

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report, *Building Energy, Building Leadership*, is to present a strategy and a set of recommendations for the adoption, development, and potential implementation of an energy code for new commercial construction in Manitoba.
- This report was prepared by the Manitoba Energy Code Advisory Committee for the Minister of Manitoba Energy, Science and Technology.
- The Energy Code Advisory Committee was comprised of 15 people from a broad cross section of the Manitoba commercial building industry.
- There is ample local, national, and global interest in improving energy efficiency in buildings.
- Four local professional organizations expressed support for a commercial building energy code in Manitoba: Building Energy Management Manitoba; Building Owners and Managers Association (Manitoba); Manitoba Building Officials Association; Mechanical Contractors Association of Manitoba.
- Canada's Council of Energy Ministers have pledged to work together to encourage greater energy efficiency in Canada and have endorsed a recommendation to update Canada's *Model National Energy Code for Buildings*.
- The American Society for Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers, as well as the Canadian Renewable Energy Alliance, the American Institute of Architects, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development all support aggressive reductions in building energy use.
- Manitoba is a leader in establishing energy efficiency requirements for new houses, but there are no energy efficiency requirements for commercial buildings.
- In Manitoba, between 1989 and 2003, there was an overall 19% decrease in natural gas use by houses, and an overall 8% increase in natural gas use by commercial buildings.
- In 2003, Manitoba's energy expenditures totalled \$2.8 billion. Approximately 70%, or \$2 billion, was spent on imported energy, mostly for transportation and buildings.
- On average, 62% of energy demand in Manitoba commercial buildings is met by natural gas, a non-renewable fossil fuel.
- Energy efficiency requirements for new buildings are common practice in countries around the world, including the European Union, U.K., and China.
- In the United States, 48 states, including North Dakota and Minnesota, have a commercial building energy efficiency code.
- In Canada, the *Model National Energy Code for Buildings* was developed, and published in 1997, by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes.
- *Building Energy, Building Leadership* includes 17 main recommendations (see opposite page) and three supplemental recommendations.

Most notably, the Energy Code Advisory Committee recommends Manitoba:

- Adopt the *Model National Energy Code for Buildings* (1997) as a regulation under *The Buildings and Mobile Homes Act*.
- Develop and adopt Manitoba Amendments to the *Model National Energy Code for Buildings* by January 1, 2009.
- Support and participate in a national initiative to update the *Model National Energy Code for Buildings*.
- Consider an energy code as the critical first step in a longer-term process towards a sustainable building code.