SUSTAINABLE
SOUTH OSBORNE
COMMUNITY CO-OP

I acknowledge and recognize that I, as a descendent of settlers, live and work on the territory of Treaty 1 First Nations, and the Homeland of the Metis Nation. The electricity I use to power my life and work is generated in the territories of Treaties 1, 3 and 5, on the Nelson, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Burntwood, and Laurie Rivers. The water I drink to sustain myself comes from Shoal Lake in Treaty 3 Territory, and from the area of Shoal Lake First Nations 39 and 40.

Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative respects the land that we care for and acknowledges the First Nations who traditionally lived here before us – the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples. We understand the role we must play in upholding the promises made in the treaties and other agreements, both in the spirit of reconciliation and the pursuit of decolonization.

Sustainable South Osborne Community Co-op (SSOCC) is a volunteer run organization that strives to create a culture of sustainability and resilience in the South Osborne neighbourhood through education, urban permaculture, and community-based projects.

We seek to promote stronger community ties and to build social cohesion, cooperation, care, trust, and the capacity for mutual support through local self-governance as we promote local food production, food security, and care of the earth. Those of us at SSOCC help to maintain a commons in the South Osborne neighbourhood, we partner with like-minded people and organizations, and we of course share produce with family, friends, and neighbours.

Since 2009, SSOCC has been building and operating community gardens and a community orchard. We believe that more support from the City of Winnipeg in these types of endeavours is not only important, but necessary. Official policies and strategies from the municipal government have been disorganized and inefficient with regards to community gardening. Our stance is that the process should be as accessible and easy as possible for establishing a community garden, and that the City of Winnipeg should also allocate funding for these initiatives.

We would like to specifically lend our support to:

1. The recommendation of creating and adopting a Community Garden Strategy for Winnipeg as outlined within the Administrative Report titled “Community Garden Strategy”
2. Funding a Project Coordinator position at the level identified in the report by the Winnipeg Public Service ($240,900 over two years, including benefits)
3. The creation of a budget item for Consulting Assignment to go along with the aforementioned position ($200,000)
    a. With the caveat that the cost breakdown should be explained more fully

Sincerely,
Mathew Scammell
President - SSOCC