



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

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November 10, 2021

Dear Mayor Bowman and Members of EPC

Since 1988, the Manitoba Eco-Network (MbEN) has promoted positive environmental action by supporting people and groups in our community. MbEN's programming focuses 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 keenly awaiting the vote on the City of Winnipeg's first-ever Poverty Reduction Strategy at Executive Policy Committee on November 17, 2021.

Our organization was one of more than 90 that endorsed the [Winnipeg Without Poverty](#) report back in 2018. This report included a strong case for what the city's role can and should be as well as fifty recommendations for a comprehensive plan within the city's jurisdiction.

We are writing to express our support and encourage you to adopt this strategy.

We have been made aware, that roughly 1 out of 8 Winnipeggers live in poverty, and this situation has been made worse during the pandemic. The time to act is now.

As we reach this milestone, we applaud the Executive Policy Committee, members of Council, the Public Service as well as community-based organizations and people with lived experience who lent their expertise, time, and ideas to the strategy.

We hope that you will lead the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy and be public champions for addressing poverty. This includes advocating to other levels of government for areas they are primarily responsible for, while taking leadership on actions the City can take within its own resources and governance tools.

An effective strategy must be resourced properly and address key needs in our community. That is why we support the [8 priority areas of the Make Poverty History Manitoba coalition](#) - including resources to implement the strategy and key actions for the city's budget. **We wish to add a ninth priority, and include climate resiliency, actions that address energy poverty and extreme weather events, as well as expanding green and natural infrastructure.**

We also believe strongly in the need for ongoing collaboration between government and community, and we encourage the City to work with organizations like ours in the implementation of this strategy.

Thank you for your time and leadership on this crucial issue facing our city.

Sincerely,

Glen Koroluk
Executive Director