



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

3rd Floor 303 Portage Ave., Winnipeg MB R3B 2B4
Tel: 204-947-6511 www.mbeconetwork.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

December 14, 2020

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 municipal funding and inadequate municipal political support.

Glen Koroluk, Executive Director of the Manitoba Eco-Network says, “In this year’s budget deliberations we are calling on the City of Winnipeg to approve additional funding to create a Climate Action Reserve Fund and hire a new person to start developing a long term Winnipeg Adaptation and Resiliency Strategy. These were requests made last year by Administration but dropped by Council”.

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 municipal 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 municipal 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/>

This project was supported by the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Foundation, Eco-Canada, and the RBC Foundation.

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For more information:

Emily Halldorson, Resource Manager: info@mbeconetwork.org (204) 891-8238