Submission to Executive Policy Committee

December 7, 2021

Dear Mayor Bowman and members of the Executive Policy Committee,

We are writing in regards to Agenda #4 of the December 8, 2021 Executive Policy Committee meeting of the City of Winnipeg, *Social and Sustainable Procurement Practices*. We remain supportive of the development and implementation of an informed, fair, and effective Social Procurement Framework for the City of Winnipeg, while suggesting three recommendations that would effectively resource next steps (see below).

The Social Procurement Framework before EPC on December 8, 2021 is an encouraging and positive step toward the development of a full policy and an implementation plan. We commend the leadership of Mayor and Councillors who are considering this Framework today. As well, we applaud the work of the Public Service for their efforts toward the development of this Framework.

We support the development of Winnipeg's Social Procurement Framework within the larger Sustainable Procurement program that embeds sustainable, ethical, social, and Indigenous considerations into the selection of goods and services.

As the Framework's vision outlines, the City of Winnipeg can leverage its existing $400M procurement spending to support positive social value for our community in addition to the goods and services purchased. We support the alignment of this Framework to help fulfill existing corporate objectives and strategies such as the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord, OurWinnipeg 2045, Winnipeg's Poverty Reduction Strategy, and other human rights related policies and strategies.

Due to the potential of significant positive impact for communities in Winnipeg and the large amount of purchasing undertaken by the City of Winnipeg, the development of the next steps of the Social Procurement Framework and action plan requires resources.

While we suggest that the Framework is headed in a positive direction, there are still large gaps that leave many questions and uncertainty about implementation. As an example, in section 4, there are questions posed about how potential mechanisms will function in the City of Winnipeg without answers or clarification.

We encourage the City of Winnipeg to adopt a co-creation approach with the existing External Working Group of community stakeholders and Rightsholders. This is essential for the development of an informed policy and effective change management through implementation.

To facilitate this, collectively we suggest the recommendation before Executive Policy Committee be amended to include the following three items:

1. **The Social Procurement Framework document presented to EPC on December 8, 2021 be received as a work-in-progress and as information.**
2. **Administration be authorized to proceed with and fund the outcome of an RFP to engage a third party consultant to work with the Social Procurement Working Group to complete development of the Social Procurement Framework document and an Action Plan.**
3. **A complete Social Procurement Framework document and Action Plan, as endorsed by the Social Procurement Working Group, be brought back to EPC for its consideration within 180 days.**

We sincerely hope that these three recommendations will be adopted by Executive Policy Committee on December 8, 2021. They are indicative of our commitment to the creation of an effective, fair, and informed Social Procurement Framework and Action Plan that would facilitate considerable positive impact for Winnipeg's communities.

Sincerely,

Members of the City of Winnipeg Social Procurement External Working Group:

Sean Hogan
Executive Director
BUILD Inc.

Chris Lorenc
President
Manitoba Heavy Construction Association

Michael Barkman
Public Policy Coordinator
Canadian CED Network - Manitoba

Jessica Floresco
General Manager
Mother Earth Recycling

Tanya Palson
Director of Business Operations
Manitoba Building Trades

Darryl Harrison
Director of Stakeholder Engagement & Advocacy
Winnipeg Construction Association

With support from additional social enterprises and community organizations:

Anne-Lydie Bolay
Operations Director
The Cutting Edge (Program of Canadian Muslim Women's Institute)

Asha Nelson
Projects Coordinator
Fireweed Food Co-op

Johanna Haines
Business Manager
ND Property Services (a social enterprise of New Directions)

Daniel Waycik
Co-founder and Operations Director
Persons Community Solutions

Kalen Taylor
Executive Director
Purpose Construction

Rachael Howgate
Public Policy and Fund Development Coordinator
SEED Winnipeg

Angela McCaughan
Executive Director
SSCOPE Inc

Robin Bryan
General Manager
Compost Winnipeg