



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2025

Manitoba Eco-Network
As of March 31, 2025

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Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the Manitoba Eco-Network office operates. The Manitoba Eco-Network is located in Treaty One Territory, the lands of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), Anisininew, Dakota, and Dene Peoples, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation in Treaty Three Territory and our hydroelectricity is sourced from First Nation communities along the Nelson River in Treaty Five Territory. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on this land.

Message from the Chair

We're doing things a little differently with this year's Annual Report - covering both the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years. This allows us to set-up for improved timeliness of information presented at future Annual General Meetings and provide the membership with the most up to date state of the Eco-Network, both now and moving forward.

As I reflect on the progression of the Manitoba Eco-Network over this period, I am struck by what a small group of committed individuals can accomplish through dedication, hard work and collaboration with the community.



While the organization experienced a lot of change during this period as a number of key staff moved on to new opportunities in their careers, I feel that Manitoba Eco-Network still executed incredible research, partnerships, and advocacy for the environment. Our organization continues to play an essential role in bringing the environmental community together, active in vital areas of climate resilience, impact assessment, energy, mining, industrial contamination and environmental rights.

All of this excellent work would not have been possible without our exceptional staff. My sincere thanks to Glen Koroluk, Alexandra Caporale, Dylan Armitage and Arielle Villarin who have moved on from the Eco-Network, as well to our current Policy Advocacy Director Heather Fast and Executive Director James Beddome. I would also like to thank our many project partners at the University of Winnipeg, the Public Interest Law Centre, Spence Neighbourhood Association, West Broadway Community Organization, West End Resource Centre and Canadian Red Cross just to name a few.

It also goes without saying that we are also immensely grateful to our donors and project funders, which allow this organization to pursue these important issues. Every donation, both big and small is greatly appreciated and helps to sustain the Manitoba Eco-Network, now and into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Robinson". The script is cursive and fluid.

Lindsay Robinson

Message from the Executive Director

I became the new Executive Director for the Manitoba Eco-Network (MbEN) at the end of August 2024.

As a former board member and long-time environmental activist in Manitoba I know how important the Eco-Network is to the environmental community and to all of Manitoba.

It is an honour (and a challenge) to be bestowed with directing an organization with a more than 40 year legacy of building relationships and educating the public with the intention of preserving and protecting Manitoba's ecosystems for today and for future generations to come.

I of course owe a debt of gratitude to those that came before me. This includes my immediate predecessor Glen Koroluk, as well as his predecessors before him Duncan Stokes, Curt Belton, Karen Peters, Kristine Koster, and of course Anne Lindsey. It also includes our current and former staff, and numerous volunteers, including importantly our wonderful Board of Directors, both past and present. It also includes our network of member groups and individual members.

I often compare the Eco-Network to the fungal network in a forest ecosystem. When you first look at a forest you tend to see the trees, not the fungal networks that are predominantly in the soil below. But the fungal networks, particularly mycorrhizal networks, are crucial for the health, stability, and overall resilience of the forest ecosystems. Mycorrhizal networks act as a vital link between plants, facilitating nutrient and water exchange. The networks support the growth of both small and large plants, creating greater diversity in the forest. Mycorrhizal networks also facilitate communication between trees, allowing them to share resources and even send distress signals to neighbours.

In many ways MbEN serves the same network function for the ecosystem of environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO) in Manitoba. We facilitate the sharing of ideas and resources. We amplify the work and messaging of our network partners, helping to create a diversity of ENGOs, who all do good work in different ways. We connect Manitobans with other ENGOs that might be able to assist them, and we send out distress signals when broader community action is needed on an issue.



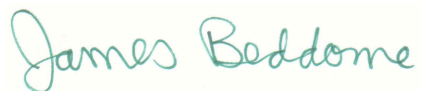
Our Climate Safe, Green City (CSGC) project is an illustrative example of this collaborative approach of the Network. We foster and build relationships with our community partners, and we engage with the community to ask them what they need. We are therefore able to build climate resiliency projects from the neighbourhood level-up (rather than from the top-down, as is too often the case), and we are developing a model that can be replicated in other neighbourhoods. Sharing resources, knowledge and ideas serves to benefit both the local communities and the Manitoba Eco-Network.

Our Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment and Empowering Impact Assessment projects seek to educate the public on environmental laws through webinars, surveys, and workshops. Through this work we are creating valuable resources for the public, as well as determining law reform priorities of the public.

Through our public advocacy work we often send out distress signals and help to amplify the message of other ENGOs, and although credit belongs to many individuals and organizations we have been able to play an important role in some recent successes such as the protection of the Lemay Forest and opposition to the Vivian Sands extraction project.

Here at the Manitoba Eco-Network we know that the work of protecting the planet for future generations is no small task. It requires constant and ongoing work in a variety of areas. Forest fires, algal blooms, loss of habitat and species, there is no shortage of problems, and it can often be overwhelming. But with your help we are proud to have made an impact over the past 40 years. With your help we will continue to change the rules of the game so future generations don't have to fight so hard.

Yours truly,



James Beddome

About the Eco-Network

The Manitoba Eco-Network (MbEN) is a non-profit registered charity which seeks to strengthen Manitoba's environmental community with the goal of protecting our environment for the benefit of current and future generations. The Eco-Network facilitates connections, engages in advocacy opportunities, and undertakes community-based research that promotes meaningful public participation in environmental governance processes.

We serve as an umbrella for environmental non-governmental organizations across the province. We build capacity and support grassroots organization's participation in the environmental community, we celebrate positive environmental actions that happen within Manitoba, and work to elevate the voices of all those within our community.

Our Mission, Vision, and Values

A strong environmental community in Manitoba, bolstered by good governance processes, working together to protect our environment for the benefit of current and future generations.

To promote good environmental governance, support and build capacity, advocate for environmental justice, and act as a bridge between environmental organizations, the public, and all levels of government.

MbEN is proud of its contributions and achievements in its storied past and is committed to expanding its influence on environmental governance as Manitoba society faces increasing environmental challenges including the climate crisis. Although we draw essential lessons from the past, our focus is on the future of our province and of the globe.

These vision, mission and value statements were updated as a result of the work conducted by the organization in developing our 2024-28 Strategic Plan.

Our Commitments For Our Work:

Improve Environmental Justice – The planet, flora, fauna and humans are all interconnected. When one suffers, we all suffer. As well, too often some humans thrive at the expense of others. Working towards a better world means leaving no one behind, especially those most vulnerable and those who do not have the opportunity to speak for themselves with an expectation of being heard.

Amplify Indigenous Voices – MbEN's interests are frequently consistent with those of Indigenous communities and governments. We seek to ensure Indigenous voices are heard, understood and that they guide our work.

Promote Evidence-based Solutions – there are many considerations that contribute to good decision-making. MbEN stresses solutions which are strongly supported by western science and Indigenous knowledge.

Collaboration and Inclusivity – Knowing that collaboration is much more powerful than competition, strength comes from diversity, and that in the best of all worlds, yesterday's foe can be convinced to be tomorrow's friend. We encourage local voices and invest in community capacity.

Holistic Thinking – we believe in an all-embracing approach that views every aspect of our environment as a cohesive whole rather than a collection of isolated elements. We focus on the big picture, and resist getting too caught up in the details.

Excellence – of the work we do. We take great pride in the quality of our work. We are reliable partners and always work towards mutual empowerment with our partners and the community.

Accessibility – to the information we develop and share and for opportunities to work with us. One of our greatest strengths is our ability to simplify complexity as a means of broadening understanding.

Programs and Projects



Pictured above: Greenway School Community Forest tree planting workshop, which we supported as part of the Climate Safe, Green City project. This was a collaborative effort that included the Greenway School, Manitoba Eco-Network, Green Action Centre, Trees Winnipeg, Green Communities Canada, Green Drop and West End Resource Centre. 51 trees were planted, and we have been contacted by other schools who want to initiate their own community tree planting events.

Climate Safe, Green City

The Manitoba Eco-Network's Climate Safe, Green City project (formerly known as the Neighbourhood Climate Resilience project) continued its vital work in encouraging the development of local climate resilience projects in cooperation with the West Broadway Community Organization (WBCO), Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA), West End Resource Centre (WERC).

The foundation of this work is in the relationships we develop, not only with our primary neighbourhood partners of West Broadway, the West End, and Spence Neighbourhood, but also with other community groups and residents in these areas. Initiatives ranged from the planting of trees, research on nature-based solutions to providing shade and cooling in the urban environment, and emergency preparedness workshops.

Project highlights include:

- Outreach and engagement with community partner organizations including funding for climate adaptation and resilience project scoping and development.

- Co-hosting a successful Greenway School Community Forest fundraiser and tree planting workshop at Greenway School in May 2024, and fundraised for the same, in collaboration with numerous community partners.
- Hosting emergency preparedness workshops in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross and the City of Winnipeg for WBCO on May 7, 2024, WERC on November 14, 2024, and SNA on January 23, 2025.
- Development of an energy poverty survey, with the results set to be released shortly.
- Hosted internship and collaborative research with University of Winnipeg summer students through the Winnipeg MITACS program in 2023 producing public engagement sessions as well as presentations to share with their classmates and community partners.
- Presentation for Manitoba Metis Federation
- Organized presentation by Efficiency Manitoba for West Broadway residents
- Developed partnerships with Canadian Red Cross and local organizations to pilot nature-based disaster prevention programming (“Red Cross Green City”)
- Participated in Tamarack Institute’s Climate Transitions Cohort
- Research and consultation into tree-trellis shade structure potential for WCBO and West Broadway Biz
- Provided feedback for the City of Winnipeg CentrePlan 2050 to incorporate improved greenspace and environmental care
- Climate adaptation presentation at The Gathering conference, organized by the local chapter of Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet)
- Collaboration with City of Winnipeg Councillor Gilroy for a climate resilience event

We are very thankful for the funding provided by the Winnipeg Foundation that funded the earlier phase of our Neighbourhood Climate Resiliency work.

We are also thankful to the Government of Manitoba for funding the next phase of this work as the Climate Safe, Green City project. With the \$60,000 from the province, we sought and applied for numerous grants to benefit our project and our community partners. Raising a further \$36,744 in additional funding, with most of the funds flowing through to our community partners, and a further grant application for \$174,701.27 still pending a decision. This work was noted by the Government of Manitoba in Budget 2025. Although not yet confirmed, we are hopeful that the Government of Manitoba will continue to fund this important work.

Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbourhood

With the release of *The Burden of Concern: The Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbourhood Project [Final Report](#)* in March 2023, the Manitoba Eco-Network continued to spread awareness of the impacts of industrial contaminated sites and ongoing industrial activity on public health and the environment. This project work was funded by Manitoba Research Alliance (MRA) and the Manitoba Law Foundation (MLF). The

final report explores the first-hand experiences of Winnipeg's residents in the inner city and mature neighbourhoods who live near industrial and contaminated sites. Possible legal and policy solutions identified in the report include:

- recognition of environmental human rights,
- a more inclusive and comprehensive land use planning approach at the municipal and provincial levels,
- new legal tools to improve enforcement of existing requirements and government accountability, and
- the mandatory publication of more health, environmental, and enforcement data.



Project outcomes and follow-up activities include:

- Coverage of report findings by the Winnipeg Free Press and The Narwhal.
- Presenting reform recommendations to the City of Winnipeg Office of Sustainability.
- Meeting with the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to present reform recommendations and bringing community members along to share their experiences directly.
- Working with national organizations, including Nature Canada and the Canadian Environmental Law Association, to advocate for reform of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (Bill S-5) and meaningful implementation of the newly recognized right to a healthy environment.

Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment

The [Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment Project](#) is a partnership between the Manitoba Eco-Network, the University of Winnipeg, and the Public Interest Law Centre, undertaken with funding from the Manitoba Law Foundation. Phase 1 of the project was completed in 2020/2021. The second phase of the project was delivered

during the 2023/2024 academic year. Phase 2, *Navigating the Law to Protect the Environment: Season 2 - Continuing the Conversation* materialized as a 3-part public legal education project to provide accessible public legal education on topics related to the field of environmental law. The goal of the series was to increase Manitobans' awareness of and participation in the decision making processes that impact the environment in Manitoba and Canada.

Project activities included:

- Online webinars (available on our [YouTube channel](#)) featuring panel experts on critical minerals and environmental rights
- Hosting an in-person session covering many emerging topic areas including a net-zero future, critical minerals, water and land protection, pollution prevention and environmental decision making.

The response from participants was overwhelmingly positive and demonstrative of the need and desire for additional public legal education resources designed for and by Manitobans in the area of environmental law. In particular, there seemed to be significant interest in more in-person events with workshop components. See the [Final Report](#) for more information.

State of Environmental Governance

Made possible through the generous financial support of the Winnipeg Foundation, our State of Environmental Governance Report serves as a valuable reference tool for activists, journalists, academics, policy makers, government officials, and the public at large. The Report and Companion documents provide information about key government departments and officials; discuss the participation opportunities available to stakeholders, particularly non-government and non-industry actors; and, identify the barriers and opportunities for meaningful involvement moving forward.

Reform recommendations with the potential to strengthen Manitoba's environmental governance framework, enable more meaningful public engagement, and build better relationships with grassroots ENGOs include:

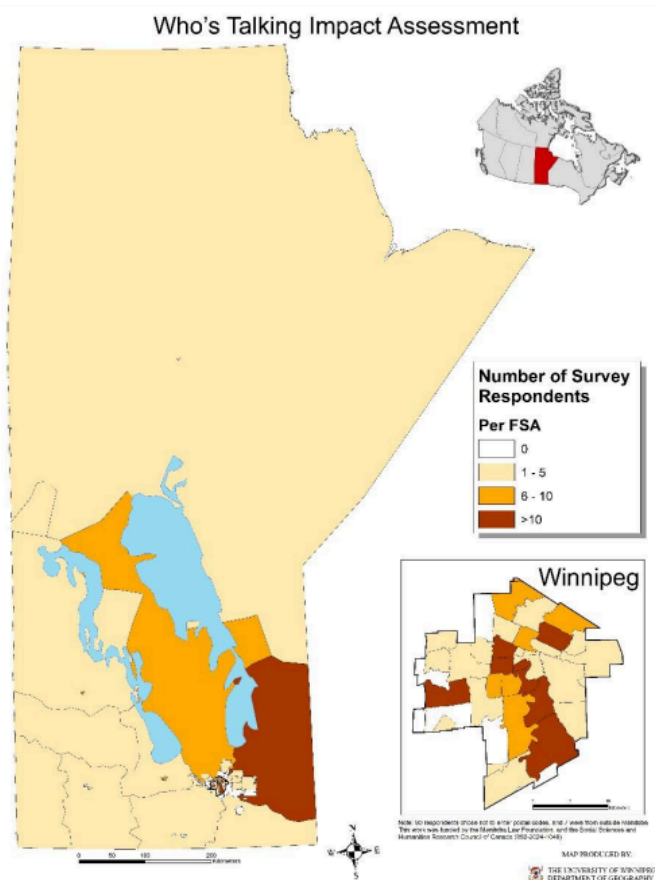
- Undertaking a comprehensive review of Manitoba's environmental laws and introducing appropriate reforms to reflect best practices across Canada.
- Adopting a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to environmental governance with focus on regulatory links, transparency and collaboration.
- Recognizing the important role of the public in provincial environmental governance processes through the adoption of an Environmental Bill of Rights.
- Reforming environmental regulatory requirements to improve the transparency and accountability of decision-making processes.
- Developing stronger mechanisms that allow for independent public reviews and coordinate oversight of provincial environmental governance.
- Reforming environmental governance processes to include best practice mechanisms that facilitate meaningful public engagement.

- Offering more training and resources for public officials, administrative tribunals, and Crown corporations so they can more meaningfully engage with the public about environmental governance issues.
- Making more funding available to support the meaningful engagement of ENGOs in environmental governance processes.

See the [State of Environmental Governance Report website](#) and [full report](#) for more details.

Impact Assessment Reform

Established with a grant from the Manitoba Law Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) (Grant no. 892-2024-1048), the Manitoba Eco-Network has been working in partnership with Dr. Patricia Fitzpatrick from University of Winnipeg and Katrine Dilay from the Public Interest Law Centre on an impact assessment reform project; *Empowering the Community: Environmental Assessment Reform in Manitoba*.



As part of the project research, we are gathering feedback from Manitobans through a public survey and a series of in-person community workshops. Some key questions of this work include:

- What do you know about Manitoba's impact assessment process?
- What are your concerns regarding Manitoba's provincial impact assessment process?
- What, if any, impact assessment reforms would you like to see implemented in Manitoba?

In-person workshops and summary of findings are planned for 2025, please stay tuned! Find updates on our project page [here](#).

Advocacy Work

The Manitoba Eco-Network undertakes a variety of policy and law reform actions based on the needs of the environmental community, emerging policy issues, and requests from grassroots advocates, other network members, and elected officials. While many of the project activities described earlier in this document include advocacy elements (e.g., presenting project recommendations to elected officials), the Eco-Network also undertakes a range of independent advocacy activities led by the Policy Advocacy Director, Heather Fast, and the Policy Committee. This includes written submissions, oral presentations, correspondence with elected officials, campaign coordination (e.g., producing collaborative submissions), and training the public/ENGOS to participate (e.g. presenting at public hearings or committee meetings in the Legislature). Much of this work is funded by public donations or undertaken by volunteers from the Policy Committee. The Eco-Network has also been fortunate to receive funding from Legal Aid Manitoba so legal counsel from the Public Interest Law Centre can represent us in legal proceedings and support our law reform work. This section highlights some of our major advocacy efforts in the past two years.

The Right to a Healthy Environment

During the Manitoba Eco-Network's *Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbourhood* project, one of the reform recommendations that emerged from our work with the community was for governments at all levels (municipal, provincial, federal) to legally recognize the environmental rights of Canadians. The Eco-Network has continued to work with community members in Manitoba to encourage governments at all levels to enact meaningful legal and policy changes that will better protect vulnerable populations from negative and health consequences and improve their access to environmental justice. Reform work has focused on the federal *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* and the adoption of an environmental bill of rights at the provincial level.

For example, The Eco-Network participated in the public consultation process held in 2024 by Environment Canada and Health Canada focused on the *Implementation Framework for a Right to a Healthy Environment* under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*. To support the development of our written submissions, MBEN authored a discussion paper, created a survey to collect public opinion and hosted an online consultation event. MBEN also collaborated with supervisors and students from the Robson Hall Rights Clinic, who undertook research on the development of an Environmental Bill of Rights for Manitoba and presented their insights during the online webinar. Our Policy Advocacy Director also regularly speaks about the adoption of environmental rights in Manitoba as a guest lecturer in university classes and at public education events. Work in this area is ongoing.

Impact Assessment

The Manitoba Eco-Network regularly tracks the progress of proposed developments moving through Manitoba's impact assessment process under *The Environment Act* and projects being assessed at the federal level under the *Impact Assessment Act* with the potential to impact Manitoba. The Eco-Network provides comments during public participation opportunities on a variety of projects - usually at the request of community members or another organization that has concerns about the potential impacts of the project.

Our Policy Advocacy Director and Policy Committee members have regularly engaged with the provincial Department of Environment and Climate Change to discuss potential reform opportunities. For example, in summer 2024, staff and community experts met with the Department to discuss updates to the online public registry, which resulted in changes including the addition of a "recently updated" tab. The Eco-Network has also participated in a range of other opportunities to improve impact assessment processes in Canada. A highlight includes the participation of then Executive Director, Glen Koroluk, as a member of the project team that produced the report [Qualitative Methods for the Next Generation of Impact Assessment](#), which was released and submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada in 2023.

With the completion of the *Empowering the Community: Environmental Assessment Reform in Manitoba* project in Summer 2025, the Eco-Network will continue to engage in impact assessment advocacy opportunities as part of our ongoing policy work.

The Vivian Sand Extraction Project (Sio Silica)

The Manitoba Eco-Network, in collaboration with other organizations including Our Line in the Sand and What the Frack Manitoba undertook a range of different advocacy actions while participating in the impact assessment process for Sio Silica Corporation's (formerly CanWhite Sands) proposed Vivian Sand Extraction Project in Springfield, MB. This work culminated in our participation as an intervenor in the Clean Environment Commission [public hearing](#) held in February/March 2023. With funding from Legal Aid Manitoba, the Eco-Network was able to secure legal representation from the Public Interest Law Centre to assist us, and through community fundraising efforts (in collaboration with OLS and other organizations), were able to hire an expert to provide evidence to highlight our concerns with the proposed project, particularly negative impacts on the underlying aquifer. The Clean Environment Commission published the final hearing report in June 2023, and agreed that the potential impacts of the proposed project had not been fully considered, and mitigation plans were not adequate, among other deficiencies. Ultimately, in February 2024, the Department of Environment and Climate Change decided [not to issue an environmental licence](#) for Sio Silica's Vivian Sand Extraction Project because the Minister was not satisfied that the potential environmental effects could be addressed through licence conditions and that drinking water can be protected now and for future generations. The Eco-Network continues to

undertake advocacy work in this area and is prepared to engage in future review processes for Sio Silica's revamped, "Project SiMBa", if needed.

Mining and Critical Minerals

Over the past two years, the Manitoba Eco-Network has engaged in a range of advocacy activities associated with the extraction and use of mineral resources in Manitoba. In collaboration with the Public Interest Law Centre, background research on critical minerals was undertaken with the assistance of a law student, and a variety of educational and advocacy work has occurred, including:

- Organizing a community response to the provincial Critical Minerals Strategy (2023), producing an op-ed, group letter, and press release with member organizations; MiningWatch, Wilderness Committee, Camp Morning Star, Boreal Action Project, Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition, Our Line in the Sand.
- Providing feedback on the proposed updated criteria that the Government of Canada will use to determine which minerals are placed on the Critical Minerals List.
- Hosting a [webinar](#) with legal and mining experts to discuss mining developments and the impacts from this sector on the environment and health of local communities. Changes to law and policy in Manitoba that could strengthen protections for the public and vulnerable communities were discussed, and existing tools were identified, like the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) database, that can be used by citizens to inform their engagement in regulatory processes associated with critical minerals and mining.
- Submitting written comments and public letters to elected officials to request public hearings and identify concerns with proposed developments and/or expansions, including: Canadian Premium Sand Inc.'s Wanipigow Sand Project and Selkirk Solar Glass Facility, and Tanco's proposed Tailings Reprocessing Facility Project.

Energy Planning and Public Utility Rates

The Manitoba Eco-Network advocated to the Manitoba provincial government for independent oversight of Manitoba Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), including a request that the Lieutenant Governor to initiate a Public Utilities Board (PUB) Review. Subsequently, the MBEN has also requested to be granted intervener status as part of a coalition with Environmental Defense for the 2025 General Rate Application submitted by Centra Gas Manitoba.

Environmental Governance and Natural Resources

The Manitoba Eco-Network also participated in a range of different public consultation processes at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels to advocate for robust and transparent environmental approval processes and meaningful public participation opportunities. The specific focus of these submissions and other actions vary and

include a broad range of topics associated with environmental governance and the sustainable use of natural resources. For example:

- Forest Management Plans: MbEN advocated for a robust approval process for 20 year Forest Management Plans (FMPs), including a mandatory Clean Environment Commission public hearing and participant funding to ensure the sustainable management of Manitoba's forestry resources. Other advocacy submissions focused in particular on the expansion and approval of the FMPs for Canadian Kraft Paper Industries and Louisiana Pacific.
- Water Protection: MbEN Participated in consultation meetings with provincial staff and Assistant Deputy Minister for Environment and Climate Change, as well as Our Living Waters. Collaborated with the Coalition to Save Lake Winnipeg.
- City of Winnipeg Policies: MbEN attended community open houses, produced written comments, and presented to elected city officials about potential improvements for a range of municipal policies such as CenterPlan 2050.
- Bill 31, The Captured Carbon Storage Act: The Eco-Network coordinated community participation (including written and oral comments) in the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development Meeting held in May 2024, to request the Bill be withdrawn until meaningful public engagement occurred.
- LeMay Forest: Supported the efforts of the Coalition to Save Lemay Forest and the Wilderness Committee to protect the LeMay Forest in Winnipeg, MB from destruction. The Province of Manitoba announced on April 14, 2025 that they would ensure the forest remains protected and will expropriate the land to create a new provincial park.

Celebrating our 40th Anniversary

The Eco-Network was originally established as the Manitoba Environmental Network circa 1984, and was incorporated as the Manitoba Eco-Network Inc./Reseau Ecologique Du Manitoba Inc. on September 29, 1988.



To help mark our 40th Anniversary we held an '80s-themed dance party and fundraiser on On March 21, 2025

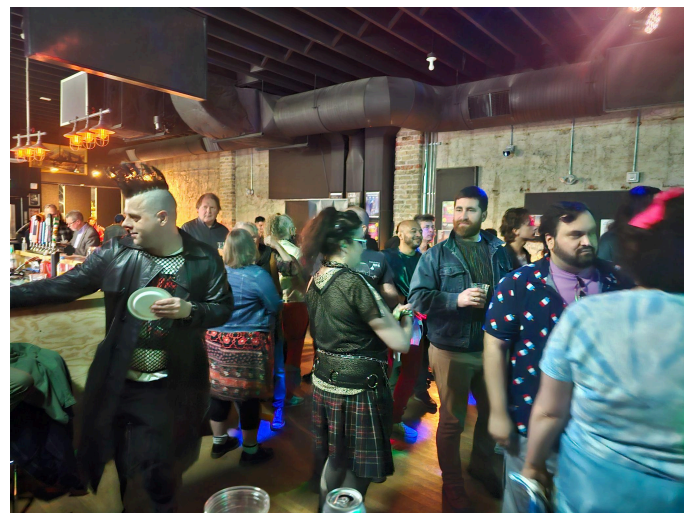
As shown by the pictures, everyone had a great time. We cannot thank everyone enough for helping us to mark this milestone.

Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets and volunteered!

Thank you to our event sponsors: Assiniboine Credit Union, Peg City Car Co-op, and Devil May Care Brewing Company.

Thank you Green Action Centre for donating some compostable plates, spoons and cups to the event.

Thank you Ron Roy at Topps Music Service for donating his time and playing some great '80s tunes.



Thank you Chaeban Ice Cream for donating a tub of delicious ice cream and also donating to the prize draws.



Thank you to our vendors: the Sidestage for providing a wonderful venue, Compost Winnipeg for making sure what waste we produced was composted in the end, Michael Kannon for taking pictures, Monticchio's Italian Ristorante for providing excellent pizza, veggies and fruit.

Thank you to all the businesses and organizations that donated prizes for the

event draws: Botanical Paperworks, Chaeban Ice Cream, CKUW 95.9 FM, Efficiency Manitoba, FortWhyte Alive, Freshair Boutique, Fire Weed Food Co-op, Harvest Moon Festival, Humboldt's legacy, Jonathan's Farm, Living Prairie Museum / Friends of the Living Prairie Museum, Long Way Homestead Fibre Farm Wool Mill, Organic Planet Worker Co-op, Sage Garden Greenhouses, Signe Knutson, and 101.5 UMFM.

Film Release: Snapshot of the '80s Environmentalist in Manitoba

In addition to an '80s themed dance party, we also celebrated our 40th Anniversary the Manitoba Eco-Network with the release of a film *Snapshot of the '80s Environmentalist in Manitoba* directed by Julia Burtnick student intern through the University of Winnipeg Geography Department.



The video interviews three individuals, Jack Dubois, Anne Lindsey, and Toby Maloney who were vital in the establishment of the Manitoba Eco-Network (formerly known as the Manitoba Environmental Network) in the 1980s. The video is available on our [Youtube channel](#).

We still have a few more things planned to help us continue to celebrate our 40th Anniversary in the coming year, so stay tuned for more!

Financial Statement Summary

REVENUE	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2025
Donations	55,671	36,307	35,203
Memberships	1,633	1,288	484
Tenant Recoveries	17,611	-	-
Grants (Total)	93,886	196,523	126,936
<i>Manitoba</i>		25,000	60,000
<i>Winnipeg Fdn</i>	61,000	100,000	-
<i>Canada</i>	7,511	16,960	22,109
<i>Other</i>	25,375	54,563	44,827
Other Income	15,511	2,761	4,812
TREE Endowment Fund	4,233	4,144	4364
Interest	470	2,773	3,412
TOTAL	\$189,015	\$243,796	\$175,211

EXPENDITURES	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2025
Accounting fees	3,520	3,990	3,520
Advertising	995	1,844	1,533
Amortization	30	385	173
Bank charges and interest	2,413	1,824	2,076
Board expenses (insurance)	1,509	1,033	910
Consulting fees	29,468	7,125	7,000
Fundraising	-	-	2,624
Rent	4,827	5,340	5,340
Office Expenses	10,148	4,102	1,813
Project costs	5,200	78,377	31,764
Professional fees	-	6,000	9,629
Recoverable tenant expenses	17,506	-	-
Travel	974	1,154	-
Wages & Benefits	137,154	153,678	141,813
Website/ Tech			5,860
TOTAL	\$214,011	\$264,382	\$214,055\$

SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2025
TOTAL	\$(24,996)	\$(20,586)	\$(38,844)

FINANCIAL POSITION	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2025
Assets Total	\$271,746	\$124,012	\$107,381
Liabilities Total	\$151,319	\$24,171	\$46,384
Net Assets Total	\$124,012	\$99,841	\$60,997
	\$271,746	\$124,012	\$107,381

Manitoba Eco-Network Staff & Support

As of March 31, 2025

James Beddome, LL.B, B.A. (he/him) - Executive Director



James joined MbEN in August 2024. He also previously served as a board member from 2014-2018. Before joining MbEN James spent 10 years practicing as a lawyer. His practice focused primarily on serving Indigenous governments, organizations and individuals in a broad variety of areas. This includes experience assisting First Nations to draft their own environmental laws under the First Nations Lands Management Act and representation of tribal organizations at Clean Environment Commission and National Energy Board hearings. James has two degrees, both from the University of Manitoba, a Bachelor of Laws (2013) and Bachelor of Arts with Honours in

political studies and economics (2006).

Heather Fast, J.D., LL.M. (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 several 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.

Derek Bassey (A3 OfficeWorks)



Derek and A3 OfficeWorks have been long standing bookkeepers for the Manitoba Eco-Network, providing crucial services for the organization's operations. Derek is also Finance and Office Coordinator for the Fireweed Food Co-op and on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Community Economic Development Network

Board of Directors

As of March 31, 2025

Lindsay Robinson, Chair and representative for Sustainable Building Manitoba

Harrison Briand, Vice Chair and representative for Green Action Centre

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Stacey Chaboyer, Secretary

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Kathryn Dompierre, representative for the Lake Winnipeg Foundation

Karen Fletcher

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Michael Bagamery for writing research memorandums on cooling centres for our Climate Safe, Green City project, and another research memorandum on regulatory approaches to greenhouse gas mitigation for our Impact Assessment project.

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Our team of volunteers working to influence decarbonization through Public Utilities Board hearings: Stephanie Grout, Doug Tingey, Keith Brooks at Environmental Defence, and our legal counsel Kent Elson of Elson Advocacy.

Our board members for steering the organization. Our staff who always go above and beyond for the organization. And to all of our donors – we quite literally could not do it without your support.

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NDN Collective