Association

The Province of Manitoba should commit to strengthening the co-op community by mobilizing resources and developing new resources in full partnership with the co-op sector through the co-creation and co-implementation of policy to best serve the co-op development needs of Manitoba, including:

- a) A multi-year co-op development strategy with:
 - a. dedicated resourcing and funding for the community-led strategy, a government and sector decision-making body, ability to adjust work plans annually with sector engagement, and alignment with other provincial Economic Development strategies
 - b. A set of sector development activities planned using sector-engagement and cooperative development pillars
 - c. Opportunities to undertake research to further document the sector's needs, current state, and impact
- b) Restoring and filling the vacant co-op developer positions within the Department of Economic Development.

Because: There are over 275 cooperatives, credit unions and caisses populaires in Manitoba, comprising of over 1,000,000 memberships. Cooperatives account for 3% of all jobs in Manitoba, and contribute 3.2% to Manitoba's GDP. Additionally, in 2010 Manitoba cooperatives paid over \$500 million in taxes. Cooperatives are a more sustainable business model given their collective ownership and community commitment; 62 per cent of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35 per cent for other new businesses. After 10 years, the figures are 44 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

Because: Cooperatives create economic democracy, root ownership locally, distribute profits equitably and often create jobs and services in communities where they are otherwise lacking. Supporting and strengthening the cooperative sector is required to achieve positive results for our economy and our communities.

Because: The Province of Manitoba has supported co-op development and has successfully partnered with the cooperative sector. Evidence of co-construction and co-implementation of good policy, public education, and co-op development, including under the Co-op Visioning Strategy, has been present in Manitoba.

Because: 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.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: The Manitoba Cooperative Association remains the lead on co-op education and advocacy work in Manitoba, with the Canadian Worker Co-op Federation (CWCF) the lead regarding employee-owned co-operatives. CCEDNet Manitoba members are encouraged to support the work of the MCA, CWCF, and other co-op development networks, and support the cooperative sector as a crucial part of Community Economic Development. CCEDNet Manitoba will advocate for this recommendation in provincial budget submission and meetings with Economic Development departments and officials.



2023-4 Targets for Indigenous Training and Hiring on Infrastructure and Economic Development Projects

Mover: SEED Winnipeg Inc.

The Province of Manitoba should implement Indigenous training and job targets, in consultation with local Indigenous representatives, for the training and hiring of First Nations, Metis and Inuit people on all projects it negotiates, funds, or sets policies. It should also put in place the means for equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities so corporate and government sectors can meet the targets. The Province should align this priority with sector councils, with a provincial Social Enterprise Strategy, and with any social procurement policies to ensure education and employment pathways are well supported.

Because: Indigenous people, businesses and governments contribute over \$9 billion per year to the Manitoba economy, with over \$1 billion paid in worker wages and salaries.

Because: Despite similar labour market participation rates (64.1% and 66.3%) amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, the unemployment rate for Indigenous people is almost double that of non-Indigenous people in Manitoba. (11.6% versus 5.9% in 2021).

Because: Many economic development and employment initiatives in Manitoba do not require targets for the numbers of Indigenous people to be trained or employed, nor ensure that job accessibility initiatives are co-created with local Indigenous people.

Because: The Government of Manitoba legislated the Path to Reconciliation Act of 2016 which includes a strategy to enact actions responsive to the needs of Indigenous people as set in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action and foster the involvement of all sectors in reconciliation.

And, because TRC Call to Action 92 calls upon the corporate sector to, among other actions, “*Ensure that Aboriginal peoples have equitable access to jobs, training, and education opportunities in the corporate sector, and that Aboriginal communities gain long-term sustainable benefits from economic development projects.*”.

Because: The co-creation with Indigenous people of training and job initiatives strengthens local Indigenous control to build the capacity of Indigenous community members to benefit from future economic opportunities in Manitoban communities.

Because: Establishing training and jobs-access initiatives with Indigenous peoples in their communities (including Manitoban cities and towns), and the creation of jobs is community-led development for a local and fair economy.

How this Resolution will be Advanced:

- CCEDNet Manitoba will lead education of its members on the Manitoba Path to Reconciliation Act through coalition work and educational events like the Gathering.
- The *We Want to Work Coalition*, through its existing advocacy for social procurement and social enterprise development at the municipal level includes Indigenous co-created training and jobs targets on government purchasing, along with accessible jobs and training for Indigenous people. In planned provincial advocacy, the We Want to Work coalition will advocate for similar goals through social procurement and social enterprise development advocacy.

2023-5 Procurement for Community Benefit

Mover: PCS

The Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, Manitoba municipalities and the broader public sector should enhance government procurement by intentionally generating economic, social, and environmental outcomes, including creating meaningful employment opportunities, through the use of the following three Social Procurement tools:

- a) Demanding social, environmental and economic outcomes when purchasing goods and services by including them in the bid evaluation process. This includes tools such as Community Benefits Agreements, which assigns a percentage of the selection value to community benefits provisions for future projects in collaboration with the community, particularly considering benefits such as increased purchasing from social enterprises, cooperatives, and nonprofits and increased job and training opportunities for people facing barriers to employment.
- b) Set aside purchases that can only be accessed by social enterprises, cooperatives and/or non-profits. Governments should support a tool that includes a directory of social enterprise goods and services available.
- c) Purchasing the social, environmental and economic outcomes directly as a program (for instance, purchasing the services of a social enterprise training program that also provides goods and services to government)

Because: 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. The value of public procurement can be greatly enhanced by intentionally generating economic, social and environmental outcomes. Social procurement is the practice of using existing purchasing to promote social, environmental, and cultural goals. There are multiple policy tools for social procurement that are already working in other jurisdictions, including other Canadian provinces, cities, and municipalities.

Because: Government can support multiple economic, social, and environmental goals while strengthening and securing the supply chain by instituting social procurement. Embedding community benefits into government purchasing beyond the good or service itself can contribute to reconciliation, workforce development, sustainability, and individual, community, or local economic resiliency.

Because: COVID-19 has demonstrated a need to support and strengthen local supply chains, which is also likely to be necessary due to the impending climate crisis. Strengthening local, community, and social procurement for the food supply chain is one commonly cited example.

Because: Across multiple sectors, there is a significant labour shortage, but unemployment/underemployment remains high among numerous demographics facing multiple barriers to employment. Embedding goals of workforce integration and meaningful employment opportunities within government procurement is a sound public policy tool to achieve multiple outcomes and grow opportunities for work.

Because: The goals of social procurement can commonly be achieved through utilizing social enterprise as a set-aside contract. Social enterprises strategically use a business model that blends and values both social and financial impact, reinvesting surplus revenue into the mission of the business focused on community economic, social, and environmental goals. Social or direct purchasing acquires goods and services for operations directly from community social enterprises that are dedicated to serving their social, economic, and environmental purposes. Social Purchasing is the easiest and most effective means of supporting these enterprises' community benefits through sole-source purchasing when permitted and using a set-aside program. Experienced jurisdictions have shown that social procurement works best when purchasers and suppliers collaborate to achieve the goal of providing successful employment opportunities for barriered individuals, and then collaboratively identify goods and services social enterprises can provide.

Because: When policy prevents sole-sourcing or contracts are too large for social enterprises, Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) have been a successful instrument for increasing the social impact of procurement. CBAs are pre-determined and defined social value outcomes that will be delivered as part of a significant infrastructure or land development project like building a bridge, a road, school, hospital, office tower, or transit system. Through a CBA, the community, government, and developer agree upon some social value deliverables. Examples of deliverables are job training, target hiring, prevailing wages, purchasing from local businesses and social enterprises, affordable housing requirements, street and neighborhood revitalization, and inclusion of community infrastructure. CBAs expand the value considered in request for proposals (RFPs) by broadening evaluation criteria to include social, environmental and economic outcomes. While not applicable to every tender, this practice can bring benefits to government procurement, including strong private sector contribution to the community and better value for spending. A community benefit can be evaluated just as any other deliverable in a contract would be, although it can take more resources to quantify community benefit than traditional deliverables. When used, CBAs have generally accounted for 5-25% of an RFPs evaluation matrix, along with traditional criteria such as price, speed, quality, and track record.

Because: Social purchasing is a growing international practice as it is an effective policy tool to achieve multiple economic and social outcomes, and a strong return on investment. Returns on investment from social procurement, including from the impact of social enterprises, cooperatives, and non-profits are high. There can be significant cost reductions in crime, savings in health care and emergency costs, reduced strain on social assistance systems, and higher employment in the community - all of which contributes to vibrant and sustainable communities with high quality of life.

Because: For the government, social procurement meets expectations of financial prudence by leveraging government dollars already within the budget to simultaneously fulfill a procurement need as well as contribute to governmental social and environmental objectives. Social procurement can also help government fulfill other objectives, including contributing to the goals of poverty reduction strategies, or supporting Call to Action #92 of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, ensuring equitable access to employment for Indigenous communities.

Because: Trade agreements allow for social procurement, with robust articles supporting the practice. For example, the Canada Free Trade Agreement between the provinces has articles that enable social procurement, particularly for legitimate objectives such as employment for disadvantaged groups or positive social outcomes.

Because: This approach has already been taken in other jurisdictions, including the Government of Canada, the City of Winnipeg, and a variety of government crown corporations or arms-length institutions. The City of Winnipeg adopted its Sustainable Procurement Action Plan in July 2022. The Province of Manitoba utilizes social procurement approaches in Manitoba Housing, through Indigenous Procurement Initiative, and this practice can be scaled significantly at the provincial level.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: The *We Want to Work* coalition is leading advocacy on social procurement at the provincial and municipal levels. We Want to Work is a group of social enterprises, supported by labour unions like Manitoba Building Trades, and convened by CCEDNet Manitoba. We Want to Work has successfully led advocacy at the City of Winnipeg level and will continue to monitor the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan's implementation. The coalition is planning engagement provincially for the 2023 election and beyond, as well as with other municipalities and institutions.

2023-6 CED Tax Credit

Mover: Peg City Car Co-op, Second: SEED Winnipeg

The Province of Manitoba should 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. This could be led by or supported by the existing Social Innovation Office.
- 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) Raise the lifetime investment cap and individual investment cap for the Tax Credit in consultation with enterprises involved.
- f) Create additional tax incentives for investment term renewals after five and ten years to further encourage investing in community enterprises.

Because: 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.

Because: 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 per cent of new co-ops are still operating after five years, compared with 35 per cent for other new businesses. After ten years, the figures are 44 per cent and 20 per cent respectively.

Because: 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.

Because: 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. This report among other community feedback and experience in the decade following provides a basis for these recommendations.

Because: The Province of Manitoba has created the CED Tax Credit that has been successfully used to support community enterprises across Manitoba. In addition to the recommendations above, the Province should update information about the amount of enterprises and investments made. As of 2012, approximately one dozen community enterprises and \$2.25 million investments had been made. There is more opportunity to facilitate investment in community initiatives.

Because: 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.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba will continue direct lobbying and advocacy to the provincial government through budget submissions and meetings to strengthen the CED Tax Credit. The Manitoba Social Finance Working Group, co-chaired by CCEDNet Manitoba and SEED Winnipeg staff, also will continue to support these recommendations and advocate for them as appropriate.

2023-7 Restore Business and Enterprise Development Support Services to Low Income Manitobans

Mover: SEED Winnipeg Inc, **Seconder:** Manitoba Cooperative Association

The Province of Manitoba should provide additional grants to not-for-profit business and enterprise support services so that low-income people, including those living in rural communities, people with disabilities, and others can receive robust and timely services for accessible business, cooperative and social enterprise development training and consulting supports.

Because: There is a gap of business and enterprise support services for Manitobans that is most acutely felt by the self-employed and would-be entrepreneurs who live on low incomes and/or in rural Manitoba.

Because: Community-based agencies continue to deliver small business, cooperative, and enterprise support services; however, some services have ceased, or have been reduced to specific demographic groups due to funding cuts. Many community-based agencies are no longer able to reach the general population of low-income and rural Manitobans resulting in inadequate business and enterprise development supports for these Manitobans.

Because: Micro enterprises and small businesses, including cooperatives and social enterprises, increase household incomes, create employment and democratic workplaces, and reduce government expenditure on social services and income assistance programs. Low-income and rural Manitobans, as well as other groups facing barriers to full participation in the local economy, require tailored services to meet their business development needs. Community-based agencies have a history of demonstrated success in supporting these clients and communities to develop businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises.

Because: Requests to community non-profit organizations for business and enterprise support services have increased since the reduction in services formerly provided by Entrepreneurship Manitoba, even though World Trade Centre Winnipeg does deliver some (but not all) of those services. Recent funding announcements (such as to Futurpreneur), do not include all low-income Manitobans and those facing additional barriers to participation in the local economy and often require customized supports.

Additionally, the Department of Families' Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program continues to refer low-income individuals to SEED Winnipeg Inc. for EIA recipients who seek self-employment business support services and access to the Enhanced Income Assistance Program despite cutting business development services funding to SEED in 2016.

Because: Community based service providers with proven history of success and custom-tailored programs need to be included in funding strategies that can improve low-income individuals' participation in the local economy through self-employment endeavours and job creation.

The Department of Families' Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) program needs to change legislation regarding the Enhanced Income Assistance Program to allow other community-based organizations to administer the program and appropriately fund an organization(s) to do this work.

Because: The Province of Manitoba has a stated priority to provide economic development services, including cooperative and social enterprise development services to all Manitobans via the Department of Economic Development, Investment and Trade.

Because: This resolution fits into CCEDNET's public policy roadmap theme areas of: a) ending poverty: through working with low-income Manitobans with regard to economic development and job creation, as well as b) local and fair economies: via cooperative and social enterprise development, launch and expansions. Micro enterprises and small businesses, including cooperatives and social enterprises, increase household incomes, create employment and democratic workplaces, and reduce government expenditure on social services and income assistance programs.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: SEED Winnipeg, Manitoba Cooperative Association, and Community Futures Manitoba are leading advocacy for this issue. CCEDNet Manitoba can support this resolution by including it in budget submissions and direct government relations on behalf of the Network. We Want to Work can include this resolution in the coalition's advocacy for social enterprise support and inclusive workforce development strategies from the Province of Manitoba.

2023-8 Intersectional Gender-Based Analysis (IGBA)

Mover: West Central Women's Resource Centre

The Province of Manitoba and all Manitoba municipalities should apply an Intersectional Gender-Based analysis to all policies, programs, and legislation, while measuring implementation and sharing the results.

Because: While the gap has been decreasing over time, women, girls, and gender-diverse people are still more likely than men and boys to be living below the low-income line (LIM-AT, low-income measure, after tax) and labour force participation and wages are lower. Indigenous women experience poverty at almost triple the rate of non-Indigenous women in Winnipeg. Women and gender-diverse people with disabilities have higher unemployment rates and are more at risk of financial exploitation. Women had lower employment rates than men across most age brackets and average weekly earnings that were 88.4% the earnings of men in Manitoba in 2018. That gap widened further in 2019, with women earning on average 71 percent of what men earn. The wage gap further widens for women and gender-diverse people who are Indigenous, living with a disability, racialized, and/or newcomers. Indigenous women, for instance, average 58% of what non-Indigenous men make.

Because: Women are about four times as likely as men to be victims of intimate partner homicide and Manitoba has highest domestic violence homicide rates among the provinces. The rate of violence against women in Manitoba is double the national average and trans women are twice as likely as cis-gender women to experience intimate partner violence.

Because: Women make up 50.3% of Manitoba's population and yet remain significantly underrepresented in decision-making positions such as elected officials, especially Indigenous women, women of colour, women living with disabilities, and 2SLGBTQ+ people.

Because: It is difficult for society to recognize people with intersecting marginalized identities as part of our community, as they don't fit in to our dominant cultural narrative. This is called intersectional invisibility. We must consciously choose to centre and value the experiences and perspectives of multiply marginalized individuals in order to create social structures where they have equitable access to resources, choices and opportunities.

Because: Failure to use an IGBA increases the risk that policies and initiatives will inadvertently further increase inequalities. If solutions focus on any specific gender as a homogeneous group and neglect the complex and intersecting identities of the individuals within that group, they will create gaps that people experiencing oppression will fall into. An IGBA enables people in organizations and systems to evaluate the structure, design, and implementation of programs, practices, and policies to best meet the holistic needs of the people impacted by those initiatives.

Because: While the federal government has committed to Gender-Based Analysis+ (GBA+), the Province of Manitoba and Manitoban municipalities do not appear to apply an IGBA framework to government policies, programs, and legislation. The Province of Manitoba has promised to make Manitoba "the most improved province in the country." Applying an IGBA framework to all government policies, programs and legislation would improve the lives of all 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. But there is so much more to be done.

Because: An IGBA must be applied to all the CED principles, but aligns most directly to Human Dignity, which encompasses gender equality and social dignity regardless of psychological differences, ethnic background, colour, creed or sexual orientation. An IGBA will also increase Long-term Employment and Local Decision-making for ALL local residents, including those who have been excluded from these realms of society for too long.

Because: The application of an IGBA across the board would significantly improve Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access, one of the themes of the CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map. An IGBA must be applied to all the themes of this Road Map.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba and members should apply an intersectional gender-based analysis throughout their work. CCEDNet Manitoba will take the lead on encouraging its members to implement an IGBA, as well as advocating for governments to do the same through the Network's direct government relations work.

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

Mover: Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

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

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

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

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

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

Because: Community non-profits face multiple competing challenges that threaten their ability to carry out services for Manitobans: ongoing pandemic impacts, the rising cost of living, budgetary pressures, access to funding, income inequality, an aging population, changing volunteer and giving patterns, growing transitional needs of newcomers and refugees, the impacts of climate change, and needing to do more with less. At the same time, community non-profits are on the frontlines, supporting communities through complex social and economic needs. Many CBOs support people in inner city, rural, and Northern communities who are marginalized by systemic economic, social, and environmental issues. Government policies and programs play a key role in reducing marginalization. Where public and private sector resources fall short, CBOs provide critical, frontline and support services. Growth in the economy that is not equitable, inclusive and environmentally responsible increases the demand for the social and environmental services the charitable sector provides.

Because: CBOs are working on alternative development models built on local prosperity, community economic development, local ownership, and healthy neighbourhoods. For example, a collective impact evaluation of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations (NRCs) found that Manitoba has one of the most unique and promising models for community development in North America. Through sustained

support of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, Manitoba has empowered community members to take action toward the social and economic development of their own neighbourhood or municipality.

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

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

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

Because: In Spring 2019, the Manitoba government embarked on a process to develop a new strategy for the non-profit community development sector, meant to “build capacity and promote sustainability”, “guide future provincial investment and inform transformation in community development programs and policies.” The Province released a discussion paper and has undergone a consultation process in centres across Manitoba.

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

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

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

How the Resolution will be Advanced: The Network of Networks is a working group composed of member-networks, umbrella organizations, and associations who represent or work with groups of nonprofits and community-based organizations in a variety of fields of work across the province. The associations involved are leading collective and individual advocacy and will help advance this resolution. The group is convened by CCEDNet Manitoba, includes Abilities Manitoba, Brandon Community Wellness Collaborative, Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, Creative Manitoba, Manitoba Association of Community Health, Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations, Manitoba Child Care Association, Manitoba Eco-Network, Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association, Manitoba Possible, Volunteer Manitoba, Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle, and Youth Agencies Alliance. The group is sharing these recommendations with all political parties and will advance advocacy on them following the 2023 election.

2023-10 Living/Minimum Wage for all Manitobans

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba municipalities should:

- a) Make the minimum wage a living wage in Manitoba by adopting the living wage methodology developed by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
- b) Include living wages in Manitoba contracted and subcontracted services, include a legally binding clause requiring contracted service workers, including those working for subcontracted companies, to be paid the living wage for Manitoba.
- c) Ensure that government funded agencies and non-profits can pay at least a living wage as a base salary.

Because: 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.

Because: 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.

Because: The living wage in 2022 for a family of four with two parents working full time was \$18.34 per hour in Winnipeg, \$16.25 per hour in Thompson, and \$15.66 per hour in Brandon.

Because: 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.

Because: Women are more likely than men to be living in poverty, earning less pay for equal work, working for minimum wage, and making less than \$15/hour. A living wage would help reduce the wage gap and lift women out of poverty, especially Indigenous women, racialized women, and women living with disabilities, who are overrepresented in the Province's poverty statistics.

Because: 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.

Because: 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.

Because: 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.

Because: 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 ensures that businesses have an opportunity to plan for meeting those increases.

Because: 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.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: The Make Poverty History Manitoba coalition's Provincial Working Group is actively working on a campaign for the provincial election 2023 that includes this key priority among a list of others. Following the election, MPHM Provincial Working Group will continue to lead advocacy on this resolution. Other community groups or organizations that are organizing around this issue are \$15 and Fairness Manitoba, the Manitoba Federation of Labour provincially, and CUPE 500 for the City of Winnipeg. Advocacy for this will also be advanced by We Want to Work coalition's advocacy for social procurement policies provincially and municipally.

2023-11 Ending Gender-Based Homelessness

Mover: West Central Women's Resource Centre

The Province of Manitoba and all Manitoba municipalities should adopt and implement the recommendations from the 2019 [*Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*](#).

Because: Women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people face unique pathways to homelessness, including gender-based violence, over-representation in low income, Child and Family Services involvement, and a lack of trauma-informed services. According to *Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*, women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness in Winnipeg are:

- Less likely to be staying in a homeless shelter because they feel unsafe there, and more likely to experience “hidden homelessness”;
- More likely to be Indigenous and/or identify as 2SLGBTQ+;
- More likely to experience physical and/or sexual violence.

Because: Mainstream services and programs that address homelessness are largely based around the experiences of men. Without an intersectional gender-based analysis of homelessness, the unique pathways into homelessness and needs of women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people will not be fully addressed, and homelessness will never be eliminated. It is essential to ensuring no one is left out of our collective work to end homelessness. We have no time to lose.

Because: Gender-based homelessness needs to be a priority for all levels of government and community-based organizations, because together we can prevent women, trans, Two-Spirit and gender non-conforming individuals from falling through the cracks.

Because: Ending homelessness must be a priority for all levels of government. While the Federal Government developed a National Housing Strategy using a GBA+, it fails to address root causes of gender-based homelessness. The Province of Manitoba's Poverty Reduction Strategy also falls short on the immediate and comprehensive action that is needed to end homelessness. The 2023 provincial homelessness strategy also fell short in long-term and gender-specific commitments. Winnipeg has *End Homelessness Winnipeg* to guide them, but need to also adopt *Connecting the Circle* (2019) if they really want to see an end to homelessness.

Because: The recommendations in *Connecting the Circle* (2019) were developed in partnership with women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness. They are holistic and address the multitude of barriers this population faces with regards to program/policy design and delivery, gender-based violence, housing and the shelter system, income security, substance use, the justice system, CFS, health, and preventing system exits to homelessness. These recommendations fit neatly into several CED Guiding Principles:

- Long term employment of local residents
- Local skill development
- Local decision making
- Public health
- Neighborhood stability

- Human dignity

Because: Working towards an understanding of gender-based homelessness relates clearly to three CCEDNet Manitoba Public Policy Road Map themes:

- Ending Poverty: Women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people are over-represented in low-income statistics not only in Winnipeg but across Canada. To end poverty, we must end gender-based homelessness, and vice-versa.
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access: An intersectional gender-based analysis of homelessness highlights the traditionally marginalized voices of women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people. Including these voices helps to increase the diversity, equity, and accessibility of programs and policies designed to end homelessness.
- Directing Our Own Future: Connecting the Circle was developed in partnership with women, trans, Two-Spirit, and gender non-conforming people experiencing homelessness. They are directing their own future through this strategy and its implementation.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba and its members adopt and implement the recommendations from *Connecting the Circle: A Gender-Based Strategy to End Homelessness in Winnipeg*. CCEDNet Manitoba will support the efforts of Connecting the Circle - who will take the lead in the implementation of the recommendations as long as funding allows - by informing and advocating to their members and governments.

2023-12 Creating a Winnipeg Without Poverty

Mover: North End Women's Centre

The City of Winnipeg should play its part in addressing poverty, a root cause of the many challenge facing our city like homelessness, safety, and affordability, by fully implementing and resourcing its Poverty Reduction Strategy, plus the following priority areas:

- a) Increase the WINNpass subsidy to 80 per cent off the cost of a monthly transit pass and make it easier to access and commit to a timeline for piloting fare-free public transit.
- b) Commit to the development of 500 units of accessible, energy efficient, social housing annually over ten years owned by public, non-profit, co-op, or Indigenous-led housing providers, in partnership with the provincial and federal government and hire at least 7 full-time staff dedicated to the development of new social and affordable rental housing.
- c) Redirect at least 10% of police funding to community-based organizations, with priority to Indigenous-led organizations, that address the root causes of crime and expand support for 24-hour safe spaces, alternative community safety models, public washrooms, and safe consumption sites.
- d) Mandate and provide ongoing anti-racism and anti-oppression training to all City employees as well as targeted training for first responders around non-violent crisis intervention, de-escalation, mental health first aid, trauma-informed care, and harm reduction and facilitate work focused on poverty reduction, social inclusion, cultural reclamation, and healing by hiring at least 3 more full-time staff in the City's Indigenous Relations Division and ensuring the City's operating grant process prioritizes funding for Indigenous-led community-based organizations.

Because: Roughly 1 out of 8 Winnipeggers live in poverty, and this situation has been made worse during the pandemic. Far too many Winnipeggers 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 with a disability, people who experience mental illness, single parents, seniors, women, trans people, Two Spirit people, and gender non-conforming people are more likely to live in poverty.

Because: Recent polling from Probe Research shows Winnipeggers believe poverty and homelessness are among the most important issues facing our city today, ranked above the cost of living, crime, and roads/potholes. I am one of those Winnipeggers.

Because: The City of Winnipeg passed its first-ever Poverty Reduction Strategy in November 2021. In 2018, Make Poverty History Manitoba called on the City to lead on addressing poverty by releasing the [Winnipeg Without Poverty](#) report. With a strong case for what the city's role can and should be, fifty recommendations for a comprehensive plan, and a powerful community campaign, the City responded and created its plan without any additional financial resources.

Because: While other levels of government need to play their part and act in areas they are primarily responsible for, the City of Winnipeg's poverty reduction strategy can demonstrate leadership by taking specific actions to reduce poverty using its own resources and governance tools.

Because: People living with low incomes often rely on public transit to get around the City, but at \$106 for a monthly pass or \$53 for a low-income pass, transit is out of reach for many. Social assistance gives only \$195 per month for all expenses outside of rent. Reducing the cost of a bus pass will support low-income people to access much-needed services and job opportunities.

Because: There is a desperate shortage of social housing in Manitoba with over 4,000 households on a waitlist. People experiencing homelessness need housing now but private market rents are unaffordable and don't come with needed supports. We will not end homelessness without government investments in housing and the City must do its part.

Because: Mental illness or unsafe substance use stemming from poverty, marginalization, and trauma can contribute to criminal or other harmful behaviours. We must look beyond police responses and invest in evidence-based poverty reduction initiatives led by community organizations that work most closely with people experiencing poverty and homelessness.

Because: This resolution fits within the Ending Poverty theme, as it outlines what the City of Winnipeg can do directly to greatly address poverty and reduce inequality in Winnipeg. These measures accompanied with a community-led approach to implementation will be effective in greatly reducing poverty in Winnipeg.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: The Make Poverty History Manitoba coalition's City Working Group is actively working on a campaign for the next Winnipeg four-year budget that prioritizes these recommendations. CCEDNet Manitoba contributes significant staff time and resources to this working group, and CCEDNet members are encouraged to support the coalition.

2023-13 Green Jobs & System Change, Not Climate Change

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives - Manitoba

The Province of Manitoba should make life more affordable, create jobs, and tackle poverty while reducing emissions and making Manitoba more climate resilient through a just transition and green jobs strategy where no one is left behind. This can be achieved through implementing the recommendations made in [Manitoba's Road to Resilience](#) reports.

In addition, particular attention should be given to the Community Economic Development potential of a just transition, including but not limited to:

- a) Rework Manitoba's newest crown corporation, Efficiency Manitoba's mandate to focus on greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets instead of only general electricity and natural gas.
- b) Worker supports - a training and workforce development strategy to skill Manitoba workers in low-carbon industries such as energy efficiency and retrofitting, that prioritizes Indigenous peoples, low-income individuals, and others facing barriers to employment, through the use of social economy enterprises.
- c) Using the building and maintenance of energy efficient, net-zero, affordable housing stock as a key economic and social development opportunity.
- d) Free public transit and inter-provincial transportation to reduce single-occupancy vehicle use and poverty.
- e) Financing household energy transitions, making the transition more affordable by providing low or zero-cost financing to support household retrofits, and making existing programs easier to access.
- f) Use the carbon tax to further climate action while reducing poverty.

Because: In December 2015, Canada agreed to be a signatory to the [Paris Climate Agreement](#), binding us to make ambitious efforts to keep global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, combat climate change, and enhance support to assist developing countries to also do so.

Because: The [United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (UN IPCC), an intergovernmental body of hundreds of expert scientists, found the world has until 2030 to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 45% and to net zero by 2050 to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees or face irreversible damages, loss of ecosystems, millions more climate refugees world-wide and loss of human life due to climate change.

Because: UN IPCC scientists find the effects of climate change are happening much more quickly than previously anticipated and Canada's climate is warming twice as fast as the global average. If Manitoba and Canada don't make major reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, we will miss the chance to stave off extremely serious, and possibly catastrophic, effects.

Because: High levels of GHG emissions are the long-term impact of the settler-worldview with its focus on exploitation for profit. The United Nations, alongside many allied groups advocate for Indigenous-led development. A quarter of land on Earth is traditionally owned, managed, used or occupied by Indigenous people, who have been stewarding that land sustainably for millennia. Following Indigenous leadership means respecting Indigenous nationhood and right to self-determination and that recognizing the rights of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people will do more to protect life on earth than any government measures. This must begin by Canada implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

Because: Women are - and will increasingly be - disproportionately impacted by climate change. They are more likely to depend on resources for their livelihoods and/or care of their families that are most at risk because of climate change, such as sourcing water and food for their families. Women are also most impacted by climate displacement. Despite these facts, women are underrepresented in climate change decision-making.

Because: Climate change will impact all of us. More frequent and severe heat waves result in heat stroke and death. Manitoba is slated to have more flooding in the spring and droughts in the summer, threatening food supply.

Because: Low income Manitobans already face energy poverty and should be compensated fairly for increased cost of living due to a price on pollution or other costs of climate change. Workers in sectors related to fossil fuels require a just transition away from fossil fuels, which involves adequate training and support to secure work in decent green jobs, and could include the use of social enterprises, cooperatives, and other enterprises to support local, fair economies at the heart of a just transition.

Because: The “Made in Manitoba Climate and Green Plan” has had little impact at a time when Manitoban GHG rates [are at an all-time high](#); Manitoba is the [sixth largest emitting Province](#). There’s nothing holding government to account on its GHG reductions goal.

Because: The Province isn’t taking a “whole of government” approach, so emissions could be reduced in one area (by introducing more electric buses, for example) and increase in another (like by approving more hog barns), but the government could still count the GHG emissions saved in one area - even if there is an overall increase.

Because: [Agriculture is the largest emitter](#) in Manitoba at 39% of all emissions. The provincial response is the Growing Outcomes in Watersheds endowment, promising approximately \$5 million of funding annually. Wetlands and natural prairie can be effective carbon sequestration, but public funding should be tied directly to reducing GHG, and this program has no such metrics. The Conservation Trust established by the Province in 2017 only yields \$5 million per year for climate and related projects.

Because: The provincial government is also not adequately funding transportation - the second largest emitter in Manitoba at 31%. In 2016, the provincial government cut funding to the City of Winnipeg for transit, and bus ridership in Winnipeg [is declining](#). Outside of Winnipeg, the Province didn’t take up the federal offer [to cost-share subsidized bus](#) service to communities no longer served by Greyhound.

Because: Natural gas is a GHG concern as the main heat source for Manitoba's housing stock, but uptake on efficiency programs is declining. [Hydro predicted](#) that 117,000 Manitobans will use their incentives in 2019, a decrease from the 142,000 estimated in 2018.

Because: The building code identifies minimum acceptable building performance, energy benchmarking of actual building performance allows for improvements to energy management through the identification of underperforming building infrastructure and systems in order to inform building component and system upgrades, retrofits, and life cycle analysis.

Because: Manitoba's greenhouse gas reduction targets require a rapid shift to more energy and resource efficient buildings and industries, building a culture of conservation in our community requires the development of a highly qualified and specialized workforce in energy conservation and efficiency, in order to quantify and understand the true environmental impact of our building stock.

Because: We need system change, not climate change. Individual actions like eating locally, using renewable energy and reducing consumption are important but we cannot tackle this problem as individuals, we need governments to lead to respond to the challenges of climate change at the scale required. Community solutions should be nurtured where possible.

Because: There is a massive opportunity to turn despair about the climate into a hopeful pathway toward a just transition to a low carbon economy, particularly focusing on worker supports and training. Community economic development and social economy enterprises are particularly useful tools to help in a just transition as community-led enterprises. Industry, government, and community groups should work together to address training gaps in impacted sectors, applying an equity and CED lens to workforce development.

Because: The Climate Action Team, a group of non-profit organizations, is creating an alternative climate action plan for Manitoba focused on food, shelter, and transportation.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: CCEDNet Manitoba can work with the Climate Action Team, CCPA Manitoba, Manitoba Eco-Network, Green Action Centre, Climate Change Connection, Sustainable Building Manitoba, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, the Wilderness Committee, and others to move this resolution forward. The Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition is planning a campaign related to this resolution following the 2023 provincial election.

CCEDNet Manitoba can continue to focus on promoting the possibility of the Community Economic Development lens as a climate action solution and way to shape a just transition. CCEDNet Manitoba should continue to support the organizing work of the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition and other frontline climate justice organizing efforts in an effort to continue to call for system change, not just individual responses to climate change.

2023-14 Ethical Energy: Supporting Indigenous-led local alternative energy projects in Manitoba

Mover: Wa Ni Ska Tan Alliance of Hydro-Impacted Communities

The Province of Manitoba and its crown corporation Manitoba Hydro should work with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration to support and remove barriers for Indigenous community-owned, Indigenous-led, local-scale energy generation; including:

- a) The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro provide local and regional economic opportunities that do not appropriate Indigenous knowledge.
- b) Manitoba Hydro remain publicly owned and committed to working in a spirit of collaboration with all hydro-impacted communities to redress the losses of Indigenous cultural and economic heritage;
- c) The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro cease new planning or building of dams in the Province.
- d) The Province of Manitoba commits to an independent operational review of Manitoba Hydro to address past and present hydro impacts on nearby communities and environments. The review should include recommended pathways to increase transparency and accountability, including more accessible data and general user information to better understand how energy is being used and charged in the province while protecting individual privacy.
- e) The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro commit more to the development of community-owned, Indigenous-led, local-scale energy generation through strategies like a renewed Social Enterprise development strategy, social financing to support the development of enterprises and projects, and supporting Indigenous energy sovereignty.

Because: Manitoba lies within the ancestral lands and traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, Inuit, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis;

Because: Manitoba First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples are Aboriginal peoples as so defined within the constitution of Canada. Aboriginal peoples in Manitoba possess Aboriginal rights, as well as inherent and treaty rights, where applicable.

Because: Manitoba, through its publicly owned and governed utility Manitoba Hydro, produces over 97% of the hydropower used in Manitoba and serves more than 608,500 electric customers. Thus making hydropower of key economic importance to Manitoba.

Because: Manitoba Hydro operates 16 generating stations as part of its integrated system in Manitoba, most of which lie on the traditional lands of First Nations communities, who have experienced and continue to experience many dramatic and adverse impacts as a result of hydro-related development. The production of hydropower has been largely unethical. Manitoba Hydro can improve how it shares user information to better understand how energy is being used and charged in the province, in order to help facilitate Indigenous community-owned, Indigenous-led, local-scale energy generation.

Because: Large-scale hydropower projects (megadams) contribute to climate change and produce greenhouse emissions through the flooding of shorelines and forests in the creation of reservoirs. In addition, the manipulation of water levels results in the ongoing production of greenhouse gas emissions. Thus large-scale hydropower is not a climate solution, “green energy” or carbon neutral.

Because: The Province can transition off fossil fuels without building any new dams, while exceeding energy targets set by Manitoba Hydro and meet the estimated energy load growth to 2050.

Because: The interest in local-scale alternative energy for Indigenous communities has increased due to its potential for self-determination, energy justice, a reduced reliance on outside energy sources, and need for viable alternatives to diesel for off-grid communities. There is also interest in its role for facilitating reconciliation.

Because: Nominal steps have been taken toward providing economic opportunities in northern Manitoba, particularly where new developments are concerned, yet many First Nations communities have not benefited in any meaningful way from hydro development.

Because: The Province of Manitoba formally apologized to First Nations communities affected by northern hydropower on January 20th, 2015, acknowledging the damages hydropower has inflicted on the environment, livelihoods, cultural identity, transportation, and way of life, and passed The Path to Reconciliation Act in March of 2016. Drawing upon the Truth and Reconciliation’s Call to Actions and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, this legislation commits the Province of Manitoba to act in a spirit of reconciliation.

Because: This resolution fits within the Tackling Climate Change theme, as climate action and resilience will be driven through Indigenous and local solutions, as well as the Local & Fair Economies theme supporting an increase in community-owned solutions.

How this Resolution will be Advanced: The Wa Ni Ska Tan Alliance of Hydro-Impacted Communities would like to take the lead on advocating for this resolution with support from CCEDNet Manitoba staff. Wa Ni Ska Tan would like to work closely with members interested in supporting this resolution. This could include asking for solidarity from other members, a working group facilitated by Wa Ni Ska Tan, or asking for endorsements on letters or campaigns. CCEDNet can include this in Network provincial government relations work, including in budget submissions.

2023-15 Composting and an Organics Disposal Ban for Winnipeg's Metropolitan Region

Mover: Green Action Centre

The Province of Manitoba should announce a deadline of 2026 for a full organics disposal ban in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.

The Province of Manitoba should 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 Winnipeg Metropolitan Region.
- b) Introducing and enforcing a phased fine for any organic material that is landfilled in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region after 2024, with an initial threshold of 25% organic matter landfilled and decreasing to 5% by 2026.
- c) Making municipal waste management plans that include the diversion and composting of organic materials mandatory for the Winnipeg Metropolitan 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).

The City of Winnipeg should approve a curbside composting pick up program for all residences across the City by:

- a) Reinstating Winnipeg's Waste Diversion Advisory Committee to review best practices and evaluate potential measures.
- b) Framing organics diversion as responsible waste management (like sewage treatment) to avoid negative environmental impacts and resource loss, not as an optional personal service. Evaluate proposals for their ability to divert organics, reduce GHGs and other impacts, and recover organic matter for beneficial use.
- c) Seeking federal and provincial green infrastructure funds to help with capital expenditures for a composting facility.
- d) Containing collection costs by reducing rather than increasing the number of home pickups as Toronto does (e.g. weekly green bin collection, and alternating biweekly recycling and garbage pickup).
- e) Taking advantage of the infrastructure and expertise that exists in this city (i.e. Master Composters, community composting sites, and non-profit organizations that coordinate such programs). Model this city's waste reduction efforts after the New York City Compost Project, where the Department of Sanitation uses volunteers and community compost bins to complement their municipal composting program.
- f) Ensuring that the curbside composting pick up program aligns and complies with the City's Sustainable Procurement Action Plan, potentially serving as one of 10-15 piloting examples of Sustainable Procurement practices.

Because: 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. 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.

Because: 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.

Because: Organics make up approximately 40% of Winnipeg's residential waste stream, but only an estimated 30% of Winnipeg households compost their organic waste. Winnipeg's waste diversion rate doubled from 17% to over 30% after the introduction of a yard waste collection program, but Winnipeg is still significantly below the waste reduction rates of other major Canadian cities. Per capita, Canadians are one of the highest waste-producing OECD countries, and Manitobans are the third highest waste producers in this country, exceeded only by Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Because: 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.

Because: The Winnipeg Metropolitan Region (WMR) includes 18 municipalities and represents roughly two-thirds of Manitoba's population. The WMR has identified two goals in its action plan that are directly compatible with an organics ban: i) implement programs and incentives that promote waste diversion, resource recovery, and composting, and ii) reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Because: Winnipeg is the largest city in the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region, and the last city of its size in Canada without a residential composting program. In Manitoba, green bin programs exist in Brandon, Morden, Winkler, Carman, Morris, and Altona. 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.

Because: The Province of Manitoba estimates that every 10,000 tonnes of organic waste composted instead of going to a landfill, will create seven new jobs. Approximately 87,140 tonnes of organic waste collected from residential sources in Winnipeg is sent to the Brady Road Landfill annually. 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. Implementing policies, funding and social procurement programs supportive of small businesses, social enterprises, and community initiatives that meet environmental, social and economic goals will encourage the growth of composting businesses and social enterprises within local economies.

Because: 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. Green Action Centre launched Compost Winnipeg in 2016 - a social enterprise offering organic waste collection services for residences, businesses, and multi-unit dwellings. The social enterprise is diverting organics from the landfill, providing local employment at a fair wage, and is improving community sustainability resources; demonstrating an example of what other social enterprises can form from supportive provincial and municipal policies or funding.

Because: Encouraging composting and an organics disposal ban fits within the Tackling Climate Change theme, particularly relating to ecological health through waste management. Organics management through composting is an important part of a CED agenda, reducing emissions while supporting fair, local economies, local job creation, and being an important part of Manitoba's just transition to a more sustainable future.

How the Resolution will be Advanced: Green Action Centre has been the leader working with the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba to attempt to move this resolution forward. Green Action Centre has been coordinating responses to media inquiries and from the public, delivering presentations to City Council, and coordinating and participating in meetings related to a residential composting program, all while citing best practices and the information in the resolution above. CCEDNet members looking to support this resolution should contact Green Action Centre for information about getting involved.