

2026-1: Provincial & Municipal CED Policy Framework & Lens

Mover: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba

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The Province of Manitoba should honor 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: Local economic development (LED) plays a critical role in mitigating the impact of tariff threats by boosting support for local social enterprises and businesses, facilitating supply chain shifts, and promoting "buy local" initiatives to reduce dependence on foreign imports.

Because: 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, allowing 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
- Neighborhood 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 Neighborhoods Alive! Program and ecosystem development support.

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 awareness, understanding, and implementation of the CED Policy Framework and Lens across all government departments at the provincial level and with municipal governments throughout Manitoba. It will be part of advocacy in the lead-up to the next provincial election.