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To the City of Winnipeg's Executive Policy Committee:

I am writing to speak to Report #17 – Social and Sustainable Procurement Practices.

BUILD has been an industry leader in the Social Enterprise sector, operating with Social Procurement policies at the Province of Manitoba since 2006. In that time, we have seen policies change, and have seen the power of an effective Social Procurement policy, both for BUILD and for the families that we serve. Each dollar that is spent at a Social Enterprise means a chance to reunite a child with their parents, a gang member choosing a new life away from crime, or the simple infusion of hope into an otherwise bleak life.

We are excited to see not one, but two motions addressing Social Procurement brought forward to EPC today. Both motions have their merits, and it's good to see broad support for the concept of city purchasing supporting community benefits. We have been appreciative of collaboration with the City of Winnipeg on this file, including from Councillor Markus Chambers, throughout the last year. We support a collaborative approach so everyone can come together for the best possible approach to social procurement. We suggest the following amendments to Report #17, the motion brought forward by Councillor Chambers, to achieve this:

Strike a working group, including social enterprise, private industry, labour, and the Public Service, with the mandate to, within 90 days:

1. Report back on what the City of Winnipeg is currently doing to support social and sustainable procurement practices as benchmarks for a forthcoming social procurement policy and implementation plan
2. Identify 5 (five) city projects of a variety of scope and size within 180 days, one specifically being the North End Water Treatment Plant, to include social procurement as a portion of their bidding requirements
3. Create a social procurement policy and implementation plan for appropriate City tenders with a goal of establishing a bid value for community benefits, consistent with the practice of other comparable Canadian municipalities.

Thank-you for your time.

Sean Hogan
Interim Executive Director
BUILD inc.