

## 2026-2: Economic Innovation and Capacity to Address Inflation and Close the Poverty Gap

Moved by: **Marianne Cerilli**

Seconded by: *Olga Rogozina*

**Resolution:** The Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg should fund the design and delivery of community development initiatives that enable transition from an inequitable economic model toward a more inclusive, democratic and community-driven economy. This transition should prioritize decent work, local ownership, environmental sustainability, and equitable access to economic opportunities, ensuring that workers and communities most affected by the current economic model are supported to adapt, participate and thrive.

**Because:** The current economic model is failing many people and communities, contributing to worsening climate change, increasing poverty and social exclusion, and growing concerns about inequitable concentrations of power and decision-making.

**Because:** Ongoing trade tensions, including the imposition of tariffs on key Canadian sectors, have contributed to economic uncertainty, disrupted supply chains, and increased costs for businesses and consumers. These external pressures exacerbate inflationary trends and highlight the vulnerability of local economies that are heavily reliant on global markets and export-oriented industries. The interconnected crises of rising living costs, inflation, ecological instability, and social inequity stem from systemic economic structures that are difficult to influence at the global level, but can be meaningfully addressed through coordinated, community-led action at the local level.

Strengthening community-based economic development through innovative economic approaches is critical to building more resilient and self-reliant local economies.

**Because:** There must be a shift away from isolated, individual responses to systemic challenges toward collective, justice-oriented solutions grounded in justice, fairness and democratic community economic development (CED), which create sustainable alternatives rather than reinforcing the status quo through short-term or charity-based approaches.

It is time to think about how to address the root problems in our economy: compounded inflation based on profits, large multinational corporations that evade taxes or pass them onto consumers, banking systems that profit from and fund extractives, and war, plus public finance policy offering tax cuts that sacrifice shared assets and collective financial strength in attempts to keep up to inflation and rising corporate profits.

**Because:** This resolution aligns with the province's priorities related to affordability, economic resilience, inclusive growth, net-zero pathway and the poverty reduction strategy, while strengthening local economies and enhancing community capacity to respond to ongoing economic challenges.

**Because:** Building capacity around economic innovation directly supports Community Economic Development by empowering communities to design and implement locally driven solutions that advance a just transition and address the root causes of inequality and economic instability.

**Because:** This resolution aligns with the themes of Ending Poverty, Local & Fair Economies, and Tackling Climate Change, by promoting CED as a viable alternative to an economic model based on perpetual growth and wealth concentration, and by supporting sustainable, community-led development pathways.

**How this Resolution will be Advanced:** CCEDNet Manitoba will provide leadership in advancing this resolution by:

- Convening partners to design and implement capacity building initiatives and
- Developing and leading advocacy efforts for public investment in economic innovation

All efforts shall aim at enabling communities to advance a just transition while addressing rising costs of living, deepening poverty, and growing inequities. This work will involve partnerships with community organizations, post-secondary institutions, and policy research organizations. Members can support this initiative by participating in workshops, contributing expertise, building cross-sector collaborations, and advocating for adoption and funding of these initiatives at all levels of government.