ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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COVER PHOTO: LAKE WINNIPEG NEAR SAGKEENG FIRST NATION

PAINT LAKE PROVINCIAL PARK

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As I look back on the past year, I am amazed by what the Manitoba Eco-Network has accomplished. The year was not an easy one given the funding challenges; however, the organization managed to stay the course and set a positive new direction for the future. This was only possible with the hard work and dedication of our Executive Director, Glen Koroluk, who only started in this position a few months before the 2019/2020 fiscal year began. Glen, along with our Strategic Planning Committee, pushed forward the development of a new set of strategic goals for the Eco-Network. These goals were created given feedback from our member groups and supporters on what they valued about the Eco-Network, what we could improve on, and what they want from us as an organization in the future. We heard the need for the Eco-Network to engage, organize, and bring forward the voice of Manitoba's environmental community on policy or regulatory discussions. And so, we now have a policy committee that has been busy submitting responses to various proposed policies/regulations based on feedback from the environmental community. We also heard from our members that the Eco-Network should work to support and build capacity within the environmental community, which led to the creation of several projects including the Building Community Climate Resiliency project. Ultimately, the development of the new strategic goals confirmed that the work that the Eco-Network does is still relevant and ensures that we will continue to be relevant in the future.

I'd like to thank all of the Manitoba Eco-Network board members for all you do to help guide the direction of the organization, and all our volunteers, donors, and other supporters who have helped us get through these tough times.

Kathryn Dompierre

LAKE WINNIPEG NEAR WILLOW ISLAND

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We no longer receive long term core funding from the Province of Manitoba, which had enabled us to run programs such as Climate Change Connection, the Water Caucus, and the Manitoba Environmental Youth Network, and to manage the EcoCentre for many years. Our programs are gone, and Climate Change Connection is making a go at it, as a stand alone organization housed by the TIDES Canada Initiative.

Given the fiscal realities and the fact that our environment is under constant duress, we are fortunate that the transition we are taking as an organization is guided by the many outstanding and dedicated volunteers on our Board of Directors and active on our committees. The transition involves engaging with like minded organizations in the form of partnerships to develop projects, resources and actions to help the environmental movement in Manitoba.

We are still exploring, but we are happy with two new initiatives we started this year – the Building Community Climate Resiliency project, in which Phase One is looking at some of the gaps in knowledge on climate resiliency in Winnipeg, and our other new project – Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment. While we don't know what direction these projects will take us, we have been happy with the results so far.

The transition for us has also meant the development of a new strategic plan to guide us for the next three years. The plan reiterates some of our core historical functions we have taken over the past 35 years such as collaboration, building capacity, educating and engaging the public in environmental awareness and actions. But the plan also tells us to diversify our revenue opportunities, and review our membership and governance structure to see if there is room for improvement and/or change.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has helped the MbEN in this year of transition: the board, the staff, all of our funders and our volunteers. Thank you!

Glen Koroluk

ABOUT THE MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

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

The Manitoba Eco-Network is a non-profit organization which promotes positive environmental action. Our organization's mission is to facilitate environmental awareness and expand community connections. We educate, we facilitate, we celebrate!

We serve as an umbrella for environmental non-governmental organizations across the province. We welcome individual, environmental non-governmental organizations, and associate members, to our organization.

The objectives of the corporation 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.

PISEW FALLS

ACTIVITIES

MbEN has had a busy and exciting year! It has not been without its ups and down, but we have been working hard on the six priority areas identified in our new strategic plan. Here are some of the highlights of our activities in 2019/2020.

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

MANITOBA AGRICULTURE PROTIEN STRATEGY CONSULTATION

We attended the Protein Strategy Consultation held by Manitoba Agriculture in May 2020. We also provided Manitoba Agriculture with a list of environmental organizations to invite to the consultation.

OURWINNIPEG REVIEW PROCESS

In July 2019, the MbEN Policy Committee drafted our comments on OurWinnipeg, the City of Winnipeg's master plan document. This document was submitted to the City of Winnipeg planning department as part of the OurWinnipeg review process.

FORUM FOR OUR FUTURE: MANITOBA LEADERS DEBATE ON CLIAMTE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In September 2019, in the lead-up to the provincial election, MbEN and a number of other organizations organized a leaders debate focusing on environmental issues. Three of four main party leaders participated. 375 people attended. A video of the debate can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXFe4saSLZo

FORUM FOR OUR FUTURE

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION HEARING ON NUTRIENT OBJECTIVES FOR THE RED RIVER

In January 2020, we attended the International Joint Commission hearing on the recommendations made by the International Red River Board (IRRB) for nutrient concentration objectives and load targets for the Red River at the US/Canada border. Our policy committee submitted written comments in March 2020.

PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD HEARING ON EFFICIENCY MANITOBA PLAN

In January 2020, we presented at a Public Utility Board hearing on Efficiency Manitoba's three-year plan. With four other presenting organizations, we facilitated a media release. The story was covered in the Winnipeg Sun.

CITY OF WINNIPEG BUDGET PROCESS

In February 2020, we presented to the City of Winnipeg Council in support of funding and staff increases for Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan.

NETWORK OF NETWORKS

MbEN has joined several other network organizations in creating what is known as, the 'Network of Networks'. The purpose of this group is to build relationships between different sectors of the non-profit and charitable sector. So far, work has centred around advocating for secure funding and representation for the non-profit sector, with provincial decision-makers.

ECO-CENTRE ROOFTOP GARDEN

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

GREEN DRINKS

Green Drinks is an informal gathering held monthly at different locations in Winnipeg. The purpose is to bring together people interested, volunteering, or working, in the environmental sector, for networking and casual discussion on environmental and sustainability topics.

ECO-CENTRE MANAGEMENT

We continue to act as the lease holders and managers of the Eco-Centre. All office spaces are filled. The tenants are Green Action Centre, Wilderness Committee, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and Trails Manitoba.

ECO-CENTRE OPEN HOUSE & AWARDS CEREMONY

In June 2019, MbEN and the other Eco-Centre tenants held a successful Open House with approximately 100 attendees. A ceremony was held during the event in which the Lake Winnipeg Foundation Community-Based Monitoring Program was awarded with the Anne Lindsey Protecting Our Earth Award.

GREEN DRINKS

UNEARTHING JUSTICE: HOW TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY FROM THE MINING INDUSTRY

In partnership with Mining Watch Canada, author Joan Kuyek, and several other environmental organizations, we sponsored this book launch held in November 2019 at the University of Winnipeg.

THE IMPERILLED OCEAN: HUMAN STORIES FROM A CHANGING SEA

In partnership with Goose Lane Editions, McNally Robinson Booksellers, and author Laura Tretheway, we co-hosted this book launch in February 2020.

CLIMATE MEETINGS

At the suggestion of Manitoba Youth for Climate Action, we convened a meeting in February 2020, with the purpose of building knowledge and opportunities for collaboration between groups working on climate change issues in Manitoba. 17 organizations attended and filled out a post-meeting survey, designed to assess interest in future meetings of the group.

NAVIGATING THE LAW TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

The Public Interest Law Centre and MbEN have partnered to develop resources to assist the environmental sector in navigating legal processes. Several planning meetings have been held since summer 2019.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CLIMATE RESILIENCY PROJECT

Phase 1 of this ongoing project began in early 2020, and stems from early discussions which took place in the summer and fall of 2019. The purpose of the project is to address knowledge gaps around climate resiliency in the city of Winnipeg, and to build relationships for future collaborative action.

THE IMPERILLED OCEAN: HUMAN STORIES FROM A CHANGING SEA

3 Diversify revenue opportunities and improve financial sustainability

LEASE RENEWAL

In December 2019, we requested a price reduction from our landlord, Manitoba Equipment Coop. We also requested that we renew our lease for a period of one year, rather than three years, as it has been in years past. This request was approved in early 2020, and a new agreement was signed for a one year period.

ANNUAL APPEAL

In November and December 2019, our annual appeal for donations was sent to over 200 past and potential donors. 125 people have made donations as a result of this appeal.

MOTHER EARTH ROCKS

Manitoba Youth for Climate Action hosted this benefit concert in February 2020. All proceeds raised were donated to MbEN and the sub-tenants of the Eco-Centre.

SENIORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

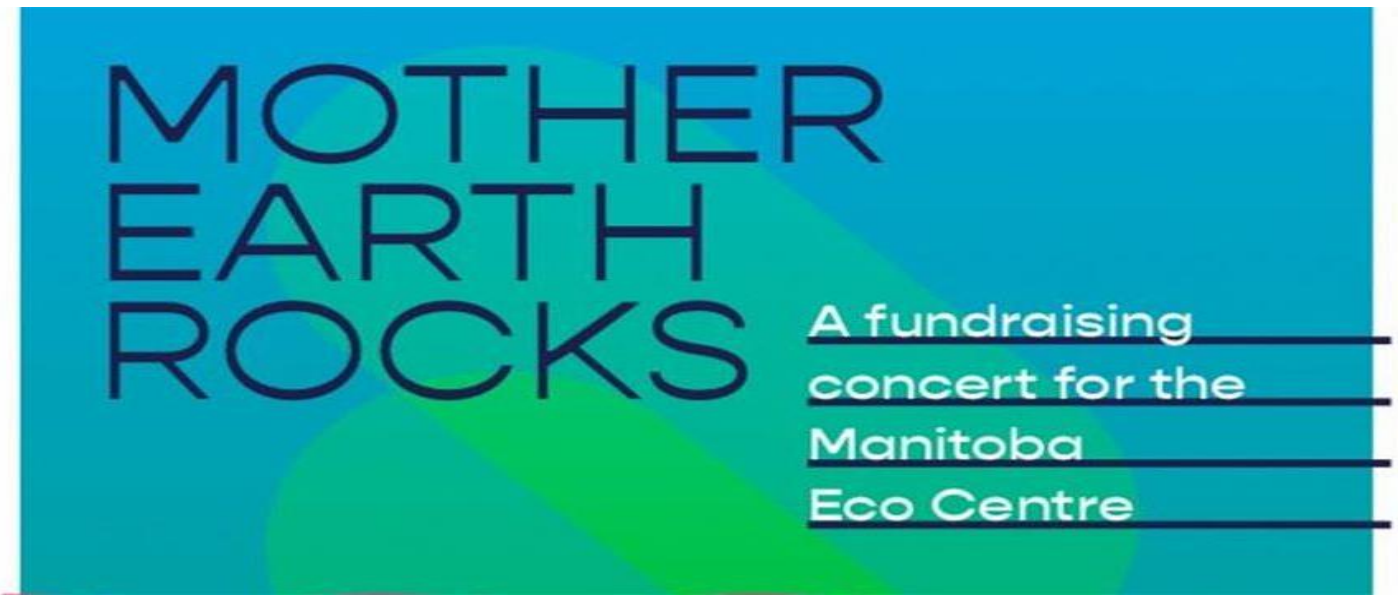
A group of Manitoba seniors have started this campaign to raise money for Green Action Centre, Climate Change Connection, and the Manitoba Eco-Network. In May 2020, organizers encouraged those who could do so, to donate their 'Seniors Economic Recovery Credit'.

RENT-A-DESK

Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, Farm Fresh Food Hub, and a staff person with Forum for Leadership on Water and the Centre for Environmental Resources, rented desks during the year. In mid-March, all renters vacated their desks due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

With the support of an organizational grant from the Winnipeg Foundation, we were able to develop a 3 year Strategic Plan. MbEN continues to apply for many governmental and non-governmental grants.



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

ECO-JOURNAL

The Eco-Journal is a quarterly publication with content that features environmentally-conscious topics and perspectives from across the province. Four issues were published this year. The Eco-Journal is available at Winnipeg Public Library branches, the Eco-Centre, online, and at MbEN events.

ECO-BULLETIN

The Eco-Bulletin is a monthly e-newsletter which includes environmental news, actions, resources, and events from across Manitoba. Over the past year, the number of people signed up to receive the bulletin has grown by 15%.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We regularly post information and events on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. In 2019/2020, we increased our Twitter followers by 11% and our Instagram followers by 68%. On Facebook, we have maintained a continuous presence with over 3500 followers.

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

MbEN collaborated with the Canadian Environmental Network and five other affiliates on drafting a 3 year project application designed to mainstream the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION
We have joined the steering committee for Climate Change Connection.

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM
We attended several Advisory Committee meetings for the Climate Action Team.

BILL C-69
In April 2019, we held a workshop on Bill C-69, in partnership with West Coast Environmental Law, the Public Interest Law Centre, and the Canadian Environmental Network. The purpose of the workshop was to help organizations prepare for the Senate Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee's visit to Winnipeg for a hearing on Bill C-69. 18 people attended the workshop. We also attended the Bill C-69 Senate Hearings later the same month.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL
An appeal went out to 80 organizations in Fall 2019. Approximately 30 organizations have renewed their MbEN membership.

NETWORK DIRECTORY
We have updated our website's network directory, which now includes a broad range of environmental organizations and others, working on environmental and social justice issues in Manitoba. It also identifies which organizations are MbEN members.

6 Continue to develop and strengthen governance and operational capacity of MbEN

STRATEGIC PLAN
MbEN held a successful strategic planning process in Fall 2019. 25 surveys were filled out and a focus group session was attended by 11 organization. This was followed by a board retreat two weeks later. The new strategic plan 2020 - 2022, was ratified by the board in February.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
We held an AGM for the 2018/2019 fiscal year in February 2020. A new auditor, Simon Hall CPA, was appointed for the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT
We have renewed our collective agreement with the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN MANITOBA

We are keeping our ears to the ground on a number of key issues in Manitoba that have been brought to our attention

WETLANDS PRESERVATION

We attended a press conference hosted by People for the Protection of the Willow Island Coastal Wetlands in May 2019.

GREEN NEW DEAL

We attended an educational event in May 2019 hosted by Our Time – Winnipeg.

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKES

In September 2019, we attended the Winnipeg event which drew a crowd of close to 15,000. We also participated in the Student Die-In Demonstration.

HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

We attended the Ki Ta Ski Naw Conference on the impacts of hydro development in November 2019, and a rally against the automation of the Grand Rapids Dam automation in June 2019.

SILICA SAND MINING

In February 2020, we attended the one-year anniversary celebration of Camp Morningstar, a protest camp set-up at Hollow Water First Nation.

HEAVY METAL CONTAMINATION

In September 2019, we attended a South St. Boniface Resident Association meeting on heavy metal contamination caused by the recycling and auto shredding industries in the area.

MUNICIPAL FUNDING

Leading up to the City of Winnipeg budget deliberations, we attended Winnipeg Watch meetings, hosted by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

HOG INDUSTRY EXPANSION

We regularly attend HogWatch Manitoba meetings.

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE	**2020**	**2019**
Donations	35,930	37,493
Special events	-	3,301
Membership	2,541	830
Advertising	-	1,955
Tenant recoveries	56,514	52,639
GRANTS		
City of Winnipeg	-	3,327
Manitoba Hydro	-	18,000
Province of Manitoba	45,000	185,000
Winnipeg Foundation	9,500	11,287
Government of Canada	6,649	21,835
Other grants	18,440	-
Other income	2,410	4,141
Wpg Foundation Endowment Fund	3,967	3,427
Interest	736	593
	181,687	**343,828**
EXPENDITURES		
Wages & Benefits	64,863	209,111
Amortization	78	119
EcoJournal	3,250	5,105
Special Events	5,388	9,152
Tides Contract	23,940	-
Project & General Expenses	98,144	107,671
	195,663	**331,158**
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	**(13,976)**	**12,670**

STAFF

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.

EMILY HALLDORSON
RESOURCE MANAGER

Emily began working at MbEN in January 2020. She is currently completing her Master's Degree in City Planning at the University of Manitoba. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Winnipeg, and a background in community development and community-based research. She spends a lot of her free time on the Western shores of Lake Winnipeg.

EMMA SMITH
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Emma has been involved with MbEN since June 2019. She has an undergrad degree in Environmental Studies from Lakehead University. Emma grew up spending lots of time around Lake Simcoe, Georgian Bay, and the Great Lakes in Ontario and is a passionate environmentalist focusing on water issues, ecology, conservation, and creative communications.

ALEXANDRA CAPORALE
PROJECT RESEARCHER

Alexandra was hired in February 2020 to work on the Building Community Climate Resiliency Project. She received a Masters of City Planning from the University of Manitoba in 2019, and is passionate about environmental planning, Indigenous planning, and transit. Alexandra also enjoys her pollinator garden, craft projects, and exploring the neighbourhoods of Winnipeg.

GUDRUN ANTOSH
BOOK-KEEPER

CONTRACTS

ECO-JOURNAL

Tracey O'Neill, Simple Life Designs
Shawna Culleton, Editor

STRATEGIC PLAN

Mike Fernandes, Strategy Makers

PROJECT SUPPORT

Sue Hemphill, Healthy Hive Consulting
Jeff Zukiwsky, All One Sky Foundation
Kemlin Nembhard, Blue Dragon Consulting
Laurie Ringaert, Change Weavers Consulting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 1st, 2019-February 11th, 2020

Richard Dilay, Chair
Justine Spearman, Vice Chair (term ended Sept. 1, 2019)
Laura Tyler, Vice Chair (term began September 1, 2019)
Dan McInnis, Treasurer (term ended Nov. 1, 2019)
Kathryn Dompierre, Secretary
Jamie Hilland
Josh Brandon
Marie Lachiver
Natasha Szach
Geoff Gunn
Heather Fast
Kirit Patel
Glen Koroluk, Executive Director

February 11th, 2020 – March 31st, 2020
On February 11th, 2020, MbEN held an AGM and elected a new board.

Kathryn Dompierre, Chair
Laura Tyler, Vice Chair
Phil Lancaster, Treasurer
Josh Brandon
Marie Lachiver
Natasha Szach
Geoff Gunn, Secretary
Heather Fast
Kirit Patel
Chantel Henderson
Richard Farthing-Nichol
Carola Vergara
Lindsay Robinson
Glen Koroluk, Executive Director

Thank you to our board members who retired this year for their years of dedicated service to MbEN!

Richard Dilay
Justine Spearman
Dan McInnis
Jamie Hilland

COMMITTEES

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Kathryn Dompierre
Laura Tyler
Richard Dilay
Geoff Gunn
Kirit Patel
Glen Koroluk, Executive Director

FINANCE

Phil Lancaster
Glen Koroluk, Executive Director
Gudrun Antosh, Book Keeper

POLICY

Heather Fast, Chair
Geoff Gunn
Kathryn Dompierre
Laura Tyler
Josh Brandon
Natasha Szach
Glen Koroluk, Executive Director

GUESTS

Ken Klassen
Aruna Malik

FUNDRAISING

Marie Lachiver, Chair
Richard Dilay
Vicki Burns
Anne Lindsey
Glen Koroluk, Executive Director

VOLUNTEERS & IN-KIND SUPPORT

VOLUNTEERS

MEDIA LIST
Brent Nespor

ECO-JOURNAL RESEARCH
Megan Ostrum

PRACTICUM STUDENT
Nicole Sward

IN-KIND SUPPORT

BILL C69 WORKSHOP
Dr. John Sinclair , EA Caucus, Canadian Environmental Network
Anna Johnston, West Coast Environmental Law
Byron Williams, Public Interest Law Centre

MINING WORKSHOP
Joan Kuyek
Eric Reder
MJ McCarron
Don Sullivan

FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS WEBINAR
Dr. Louise Comeau
Pamela Simmons, Coreniche Consulting Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOOLKIT PROJECT
Dr. Patricia Fitzpatrick
Dr. John Sinclair
Merrell-Ann Phare
Ruth Pryzner
Don Sullivan
Laura Tyler

FUNDERS & MAJOR DONORS (over $1000)

Eco Canada

Canada Summer Jobs

Province of Manitoba

City of Winnipeg (in-kind)

The Winnipeg Foundation

Assiniboine Credit Union

Gail Asper & Michael Paterson

Bill & Shirley Loewen

Prairie Architects

Mountain Equipment Coop

Manitoba Youth for Climate Action

Manitoba Eco-Network TREE Legacy Endowment Fund

RBC Foundation

All Charities Campaign – Manitoba

In Memory of Dorothy Wise

Peter Miller & Carolyn Garlich

Vicki Burns & John Gosselin

Ian Mauro & Family

Dan Blankstein

The Hearson Family

BIRDS HILL PROVINCIAL PARK