Ken Klassen

2007 Home Renovation Tax Assistance Program

Recommendation #1: The list of eligible renovation costs should be expanded to include the cost of a pre-retrofit energy evaluation (up to $180 plus GST) and post-retrofit energy evaluation (up to $25 plus GST) by Manitoba Hydro.

Recommendation #2: The potential to 'double-dip' should be eliminated by limiting eligible HRTA expenses to those that will not be covered through a financial incentive from Manitoba Hydro or the new federal ecoENERGY grants.

Recommendation #3: Expand and segregate the overall budget of the HRTA to accommodate a minimum of 250 energy efficiency retrofits in 2007 (equivalent to 1% of the housing stock in need of major repairs).

Recommendation #4: Increase the maximum HRTA tax credit for any individual project under the energy efficiency category from $1500 to $2500.

Recommendation #5: Develop a promotional strategy campaign to significantly increase public and industry awareness of the HRTA's support for renovations that improve energy efficiency.

Recommendation #6: Expedite the development of action plan to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions that can guide planning for next year's HRTA Program and meet the City of Winnipeg's commitment to the Partners for Climate Protection Program.

Recommendation #7: Direct Administration to seek input from the City of Winnipeg's Environmental Coordinator, the Mayor's Environmental Committee and the Manitoba Chapter of the Canada Green Building Council in developing future versions of the HRTA Program.