Submission - Kate Kehler, Social Planning Council

March 15, 2023

Dear Members of the Executive Policy Committee,

We the undersigned are writing to you because we are concerned about the implementation of the *Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy & Strategic Framework*. Almost one third of the population in Winnipeg consists of immigrants and non-permanent residents and the proportion of immigrants in Winnipeg and other Canadian cities is growing. It is estimated that by 2041 over half (52%) of the population of Canada will be comprised of immigrants and their Canadian born children.

We welcome the steps undertaken by the City to work in collaboration with the Immigration Partnership Winnipeg (IPW) to co-develop this policy. We were pleased that the policy was passed in February 2020 and were encouraged when Mayor Gillingham announced support for the policy at the Newcomer Mayoral Forum on October 15th 2022, included the implementation of the policy in his platform and committed to working with IPW to implement it.

Despite a promising start, the implementation of the policy is falling short of community expectations. The policy and strategic framework have gone largely unfunded, and there is a low level of knowledge in the general public, or among the public service, of the policy or the importance of this work. We share the community concerns that the implementation of the policy is lagging behind due to underfunding. We urge you to commit the resources required to fully implement the *Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy & Strategic Framework*. Please ensure that newcomers to Winnipeg do not fall between service gaps, and are included in planning for programming, policies, and procedures.

Thank you for considering this important matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Reuben Garang
Director
Immigration Partnership Winnipeg

Louise Simbandumwe
Member
Immigration Matters in Canada Coalition

ENDORSED BY:

Maureen Keelan
Manager, Senior Immigrant Settlement Services
A & O: Support Services for Older Adults

Titi Tijani
President
African Communities of Manitoba Inc. (ACOMI)

Vizlumin Cabrera & James Andrew Aviso
Co-Directors
Aksyon Ng Ating Kabataan (ANAK) Inc.

Abdikheir Ahmed
Executive Director
Aurora Family Therapy Centre

Executive Director
Omar Muhiadin
Bilal Community and Family Centre

Michael Barkman
Manitoba Network Manager
Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet) Manitoba

Renee Greyeyes
Executive Director
Community Financial Counselling Services

Irina Volchok
Executive Director
English Online

Nina Condo
Executive Director
Elmwood Community Resource Centre

Shakila Atayee
Co-Chair
Ethnocultural Council of Manitoba

Millie Braun
Executive Director
Family Dynamics

Humaira Jaleel
Executive Director
Healthy Muslim Families

Jorge Fernandez
CEO
Immigrant Centre

Shereen Denetto
Executive Director
Immigrant and Refugee Community
Organization of Manitoba

Sandra Krahn
Executive Director
Manitoba Association for Rights and Liberties

Vicki Sinclair
Executive Director
Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations

Darryl Loewen
Executive Director
MCC Manitoba

Valerie Cavers
Executive Director
Mosaic – Newcomer Family Resource Network

Codi Guenther
Executive Director
New Journey Housing

Kate Kehler,
Executive Director
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

Carinna D'Abramo Rosales
Co-Director
SEED Winnipeg

Luigi Tummillo
Executive Director
Winnipeg English Language Assessment and Referral Centre