

3/31/2022

# Manitoba Eco-Network

*Annual Report 2021-2022*



Manitoba Eco-Network

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## Message from the Chair

We are now in an era where the necessity of protecting the natural world to support all life is well-recognized and has become a huge concern to many. The competing demands of new development, economic stability, and environmental protection require committed, knowledgeable people to navigate through to the most sustainable result.

The past year MbEN has seen continued requests for assistance from numerous individuals and grass roots organizations seeking advice for protection of their local environment, often related to new development proposals. The Manitoba Eco-Network, with only two and a half staff positions, has tried to respond to every request.

We are fortunate to have Glen at the helm of MbEN. His vast knowledge of issues along with his experience in researching new concerns are an invaluable asset. We are grateful to both Allie Caporale and Heather Fast for their commitment and knowledgeable contributions. We want to thank the board members who have spent many hours developing, crafting, and considering many issues and policy statements. Finally, we want to thank all of our funders and donors, who demonstrate their trust in the MbEN through their financial support.

Sincerely,

Vicki Burns



## Message from the Executive Director

Another year gone, another host of species gone, and it's getting hotter and hotter. On the brink of a world war with manufacturers of weapons of mass destruction reaping in the profits, it is sometimes hard to comprehend where humanity is heading as we compete for finite resources on this planet.

Nevertheless, it is vital to collaborate and work with others in the community who want systemic change and are seeking environmental justice. This movement is happening throughout the world. The Manitoba Eco-Network is fortunate that it can work and partner with a number of dedicated and amazing regional organizations and activists who are seeking change.

When I started here almost four years ago, we embarked on developing a three-year strategic plan. We have reached the tail end of that plan and will now be looking for community input about future directions for the Manitoba Eco-Network, given the limited capacity we have. We are excited with the projects we have embarked on, including *Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment, Healthy Environment Healthy Neighbourhood* (HEHN), and look forward to working with inner city organizations on building climate resilient neighbourhoods.

Herman Daly, author of *Steady-State Economics*, sadly passed away recently. In one of his last writings, *Ecological Economics in Four Parables*<sup>1</sup>, he describes succinctly the ethical problems that face us and what needs to be done.

Daly points out that we have overshot our ecological niche and that our economy is a subsystem of our biosphere that has become too large to fit. He stresses the need to place caps that limits scale and range of inequality of ownership and income. Technology, while having benefits, also frequently has unintended consequences which can be very costly. Daly concludes his article by saying,

*Ecological economics requires returning to that historical starting point and rethinking economics in the light of ecology, philosophy, and religion. It also requires the foundation of a pre analytic vision of the economy as a subsystem of a finite sustaining biosphere subject to the laws of thermodynamics and ecology. In terms of policy, it means that qualitative improvement (development) must replace quantitative increase (growth) as the path of progress.*

I would like to thank all our amazing volunteers, Board, funders, supporters, members and staff who have all helped make this another worthwhile, albeit challenging, journey at Manitoba Eco-Network.

Sincerely,

Glen

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<sup>1</sup> Herman Daly, *Ecological Economics in Four Parables*, *real-world economics review*, issue no. 102, 18 December 2022, pp. 2-15, <http://www.paecon.net/PAEReview/issue102/Daly>



## About the Manitoba Eco-Network

The Manitoba Eco-Network (MbEN) is located on the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Since 1988, Manitoba Eco-Network has promoted positive environmental action by supporting people and groups in our community. MbEN undertakes activities focused on policy advocacy, engagement in consultation processes and developing capacity building tools that benefit the environmental non-profit sector and our member groups.

We are a public interest environmental organization seeking to promote and facilitate good environmental governance and the protection of Manitoba's environment for the benefit of current and future generations. MbEN undertakes community-based research and engages in advocacy opportunities that promote meaningful public participation in environmental governance processes and access to environmental justice.

The charitable objectives of the organization are:

1. To carry on education activities, to develop an awareness in the community concerning the conservation and enhancement of the environment; and
2. In furtherance of the aforesaid, to encourage other Canadian organizations which do the same.



## Activities

We have had a remarkably busy year and have been able to return to an in-person work environment. Below, we have a summary of the activities that filled our year, organized by the six strategic priorities identified in our three-year plan.

- 1) Collaborate with MbEN members and other concerned, affected and impacted groups/organizations to develop and activate a clear, consistent framework and process for engaging, organizing, and bringing forward the voice of the environmental community to provincial policy/regulatory discussions.***

### Collaborative Campaigns

As part of the HEHN Project, we worked with the Canadian Environmental Law Association to advocate for changes to Bill S-5, the Strengthening Environmental Protection for a Healthier Canada Act. This Bill proposes changes to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 that have implications for public participation and protection of vulnerable populations dealing with exposures to toxic substances.

We provided a letter of support for the Aboriginal Council of Manitoba, Consumers Association of Canada (Manitoba) and Manitoba Harvest's application requesting that a review of Manitoba Hydro rates be undertaken by the Public Utilities Board.

MbEN joined 78 Public Interest groups in calling on Canada's biggest banks to drop investments in nuclear power, including so-called Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) from their fossil-free and ESG investment portfolios.

Along with 130 other organizations, signed on to a letter that called for a multifaceted approach to alleviating energy poverty in Canada.

We worked with other members of the Protect the PUB Coalition to advocate for the withdrawal of Bill 36, The Manitoba Hydro Amendment and Public Utilities Board Amendment Act.

With close to 80 other organizations MbEN lent its voice asking for strengthened support for Winnipeg's Office of Sustainability, including stronger leadership, increased funding, and a community advisory committee.

We endorsed the ICAN Cities Appeal Campaign, calling on the City of Winnipeg to support the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

### Partnerships

We partnered with Camp Morning Star as they organized an Elders Gathering and three-year Anniversary event in their struggle against a silica sand mining company near Hollow Water First Nation.

We partnered with Sustainable Building Manitoba (SBM) who conducted an educational campaign to engage the public, industry, and policymakers on sustainable building practices.

The Save our Water Campaign was initiated by Manitoba Eco-Network, Our Line in the Sand, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition and What the Frack – Manitoba to raise money to effectively participate in upcoming Manitoba Clean Environment Commission hearings.

## Networks

This year MbEN staff were active and involved in the following Networks:

- Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TLUC)
- Canadian Environment Network (RCEN)
- Network of Networks (facilitated by Canadian Community Economic Development Network – Manitoba Branch)
- Wa Ni Ska Tan Alliance of Hydro-Impacted Communities (a community-academic research partnership funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC))
- Manitoba Research Alliance, a community-academic research partnership funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and hosted by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba (CCPA-MB)
- Winnipeg 2022 Alternative Municipal Budget (facilitated by CCPA-MB)

## Consultations

We participated in the following consultations:

- Manitoba Energy Strategy
- Manitoba Water Strategy
- Manitoba Contaminated Sites Act Review
- Winnipeg Metropolitan Region – Plan 20-50
- Manitoba Waste and Recycling Review
- Forestry Planning process of Louisiana Pacific and Canadian Kraft Paper
- Establishment of a Canada Water Agency

All our submission and comments can be found on our [Policy Advocacy page](#).

***2) Continue to develop and deliver activities that build capacity, connect and support MbEN members and Manitoba's environmental community.***

**Heathy Environment Healthy Neighbourhood project**



The Healthy Environment Healthy Neighbourhood (HEHN) project was developed to respond to community concerns about industrial sites located near residential areas. We interviewed people who live and work near industrial sites to understand how their daily lives are affected. We also did in-depth legal research to identify what is missing from the legal framework. More information can be found [here](#).

**State of Environmental Governance project**

Started a new initiative to work with the sustainability community in Winnipeg and Manitoba to collectively develop a framework to track environmental sustainability measures and government performance (policies and law) through the development of a state of environmental governance (SOEG) report.

**Manigotagan Map launch**

We updated our canoe map for boating trips on the Manigotagan River. The Manigotagan is a fun and challenging whitewater canoe route only a few hours north of Winnipeg. Its watershed drains an area of approximately 217 square kilometers or 22,000 hectares, most of which is located in Manitoba (the river originates in Woodland Caribou Park in North-Western Ontario), and discharges into Lake Winnipeg from the East. The new interactive Story Map can be found [here](#).



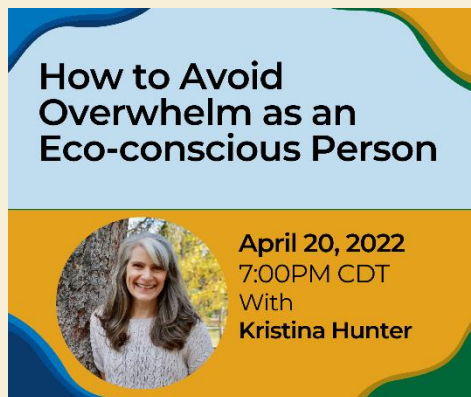
**Organize Manitoba website launch**

In the summer of 2022, we launched [Organize Manitoba](#). This website is where the environmental and social justice community can host their campaigns online. Our initial campaigns include the Save Our Water campaign, an effort to protect Manitoba's cosmetic pesticide ban, and a campaign to protect the Public Utilities Board.





## Overcoming Overwhelm webinar



Sustainability is about more than just renewable resources and protecting nature. On Earth Day 2022, we invited Manitoba-based health and wellness educator Kristina Hunter to give a talk about ways to ease eco-anxiety. We are proud to have provided information to our Eco-Network supporters to help improve self-care and mental wellness. A more balanced life means having a greater capacity to meet the everyday demands of environmental action. Watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).

## Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment Webinar Series – Part 1

This phase of Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment was concluded with a final webinar and overview report. This project was a partnership between MbEN, the Public Interest Law Centre, and the University of Winnipeg that aimed to provide information to activists, lawyers, students and community members about a variety of environmental law topics. Topics include: Reconciliation, participation in government decision-making processes, class action lawsuits, environmental racism, and the rights of protesters. Access the webinars and supplementary materials [here](#).



## Resources for the ENGO Community

We regularly maintain and update a fundraising database and media list that we share with the public. The funding database supports vital access to funding for environmental projects. The media list covers a variety of outlets ranging from CBC to small rural papers, which supports the public's right to know about the latest environmental news.

### ***3) Diversify revenue opportunities and improve financial sustainability***

This year, MbEN undertook the following activities:

- On a contractual basis, staff is working with the University of Manitoba, Natural Resources Institute, on a national project investigating qualitative measures that would improve the next generation of impact assessment in Canada.
- The Save Our Water Campaign is raising money towards hiring an expert to testify at the upcoming Manitoba Clean Environment Commission hearing on a silica sand mining project.
- We started the development of a longer-term fundraising strategy courtesy of an organizational/capacity building grant from the Winnipeg Foundation.
- Our annual appeal went out to our list of 300 supporters, with slightly over half providing donations this year.
- Our federal government CEBA loan was paid off, with \$20,000 forgiveness accounted in previous years' financial statement.

#### ***4) Work with member organizations to educate and engage the public on environmental issues***

Over the past year, we collaborated in the following ways:

- We joined GreenPac, Wa Ni Ska Tan, University of Manitoba Students Association, and U of M Indigenous Concerns on the Environment to cohost a federal election environmental debate in the Winnipeg South riding.
- We participated in the 2022 Social Justice Fair hosted by Menno Simons College.
- We receive and respond to information requests from the general public and grassroots organizations on a weekly basis.
- We publish the [Eco-Bulletin](#), a monthly e-newsletter which includes environmental news, actions, resources, and events from across Manitoba.
- We regularly post information and events on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We currently have almost 3,000 Twitter followers, 3,900 Facebook followers, and 1,971 Instagram followers. We are also growing our presence on LinkedIn with 410 followers.

#### ***5) Review/update membership structure and increase efforts to promote MbEN and grow membership***

This year, we undertook the following activities:

- The strategic planning committee reviewed the membership category structure of MbEN. This work is ongoing for future considerations as we update our strategic plan.
- The annual membership appeal went out in late December 2021, and approximately 35 organizations rejoined.

## ***6) Continue to develop and strengthen governance and operational capacity of MbEN***

Activities based on this priority include:

- Extending the lease with Mountain Equipment Company through July 2022. All our co-renters, Green Action Centre, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Trails Manitoba and Wilderness Committee stayed on with us at the Eco-Centre.
- We said goodbye and thank you to Emily Halldorson, Emma Smith, and Calvin So, who have moved on to new careers, and welcome new staff Allie Caporale and Heather Fast.
- Our Strategic Planning Committee modernized our by-law, which was successfully ratified at our last AGM, January 2022.
- Our active committees include the Strategic Planning Committee, Policy Advocacy Committee and Fundraising Committee.
- We were successful in negotiating a new four-year collective bargaining agreement with CUPE Local 2348.



## Financial Statement

| REVENUE                     | March 31, 2022 | March 31, 2021 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Donations                   | 35,200         | 48,553         |
| Memberships                 | 2,490          | 2,850          |
| Tenant Recoveries           | 55,394         | 52,220         |
| Grants                      |                |                |
| Manitoba                    | 5,000          | 42,912         |
| Winnipeg Foundation         | 40,000         | 62,200         |
| Canada                      | 14,239         | 54,629         |
| Other                       | 38,989         | 5,000          |
| Other Income                | 6,960          | 2,798          |
| TREE Endowment Fund         | 4,094          | 4,086          |
| Interest                    | 737            | 653            |
| TOTAL                       | 203,103        | 275,901        |
| EXPENDITURES                |                |                |
| Wages & Benefits            | 132,135        | 118,143        |
| Amortization                | 42             | 61             |
| Eco-Journal                 | ---            | 410            |
| Projects & General Expenses | 89,015         | 79,755         |
| TOTAL                       | 222,963        | 198,909        |
| SURPLUS (DEFICIT)           | (19,860)       | 76,992         |



## Staff (at March 31, 2022)

### **Glen Koroluk**

Executive Director

Glen started as ED of MbEN in February 2019. Before that, he worked in the private sector with a local environmental software company, was the community housing and grants coordinator for an inner-city neighbourhood renewal corporation and worked for various national and provincial environmental non-governmental organizations in Manitoba for almost 20 years as a campaigner and community organizer. Glen volunteers as a board member with the National Farmers Foundation and Canadian Environmental Network and holds a BSc. from the University of Winnipeg, that focused on geography, climatology and statistics.

### **Heather Fast (she/her)**

Policy Advocacy Director

Heather transitioned from Board Member to Policy Advocacy Director in July 2021. She is a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Manitoba's Natural Resources Institute and teaches the Environmental Law 3600 course in the Faculty of Law. Heather has three prior degrees from the University of Manitoba from the Faculty of Arts (Global Political Economy) and the Faculty of Law (J.D. and LL.M.). She was called to the Bar in 2014 and undertook legal and policy work for a number of organizations including the Manitoba Law Reform Commission, the Public Interest Law Centre and The Great-West Life Assurance Company (now Canada Life) before returning to her graduate studies.

### **Alexandra Caporale (she/her)**

Resource Manager

Alexandra joined the MbEN on a full-time basis in September 2021 after contributing to the Building Community Climate Resilience project in the spring of 2020. Alexandra is a recent graduate from the City Planning program at the University of Manitoba, and has previously worked with the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ on many placemaking projects.

### **Contracts**

Book-keeping: Gudrun Antosh (A3 OfficeWorks)

Outreach Coordinating Assistance (Canada Summer Jobs): Arshpreet Gill

Research Assistance (MITACS, Inner City Studies Program, University of Winnipeg): Robert Bachelor

## Board of Directors (at April, 2022)

Vicki Burns, Chair

Laura Tyler, Vice Chair

Phil Lancaster, Treasurer

Lindsay Robinson, Secretary

Chantel Henderson

Josh Brandon

Dr. Kirit Patel

Kathryn Dompierre

Stacey Chaboyer

Karen Fletcher

Cameron Hunter

Dr. Patricia Fitzpatrick

Our active committees are: Executive, Strategic Planning, Policy Advocacy, Fundraising

Thank you to our outgoing board members, Geoff Gunn and Richard Farthing-Nicol

## Volunteers & In-Kind Support

Sumegha Gupta – We were connected with Sumegha through Canadian Community Economic Development Network's (CCEDNet) SPARK program. She helped us several times with our website, making it easier for us to work with it and enhancing its user experience for the public.

Kevin Freedman - We also connected with Kevin through the SPARK program. He helped us through the development of our new updated by-law.

Shaylyn Pelikys – volunteered to update our media list and also conduct legal and policy research for us while balancing a full undergraduate courseload.

Geoff Mulcahy – volunteered to create a database of all green businesses in Manitoba in case we need advertising for a future iteration of the Eco-Journal.

Nelson Madz – volunteered to update our funding database for the website.

Richard Dilay- for his experience volunteering on our Fundraising Committee.

Students from the Environmental Law Group (ELG) and Pro Bono Students (PBSC) Canada (MB) chapter at Robson Hall, Faculty of Law, at the University of Manitoba undertook a range of different pro bono policy and legal research that was used as part of the *Healthy Environment Healthy Neighbourhood* project and *State of Environmental Governance* project.

- PBSC Students: Prachi Sanghavi, Alyssa Thomas, Ryan Hall, Kerith Tung, Liam Menec, and, Selene Sharpe.
- ELG Students: Jenna Jeffrey, Brenden Drews, Nicholas Mark, Julia Beal, Kerith Tung, and Jenny Bi.

Red River College Capstone Project: students from the Red River College that helped design some public outreach materials: Armandeep Kaur, Pavneet Kaur, Arshdeep Singh and Ashman Sandhu.

The *Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbourhood* Advisory Committee, consisting of Michelle Berger, Greg Selinger, Jon Gerrard, Catherine Flynn, Shirley Thompson, Guy Jourdain, Byron Williams, Jennifer Chen, Christine Trickey, Lea Mutch, Malaya Marcelino, and Sande Harlos, for providing personal stories and guidance.

Folarin Solademi, who volunteered to create maps for the HEHN project.

Sarah Cooper, for their guidance and academic support during the HEHN project.

## Funders & Major Donors (over \$500)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| All Charities Campaign – Manitoba             | Manitoba Law Foundation                           |
| Anonymous                                     | Manitoba Research Alliance                        |
| Aqueduct Foundation                           | Manitoba Restart Program                          |
| Assiniboine Credit Union                      | Mountain Equipment Company (in-kind, in part)     |
| Aurelie Mogan                                 | Novek Family Endowment                            |
| Bill & Shirley Loewen                         | Pro Bono Students of Canada (in-kind)             |
| C.E.W.S                                       | Ray & Fenella Temmerman                           |
| Carl Durand                                   | Robert & Sylvia Fenton                            |
| Carl von Baeyer & Deborah Lake                | Roland R. and Doris M. Engel & Family Fund        |
| Carolyn Garlich & Peter Miller                | Sandy, Orlie, Meredith & Barrette Plett           |
| City of Winnipeg                              | Simon Hall CPA (in-kind, in part)                 |
| Dan Blankstein                                | Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions Inc.          |
| David Plummer                                 | SPARK/CCEDNet (in-kind)                           |
| Fred Wilson                                   | Summer Jobs Canada                                |
| Hugh & Valerie Arklie                         | The Asper Foundation                              |
| In honour of Gordon McIntyre and Leanne Chase | The Winnipeg Foundation                           |
| Indigenous Environmental Network              | TREE Legacy Endowment Fund                        |
| InfoTechnika                                  | Vicki Burns & John Gosselin                       |
| Kevin Freedman (in-kind)                      | Western Mining Action Network                     |
| Kristina Hunter (in-kind)                     | Youth In Philanthropy - Murdoch MacKay Collegiate |





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