

Dear Minister Cullen,

The Manitoba government is focusing a lot on affordability and when it comes to home and building heating and cooling nothing is cheaper than using less.

Conservation is the cheapest form of energy.

The government has a key objective to make Manitoba more competitive and sustainable by building on the low-hanging fruit of GHG reductions AND economic development.

Sustainable Building Manitoba is (SBM) is an industry member-based organization that works to educate, promote and advocate for sustainable design and building. We recognize the role our built environment has in increasing or reducing greenhouse gas emissions and are working to address this through our advocacy and outreach activities. Our organization has participated in the expert advisory panels for your government's Made-in-Manitoba Green Plan and the recent Energy Framework consultations.

We can talk about how the housing market is going up and down all we want, but we should not ignore what kind of houses are being built for sale.

An energy efficient house is more affordable overall, and will only become more so in the future.

The Manitoba government has the opportunity right now to take action to set our province up for success, and that is to adopt the 2020 national building codes at the highest Tier possible. For Manitoba that means Tier 3 for NCB 9.36 buildings (residential) and Tier 1 moving to Tier 2 next year for NECB (commercial).

This budget needs to reflect a commitment to energy efficient, sustainable buildings as they affect us all very directly - are you not in a building right now reading this?

It is not only the carbon tax leading to high energy costs. The price of natural gas is projected to go up on the open market. Now is the moment to act so that we can save Manitobans money while creating good jobs.

It is no secret that a high performance, energy efficient building comes with a price tag. This budget must reflect that reality. Your government must establish legislation for PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing and ensure the appropriate funds are in place. The carbon

tax could be used for the fund to ensure that retrofits are financially viable for all Manitobans. The benefit of PACE is that these loans are tied to the property itself and not to the owner.

There is a problem with attracting and retaining employees across the board and the construction sector is no different.

There are many training programs and institutions that work specifically with people facing barriers to employment. Given the widespread worker shortage, these programs and institutions should receive increased support.

This budget must have money to reduce barriers to upskilling so that our workforce can build energy efficient homes and buildings and to keep Manitoba competitive. Make sure there is money available to do an assessment and report on potential training gaps in our province.

When it comes to retention, workers are frustrated by the lack of building code enforcement and compliance in the building sector. Make sure your budget has money allocated to work with municipalities to increase and improve inspections and to do spot checks on building energy performance (or better yet, make building labelling mandatory to ensure transparency in compliance). Doing so will help workers have extra pride in their work. Not only is code compliance a worker satisfaction matter, it is also a major consumer protection issue.

The building sector will increasingly thrive with additional government support. This includes reinstating the role of Chief Building Official who would coordinate code implementation and support a task force to aid with accelerated code adoption and make sure our province is ready for the monumental task of retrofitting our buildings and homes.

When it comes to building, make sure the budget does not forget about Northern Manitoba. It is expensive to get materials there and too often that serves as a barrier to building high performance northern homes and buildings. To be clear, given their climate, no one needs energy efficient building more than Northern Manitoba.

Building code adoption and appropriate budgetary support is such an important way to save Manitobans money. The government is about to decide on the energy efficient Tier adoption and that decision is more important than the length of this submission allows us to get into.

Housing cannot be considered affordable if it is not energy efficient. SBM hopes that this government will take that seriously in this budget especially given the effort you are putting into addressing affordability.

Efficiency Manitoba is doing some good work for Manitobans in many of these areas. Their work needs to be expanded and supported and this submission highlights some ways to make

Manitoba more affordable while reducing our GHG emissions. There are many opportunities when it comes to sustainable building for economic development, good jobs, and consumer protection.

Thank you for your time and attention. If you have any questions, SBM would be more than happy to answer them. Please get in touch at ed@sustainablebuildingmanitoba.ca or by phoning 204-995-5255.

Have a great day,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Tyler".

Laura Tyler
Executive Director

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Deputy Minister Richard Groen
Honourable Rochelle Squires
Honourable James Teitsma
Cindy Choy - SBM Board Chair