Living wages in Winnipeg: an unrealized demand of the Winnipeg General Strike.

In 1919, metal workers in Winnipeg went on strike demanding a minimum wage of at least 85 cents per hour. In 2018 dollars, this would be equivalent to $11.78, somewhat higher than the current minimum wage of $11.15. Despite a century of struggle, and vast increases in productivity, workers here still have no guarantee of a living wage. This presentation will look at how other cities in Canada have adopted living wage campaigns. It will explore how a campaign for a living wage could help all workers in Winnipeg realize the century old dream of ensuring that work is a path out of poverty, not a poverty trap.

Josh Brandon is a community animator with the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and chair of Make Poverty History Manitoba.

Selected Publications:

*What does an actual housing allowance look like? Manitoba’s Rent Assist program.* Michael Mendelson, Jesse Hajer, Josh Brandon. Caledon Institute. 2017

*Building a Community Asset: the Ongoing need for Social Housing in Manitoba.*  Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. 2016*.*

*Basic Income and EIA: Sidestepping the "Welfare Wall".* Josh Brandon  
North American Basic Income Congress. 2016

*Creating Pride Through Decent Work: Social Enterprise in Manitoba*. Josh Brandon and Molly McCracken.  
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Manitoba. 2016

*Poor Housing: A Silent Crisis.* Josh Brandon and Jim Silver editors.  
Fernwood Publishing. 2015

*Moving to the City: Housing and Aboriginal Migration to Winnipeg*. Josh Brandon and Evelyn Peters. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Manitoba, 2015

*Rent Assist for non-EIA recipients: changes in Manitoba Budget 2015*. Josh Brandon  
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg. 2015.