Speaker's Notes For SPC WWE Presentation: Erna Buffie, April 13, 2023

How Natural Urban Habitats and Ecosystems Enhance Urban Climate Resiliency and Save Cities Money:

1. ***When The Big Storms Hit: The Role of Wetlands to limit urban and rural flood damage, University of Waterloo, Intact Center on Climate Adaptation.*** *https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/When-the-Big-Storms-Hit.pdf*

   "Wetlands can be Infrastructure Too, The Canadian Institute for Climate Choices:" https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Wetlands-case-study_April26_EN_Final.pdf

   "Financial incentives for large-scale wetland restoration: Beyond markets to common asset trusts," One Earth Journal of Science: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332221003481 The value of the world's wetlands are estimated to be worth $47.4 trillion in the services they provide to the world's population.

   "The Return On Investment of Natural Infrastructure," Intact center University of Waterloo: https://www.intactcentreclimateadaptation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Wetlands-ROI-Infographic-FINAL.pdf

2. ***"Reaping the Benefits of Urban Trees," Cornell University*** https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2011/12/each-1-put-urban-trees-reaps-5-benefits

   "How Urban Trees Can Save Lives" Nature Conservancy: https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-insights/perspectives/how-urban-trees-can-save-lives/?src=r.global.healthyair

   "Access to Greenspace Can Reduce Stress" National Institutes of Health: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4847102/

Why Protecting Urban Green and Blue Spaces Is Critical to Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change:

3. ***Flood Control Goes Green – How Houston Is using Nature to Combat Flooding*** ***https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/shows/below-the-waterlines/2022/08/16/430535/flood-control-goes-green-how-houston-is-using-nature-to-combat-flooding/***

4. ***"Biodiversity: Our Strongest Natural Defense Against Climate Change," United Nations Climate Action and Biodiversity.***
   https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity#:~:text=When%20land%20is%20converted%20for,freshwater%20ecosystems%20around%20the%20world

Winnipeg's Greeness Score

Statistics Canada: "Urban Greeness Study Summary," Government of Canada:
https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/210817/dq210817b-eng.htm
Urban greeness is defined as the presence of vegetation as a measure ecosystem health.

Central Banks and Insurance Industry Recognize the Financial Risks Associated with Biodiversity Loss and Climate Change:

5. ***"Climate change is transforming the Insurance Industry," Kate McCaffery, Insurance Portal:***
   https://insurance-portal.ca/article/climate-change-is-transforming-the-insurance-industry/

   Bank of Canada Announces Climate Change Commitments, Bank of Canada
   https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2021/11/bank-canada-announces-climate-change-commitments-for-cop26/

   European Central Bank Further Steps to Incorporate Climate Change Into Its Monetary Policy, EUC publication
   https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2022/html/ecb.pr220704~4f48a72462.en.html

   "Central Banks Must Add Biodiversity to Financial Stability Risks" Bloomberg Co.:
   https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-03-25/central-banks-must-add-biodiversity-to-financial-stability-risks#xj4y7vzkg

Addendum: A Selection of Letters of Support for the Pledge Motion

CPAWS · SNAP
CANADIAN PARKS AND WILDERNESS SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ POUR LA NATURE ET LES PARCS DU CANADA

National Office | Bureau national

600-100 rue Gloucester Street Ottawa, ON K2P 0A4 613.569.7226

cpaws.org • snapcanada.org CRA/ARC #10686 5272 RR0001

To: His Worship the Mayor, Scott Gillingham and Councillors Brian Mayes, Ross Eadie, Cindy Gilroy and Vivian Santos

RE: The Montreal Pledge Motion

Dear Sir and/or Madam,

We are writing on behalf of the Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS) to offer our strong support for the March 23rd Motion requesting that the City of Winnipeg become the 12th Canadian city to sign The Montreal Biodiversity Pledge.

CPAWS is Canada's only charity dedicated to the protection of public land, freshwater and ocean with a strong national and regional presence across the country. Working in a way that respects the sovereignty and leadership of Indigenous nations, we are focused on conserving nature to respond to the dual crises of accelerated biodiversity loss and climate change.

Biodiversity loss is the third most severe threat humanity will face over the next decade. There has already been a staggering 69% loss in wildlife populations worldwide and vast swaths of habitat have been destroyed.

At recent meetings at COP 15 it was acknowledged that cities are major contributors to biodiversity loss, and its City Summit took a leading role in formulating solutions to halt that loss, begin its restoration, and limit the negative impacts cities have on the environment.

As host city, Montreal challenged cities and municipalities around the world to sign the "Montreal Pledge," which contains 15 actions to protect urban biodiversity and ecosystems.

Within two months of the Montreal COP15 meeting in December 2022, 11 Canadian and 47 international cities signed the Montreal Pledge. https://montreal.ca/en/articles/montreal-pledge-call-cop15-launched-to-worlds-cities-39529

Signing the Montreal Pledge provides participating cities like ours an opportunity to learn and grow with other cities that have already signed the pledge and receive international, national, and most importantly, local public recognition for those efforts.

Signing the Pledge will also serve to highlight the positive initiatives Winnipeg is already undertaking that will help to meet the targets and goals of the pledge. For example, the development of the new Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan and Biodiversity Policy will address many of the goals in the Pledge, including the expansion of city greenspace. The City's agreement with the federal government to explore establishing a National Urban Park within Winnipeg is promising and CPAWS believes Assiniboine Forest and its potential expansion is a strong candidate for this designation. Additional City of Winnipeg initiatives, among them the Parks Strategy, the 20 Year Urban Forest Strategy, the Climate Action Plan and Indigenous consultation efforts by the C ity will also contribute to meeting Pledge goals.

CPAWS has Chapters working across Canada, and we have seen firsthand the positive impact that signing the Montreal Pledge has had in other cities. By joining these cities, the City of Winnipeg will clearly demonstrate its strong support for the primary goals of COP15 and reinforce the city's commitment to transform Winnipeg into a greener, healthier, more just and biodiverse city.

Yours Sincerely,

Ron Thiessen
Executive Director
The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba chapter

Chris Rider
National Director, Conservation
The Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society



Ann Loewen, MD, CCFP, FCFP, Diploma Population Health
Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
140 St Pierre Street, Winnipeg. MB
R3V 1J8

To: His Worship the Mayor, Scott Gillingham and Councillors Brian Mayes, Ross Eadie, Cindy Gilroy and Vivian Santos
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB

RE: The Montreal Pledge Motion

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are writing on behalf of Canadian Associations of Physicians for the Environment – Manitoba Chapter to offer our strong support for the March 23rd Motion requesting that the City of Winnipeg become the 12th Canadian city to sign The Montreal Biodiversity Pledge. As physicians committed to the health and well-being of humans, we recognize the necessity for other species and habitats to co-exist and thrive even in urban and suburban settings. As just a few examples of the health impacts of a degraded environment, infectious diseases are facilitated when natural regulators are absent. The quality of air, water and soil – the elements in which we live, work and play - decline when carbon, water and other natural cycles are disrupted. Respiratory and cardiac diseases correlate with airborne particles and unhealthy gas emissions that concentrate in urban areas.

At the same time, the many benefits of a biodiverse habitat are well supported in the scientific literature. Extreme heat events can be mitigated via more trees, grassy areas and other forms of vegetation. Habitats that allow a range of species thrive help manage population over-runs by any one of them. And there is enormous evidence supporting the physical and mental health benefit of spending time in natural surroundings.

We are already living with the health impacts of environmental degradation. And the health care system is already enormously over-burdened. Biodiversity loss is the third most severe threat humanity will face over the next decade. There has been huge loss in wildlife populations worldwide and vast swaths of habitat have been destroyed. Immediate and effective action is required to alter this path of degradation of all species' health.

We ask that in your position as City representatives, you not only endorse, but also embrace and enact the "Montreal Pledge," which contains 15 actions to protect urban biodiversity and ecosystems. COP 15 acknowledged that cities are major contributors to biodiversity loss, and its City Summit took the lead role to formulate effective solutions. Winnipeg's Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan and Biodiversity Policy can address many of the goals in the Pledge. Additional City of Winnipeg initiatives, among them the Parks Strategy, the 20 Year Urban Forest Strategy, the Climate Action Plan and Indigenous consultation efforts by the city will also contribute to meeting Pledge goals.

Thank you for your work in this important area.

Yours truly, Dr. Ann Loewen on behalf of CAPE MB Chapter

MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

302 - 583 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3B 1Z7 Tel: 204-947-6511 www.mbeconetwork.org

April 13, 2023
To: City of Winnipeg Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment Committee
RE: The Montreal Pledge – Cities United in Action for Biodiversity

We are writing to offer our support for the City of Winnipeg singing The Montreal Biodiversity Pledge. By signing this Pledge, the City of Winnipeg will indicate its obligation to protect urban biodiversity and implement relevant commitments from the directly related Global Biodiversity Framework.

Biodiversity is fundamental to human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people, including for living well in balance and in harmony with Mother Earth, we depend on it for food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, security from natural disasters as well as recreation and cultural inspiration, and it supports all systems of life on earth.[1]

At recent meetings at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) it was acknowledged that cities are major contributors to biodiversity loss, and its City Summit took a leading role in formulating solutions to halt that loss, begin its restoration, and limit the negative impacts cities have on the environment.

As host city, Montreal challenged cities and municipalities around the world to sign the "Montreal Pledge," which contains 15 minimal actions to protect urban biodiversity and ecosystems. Although the Montreal pledge does not go as far as the Global Biodiversity Framework, it nonetheless serves as an important step forward to move municipalities towards reducing the threat to, and sharing the benefits of biodiversity with their citizens. Within two months of the Montreal COP15 meeting in December 2022, 11 Canadian and 36 international cities signed the Montreal Pledge.[2]

Signing the Pledge will serve to highlight the positive initiatives Winnipeg is already undertaking and will demonstrate the leadership and ambition required to act swiftly and influence other partners, in order to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss and protect our biodiversity. Signing

the Pledge will also acknowledge the need for Winnipeg to achieve the targets and goals established by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. There are urban specific targets (e.g. targets 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22) that should be incorporated into Winnipeg's *Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan*, *Biodiversity Policy*, *Urban Forestry Strategy*, *Climate Resiliency Strategy*, *Climate Action Plan*, *Food Policy,* and *Integrated Waste Management Strategy*. Given the dire need to act now, those plans, policies and strategies are in need of enhancement and should be addressed in the Winnipeg Council's upcoming four-year *Strategic Priorities Action Plan*.

[1] Convention on Biological Diversity CBD/COP15/L.25, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 18 December 2022, online: https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e6d3/cd1d/daf663719a03902a9b116c34/cop-15-l-25-en.pdf [2] City of Montreal, "Montréal Pledge: Call for COP15 launched to world's cities", online: https://montreal.ca/en/articles/montreal-pledge-call-cop15-launched-to-worlds-cities-39529

Signing the Pledge will also indicate the City of Winnipeg's commitment to recognizing the contribution and rights of Indigenous peoples, as stipulated in the Global Biodiversity Framework: *The framework acknowledges the important roles and contributions of indigenous peoples*

and local communities as custodians of biodiversity and partners in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use. Its implementation must ensure their rights, knowledge, including traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity, innovations, worldviews, values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities are respected, documented, preserved with their free, prior and informed consent, including through their full and effective participation in decision-making, in accordance with relevant national legislation, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and human rights law. In this regard, nothing in this framework may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that indigenous peoples currently have or may acquire in the future.[3]

MbEN believes that by signing the Montreal Pledge, the City of Winnipeg will demonstrate its support for the primary goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework and reinforce the city's commitment to transform Winnipeg into a greener, healthier, more just, and biodiverse city.

We urge you to recommend the City of Winnipeg sign the Montreal Pledge and commit to a more inclusive and sustainable future for our City.

Sincerely,

Glen Koroluk, Executive Director

Heather Fast, Policy Advocacy Director

Manitoba Eco-Network

[3] See note 1, page 5, Section C.



To: His Worship the Mayor, Scott Gillingham, and Councillors Brian Mayes, Ross Eadie, Cindy Gilroy, Vivian Santos, Sherri Rollins, Jeff Browaty and John Orlikow

RE: The Montreal Pledge Motion

Dear Sir and/or Madam,

I am on writing today on behalf of Trees Please Winnipeg to thank and congratulate Councillors Cindy Gilroy and Brian Mayes for introducing the Montreal Pledge Motion on March 23rd. A motion which, if approved, will result in Winnipeg becoming the 12th Canadian city to sign The Montreal Biodiversity Pledge.

It's an exciting and potentially historic motion, and if passed, will clearly demonstrate that our mayor and city council fully understand the importance and value of this city's natural assets - from trees and intact forests to wetlands, creeks and grasslands - and the critical infrastructure services they provide.

As you know Trees Please has been lobbying for better support for our urban forest for the past 5 years, because our members understand the critical role our trees play in maintaining urban biodiversity and enhancing this city's climate resiliency.

Biodiversity loss is the third most severe problem humanity will face over the next decade. Currently, more than a million animal species worldwide are under threat, due to habitat loss caused by pollution, climate change or outright destruction. Habitat which is also vitally important to urban dwellers as we face the increasing threat of extreme weather events.

Cities are major contributors to biodiversity loss – whether via pollution, carcon emmisions or the outright destruction of habitat. That is why, during COP 15, its host city, Montreal, challenged other cities around the world to sign the "Montreal Pledge," and commit to 15 actions to protect, restore and halt the destruction of urban ecosystems that sustain biodiversity. Thus far 47 major cities worldwide have signed on!

Signing the Montreal Pledge means that participating cities like ours will have an opportunity to learn from others that have already signed the pledge and receive international, national, and

most importantly, local public recognition for their efforts. It will also serve to highlight the positive initiatives Winnipeg is already undertaking that will help to meet the pledge's 15 goals. The development of the new Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan and Biodiversity Policy along with others such as the Urban Forest and Park Strategies and the city's ongoing Indigenous consultation will all contribute to meeting pledge commitments.

Most importantly, by signing the Montreal Pledge, Winnipeg will clearly demonstrate that our mayor and council are fully committed to transforming Winnipeg into a greener, healthier, more just and biodiverse city.

I very much hope that this motion will be approved and passed by the Standing Committee for Water, Waste and the Environment, the Executive Policy Committee and by Council as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this, and again, our very special thanks to Councilors Mayes and Gilroy for bringing this motion forward.

Sincerely,

Emma Durand-Wood
On behalf of the Winnipeg Trees Please Coalition