Submission to Winnipeg City Council

July 7, 2022

Dear Mayor Bowman and members of Winnipeg Executive Policy Committee,

We are writing in support of Item No.1 of the report of the July 13, 2022 Executive Policy Committee meeting. **We support the recommendations from the Public Service and adoption of the Sustainable Procurement Action Plan.**

We would like to thank the Public Service for their tireless efforts to arrive at this point, Buy Social Canada for engagement and policy development expertise, and Mayor Bowman and members of Council for their interest and engagement with this policy development.

After many months of deliberation, conversation, and discussion, we are thrilled to see this Action Plan before EPC today. This represents a significant step for the City of Winnipeg in seeing significant social, economic, and environmental value for our community while achieving the City's purchasing needs. The achievement of the vision and goals of Sustainable Procurement as outlined in the Action Plan would greatly improve the social, economic, and environmental conditions in our community.

Within the Action Plan, we wanted to highlight a few areas we particularly support. We appreciate the recognition of the positive benefits of social and sustainable procurement practices for our City, the four pillars of Sustainable Procurement (ethical, environmental, Indigenous, and social), and the aligning of this action plan to achieve the desired outcomes of existing city strategies. Additionally, we value that this Action Plan ensures that Sustainable Procurement practices are also fair, open, and transparent.

The potential impact of the Social Procurement Framework and subsequent Action Plan is significant for our City, given the amount of purchasing undertaken by the City and the potential for social value to be generated for our community. The inclusion of resources so the Action Plan can be fully implemented will ensure that Winnipeg receives the intended social, economic, and community benefits of this policy.

We appreciate the phased-in and iterative nature of this Action Plan, which we believe will allow for innovation, partnership development, and refinement of policy over the next three years. In particular, we support the inclusion of a dedicated staff person to serve as a Sustainable Procurement liaison. This is an essential position for the successful implementation of this action plan. As well, we support the inclusion of the multi-sector advisory stakeholder table, a social procurement purchaser and supplier roundtable, an Indigenous procurement engagement event, and an offer of post-tender debrief to all bidders upon written request. We thank the Public Service for their willingness to respond to and include many of these ideas following engagement and consultation with community and industry.

The services of Buy Social Canada as a facilitator and with third party expertise has also been essential for the development of this Action Plan. We support the inclusion of retaining third party expertise to support the implementation of the Framework and Action Plan to further facilitate a stakeholder table and help the City, Rightsholder groups, industry partners,

community organizations, social enterprises, and others achieve successful implementation. Given the potential for immense impact for the City, we respectfully believe this would be a worthwhile investment.

We thank Mayor Bowman and Council for their support and interest in the development of Winnipeg's Social Procurement Framework and Sustainable Procurement Action Plan, as well as the leadership of members of the Public Service for their collaborative efforts and work to get to this point.

Sincerely,

Members of the We Want to Work coalition:

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