Nov 13, 2023

To: Winnipeg's Executive Policy Committee
From: Shirley Forsyth,
Manitoba Physicians for the Environment

It is extremely important that there be more affordable housing in the City of Winnipeg and that all new housing infrastructure takes into consideration green spaces and sustainability for the health of our planet and residents. However, the environment is being treated as the poor cousin that receives no recognition in the City of Winnipeg's policy decisions. This is wrong and climate needs to be considered in all infrastructure decisions made in Winnipeg, including the application to the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund. Until climate change and the environment is considered in all infrastructure decisions, and a definition of a "sustainable green approach' is completed by the City, no major infrastructure decisions should be made or funded.

In the 2023-2026 Strategic Priorities Action Plan, the statement appears, "What we Plan to Achieve**:** A sustainable, green approach to growth and renewal of infrastructure focusing on climate resiliency, renewable energy, waste diversion, protecting and growing the urban forest, road and pedestrian safety, and public and active transportation." I would like to know if the City has arrived at a definition of a sustainable green approach and, if so, where it can be found.

Recognition of the connections between housing infrastructure and the environment needs to be included as one of items in the list of actions for the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund prior to acceptance of plans for housing infrastructure. Not to do so, it to increase the disparities between the low and high income households including the increase in ambient temperature and health ramifications. The federal Housing Accelerator Fund is intended to encourage initiatives that increase much needed housing supply and to promote the development of affordable, inclusive and diverse communities that are low-carbon and climate-resilient.[1] The information provided for this meeting does not demonstrate that this intention will be met.

Best Regards,

[1] Housing Accelerator Fund, https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/professionals/project-funding-and-mortgage-financing/funding-programs/all-funding-programs/housing-accelerator-fund