



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The most significant barriers to climate resiliency in Winnipeg are a lack of funding and inadequate political support, Manitoba Eco-Network project reveals.

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The Manitoba Eco-Network has released the final report for the first phase of its Building Community Climate Resiliency project. The report, entitled *The Will is the Way: Building Climate Resiliency*, summarizes key gaps in community climate resiliency work in Winnipeg based on engagement with local organizations. The project revealed that the day-to-day work of climate resiliency is constrained by two significant barriers: a lack of funding and inadequate political support.

Glen Koroluk, Executive Director of the Manitoba Eco-Network says, “While we were disappointed that the City of Winnipeg did not approve additional funding in the latest budget process to create a Climate Reserve Fund and hire a new person to start developing a long term Winnipeg Resiliency Strategy, we are hopeful that this report can provide some ideas to move along that path.”

Outreach to local organizations was conducted in spring 2020 through an informative webinar and two surveys. The results showed that, although there are clear and consistent ideas about what needs to be done to address climate resiliency, there are low levels of clarity and satisfaction with how it is being done. The inclusion of Indigenous perspectives is perceived as being particularly weak. In addition to inadequate funding and political support, the survey results identified a range of barriers that constrain climate resiliency work in Winnipeg, including capacity challenges, inadequate communication, and cultural barriers.

The project also documented many possible solutions to these barriers. As the report states, the title *The Will is the Way* was chosen to “invoke not only the existing enthusiasm for climate resiliency, but also the missing step to real change”. To achieve real change, local organizations highlighted three key tasks: develop political support, increase advocacy, and collaborate more widely among all types of groups.

The second phase of the Building Community Climate Resiliency project will build on these findings by developing resources that support both advocacy and collaboration. The second phase should be actively guided by Indigenous perspectives, in keeping with the need for meaningful reconciliation.

The final report and a recording of the webinar can be found at: <https://mbeconetwork.org/projects/building-community-climate-resiliency-project/>

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