



**December 21, 2022**

Honourable Rochelle Squires  
357 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Honourable Kelvin Goertzen  
104 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Ministers,

I write to you today on behalf of Manitoba organized skilled trades workforce regarding the news of your decision to cut funding to Building Urban Industries for Local Development (BUILD) Inc. This decision is outrageous and completely misaligned with the needs of our provincial construction industry.

As Manitoba faces a skilled trades worker shortage, this cut will only exacerbate the problem by removing accessible training opportunities for at-risk individuals seeking opportunity in the construction industry. BUILD Inc. has been recognized nationally for their proven success in reducing recidivism and providing career opportunities for their participants.

The population served by BUILD Inc. faces complex and intersectional barriers to obtaining employment in the skilled trades. BUILD Inc. is a critical actor within the Indigenous workforce development and skilled construction trade training space. BUILD Inc. creates a pathway for individuals facing barriers to employment to obtain work ready construction skills which provides an entry into the industry. BUILD's contribution to Manitoba's construction workforce is essential for industry growth as we face significant labour shortages.

As Manitoba reckons with the increasing social and financial cost of crime and poverty, it is programs like BUILD Inc. that provide an effective and industrious solution to these issues. BUILD Inc. has a long history of success, and we see them as an integral industry partner who must be able to continue their mandate. Furthermore, the investment in BUILD Inc. saves money for government in other departments, by reducing costly interventions in the justice and social services sector.



We know that investments in skilled training programs, especially those that can alleviate poverty will pay dividends for our province both in the short and long term. We call on you to immediately reconsider this decision, and to meet with BUILD Inc. at your earliest opportunity.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tanya Palson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tanya Palson  
Executive Director  
Manitoba Building Trades

CC: Honourable Heather Stefanson, Honourable Jon Reyes, Michelle Dubik, Dave Wright