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CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION

September 10, 2018

Winnipeg City Council
Executive Policy Committee
510 Main Street
Winnipeg MB

RE: **Support for Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan 2018**

On September 6, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment concurred with the Winnipeg Public Service and has submitted the Climate Action Plan 2018 and recommendations to you and to Council. On behalf of the staff and Steering Committee of Climate Change Connection (CCC) and on behalf of the board of Sustainable Building Manitoba (SBM), I wish to express our support for this Plan and recommendations.

We trust that by now, it has become clear to all members of this committee, that human-influenced climate change is upon us. This brings with it threats, risks, and costs that Winnipeg must bear now and prepare for in the future. This Plan provides an excellent framework for preparing for that uncertain future.

This Plan reflects the ideas collected through consultations with a broad cross-section of stakeholders. As a consequence of these consultations, the recommendations in the Plan are comprehensive and well-structured. CCC is one of the groups in the "External Consultation" list with the Administrative Report submission.

CCC "connects Manitobans to climate change facts and solutions". We direct our efforts toward education and to getting involved with organizations and initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build local resilience.

The City of Winnipeg needs to adopt and implement this Plan in order to properly fulfil its obligation to its citizens now and in the future.

The Plan has a logical, easy-to-understand structure. It starts with seven overarching Strategic Opportunities and then provides detailed initiatives in the Key Directions within those Opportunities. It will be the challenge and responsibility of City Council to direct and empower the City departments with Primary Responsibilities within these Opportunities to implement the Key Directions identified.

This Plan does not just help the City mitigate risks and prepare for threats - it provides a blueprint for developing and enhancing Winnipeg as a vibrant, forward-looking, world-class city.

And that's where the benefits lie. I draw your attention to page 5 of the City Administrative Report that has been submitted the Standing Policy Committee with the Plan.

> Working together with community partners to reduce emissions, the City can realize a number of co-benefits, including but not limited to:
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> - Creating a more prosperous, innovative and diverse local and regional economy;
> - Constructing more complete neighbourhoods and revitalizing the livability of all communities throughout Winnipeg;
> - Improving the efficiency of transportation networks and reducing traffic congestion;
> - Building and maintaining healthier buildings to live and work in which are less expensive to operate; and
> - Enhancing connectivity of green spaces and parks throughout Winnipeg to support biodiversity and natural systems.

I wish to echo that message as you consider endorsing and implementing this important Plan to deal with climate change. We have *two choices*:

- We can sit back, pretend that we can carry on business as usual and suffer the consequences of being unprepared for a world in the throes of climate change impacts.
- Or, we can accept this challenge and approach it head-on with energy, enthusiasm, and creativity.

I submit to you that if we take that second approach, and implement this Plan, we will not only be living up to our obligations to the future generations, but we will also be making ours a better city for ourselves in the present as well.

Thank you sincerely



CURTIS HULL, P.ENG.
PROJECT MANAGER

Sustainable Building Manitoba (SBM) would like to remind the committee of the importance of a "big umbrella" approach to sustainable building. We need to acknowledge that there are a number of standards, organizations, and approaches important to sustainable building - and that this is SBM's focus. Sustainable design shouldn't be the purview of one brand, especially in a province and city like ours where consensus can be forged from diverse organizations and viewpoints.