## MEDIA RELEASE



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## Manitoba Possible to Help Manitobans Access Digital Resources and Care Services

\$75,000 Initiative to Connect Persons with Disabilities with Technology in Response to Pandemic

(Winnipeg, MB – October 21, 2020) Manitoba Possible, formerly the Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, is launching a province wide initiative to connect Manitobans with disabilities to technology and care services. Tech-Connect, graciously supported by the United Way of Brandon & District; United Way Winnipeg; and the Government of Canada via the Emergency Community Support Fund, will provide persons with disabilities with technology, training, and financial support, to enable access to online, service delivery, socialization, and self-managed care.

"Manitoba Possible front-line staff regularly report contact with clients who are socially isolated and unable to access services due to lack of appropriate technology and increased care needs resulting from COVID-19, including help with grocery shopping, cleaning, and household errands," shares Rayleen Rudnicki, Supervisor, Manitoba Possible Northern Regional Office, "These type of barriers can become compounded and can greatly affect one's mental health and ability to connect with others."

The Tech-Connect initiative will deliver tablets to those who need them most in Winnipeg and rural Manitoba, train recipients on video calling software to help them keep in touch, and guide recipients through setting up an <u>Envoyy</u> account. A digital platform by Manitoba Possible, Envoyy makes self-managed care services easy and can mitigate the varied care needs that have arisen out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"United Way Winnipeg, in partnership with the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund, is proud to be part of this important initiative to support individuals living with a disability during a time when keeping connected is so important." — Connie Walker, President and CEO, United Way Winnipeg

Tech-Connect funding is limited. Manitoba Possible will prioritize those that need a device, technology training, and assistance with creating an Envoyy account and receiving care hour credits. Interested Manitobans are encouraged to contact Manitoba Possible at <u>techconnect@manitobapossible.ca</u>, **1-204-975-3104**, or visit <u>manitobapossible.ca/tech-connect</u> for more information. Inquiries and applications will be accepted until the project money has been spent.

Manitoba Possible was originally founded in 1950. Today, Manitoba Possible includes a head office and two locations in Winnipeg, as well as six regional offices throughout Manitoba. We provide a diverse spectrum of programs and services emphasizing choice and self-determination for thousands of children, youth and adults with disabilities and in the Deaf community throughout the province. Our programming is supported by the Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, United Way Winnipeg, Government of Canada, and our generous donors and sponsors. **For information on how Manitoba Possible is delivering services during COVID-19, please click here.** 

- 30 -

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