REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED MAY 30, 2001

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated May 30, 2001, was considered.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the Consent Agenda, Clause 1, be adopted.

Carried.

CanWest Global Communications Corporation Expansion – Economic Incentive Package
File EP-1.2.3 (Vol. 3)

605 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that Council approval is required to use the Economic Development Investment Reserve to fund economic development incentive and investment projects.

As a result of recent acquisitions and expansion, CanWest Global Communications Corporation (Can West) is planning to amalgamate many of its customer contact and other corporate service centres in Downtown Winnipeg.

In the spring of 2001, Access Manitoba (a partnership with the Province of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg, CentreVenture Development Corporation, Economic Development Winnipeg, MTS, and Winnipeg and Manitoba Hydro) became aware that CanWest would consider Downtown Winnipeg as one of its candidate sites to locate its new customer contact centre and corporate service centres.

According to the business plans submitted by CanWest, operating from leased premises, the new customer contact centre and corporate service centres would create up to 1,200 full-time equivalent (FTE) incremental jobs over five years. The project when fully ramped, would generate a payroll of approximately $36 million annually. Anticipated capital costs for the project are estimated to be approximately $25.5 million.

The location of these corporate service centres within Winnipeg would serve as a catalyst for the continued revitalization of our Downtown and would enhance the city's position on the international market as a true media centre.

In order to secure the CanWest expansion plans within Downtown Winnipeg, Access Manitoba submitted a proposal to CanWest in early May 2001. Contained within the proposal was a letter of offer from The City of Winnipeg, in partnership with the CentreVenture Development Corporation. The letter established the framework for an economic incentive package as a contribution towards the CanWest expansion within Downtown Winnipeg. The Province of Manitoba and Manitoba Telecom Services (MTS) are prepared to offer complementary economic incentive packages to CanWest.

Following more detailed negotiations with CanWest, the administrative proposal dated May 28, 2001, outlined as Appendix "A", was submitted to the President and CEO of CanWest. The proposal, which is subject to Council approval, was subsequently signed by CanWest.

Conceptually, the City of Winnipeg proposal is based upon providing CanWest with an economic incentive package equal to the estimated municipal portion of the property taxes and the business taxes within their proposed new facilities for a ten year period. In accordance with the administrative proposal, CanWest must achieve certain job, payroll and leased space targets within the Downtown in order to achieve the maximum benefit. There will be a provision to allow CanWest a possible 3 year extension if required, to access any unused qualifying incentive.

The total value of the economic incentive package is estimated at 3.111 million (based upon 2002 municipal estimates) if all CanWest targets are achieved. Although there is no Financial Impact Statement, the assumptions and the formula utilized for the economic development incentive package is contained within the administrative proposal, outlined as Appendix "A".

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated May 30, 2001

The recommended source of the funding for the economic development incentive package is the Economic Development Investment Reserve. The Fund Manager would be responsible to identify the actual credits and payments required to CanWest on an annual basis and submit those amounts for approval within the current budget process. Annual disbursements to CanWest, estimated at a maximum of $339,000 per year, would be subject to budget approval.

In order to ensure consistency and minimize administrative requirements, both the formula utilized to calculate the actual amount of tax credit / payment on an annual basis, and the method to verify job and payroll numbers will be aligned with that of the Province. The actual subject business taxes will be credited at source while the actual municipal portion of the property tax will be calculated according to the formula identified within the administrative proposal.

It is recommended that Council approve the proposed recommendations and the administrative proposal that will form the basis for an agreement between the City of Winnipeg and CanWest to expand their existing operations within Winnipeg.

The proposed economic incentive package is established on the basis of an estimated 1,200 new positions, a payroll of $36 million annually and 127,500 square feet of leased space. The incentive translated into $2,590 per job, which compares favourably to the Heritage Conservation Tax Credit offered to Air Canada in 1998 for the Carlton Call Centre.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That Council approve an Economic Incentive Package estimated at $3.11 million over a maximum thirteen year period (2002 - 2014) as a contribution towards the CanWest Global Communications Corporation expansion within Winnipeg.

II. That Council approve the use of the Economic Development Investment Reserve as the source of the project funding, and that the necessary funds, as required by such approval, be budgeted for within the 2002 through 2014 current budgets as a line item to cover such support.

III. That the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to finalize and approve the terms and conditions of all agreements required to implement matters set out within the administrative proposal.

IV. That Council approve the reallocation of any necessary funds from the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund to the Economic Development Investment Reserve, and that, subject to s. 338 of The City of Winnipeg Act, the CAO be delegated authority to make the necessary transfers.

V. That the Proper Officers of the City to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Adopted by consent.

REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED JUNE 6, 2001

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated June 6, 2001, was considered.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the Consent Agenda, Clause 1, be adopted.

Carried.

606 - Pursuant to The Municipal Council Conflict of Interest Act, Councillor Lazarenko advised that he would refrain from entering the discussion and from voting on Clause 1, due to his involvement with the Ukrainian National Federation Club, and left the Chamber.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clause 1, was put and declared carried.

Expenditure from the Land Dedication Reserve Fund – Ukrainian National Federation Club of Manitoba Ltd., - Lord Selkirk – West Kildonan Community
File EP-2 (Vol. 28)

607 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee concurred in the allocation of $35,000.00 from the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee Land Dedication Reserve Fund to assist with the building repair and upgrading project.

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the above and recommends that funds in the amount of $35,000.00 be approved from the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee Reserve Fund for the project.

Adopted by consent.

(See Minute No. 606 for disclosure of conflict by Councillor Lazarenko)

Councillor Lazarenko returned to the Chamber.

REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED JUNE 13, 2001

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated June 13, 2001, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3 and 4, be adopted.

Councillor Eadie requested that Clause 1 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Councillor Clement requested that Clause 3 be pulled from the consent agenda.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clauses 2 and 4, was put and declared carried.

Delegation of Authority to Set Advertising Fees, to Approve Advertising and to Execute Agreements for Advertising
File GC-11 (Vol. 7)

608 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that Council approval is required to delegate to the Chief Administrative Officer the authority to set advertising fees, to approve advertising and to execute agreements for advertising.

Council has the authority to waive the requirements of the Policy on Purchasing Procedures and the Disposal of Surplus Supplies.

For the purposes of this report, advertising refers to the solicitation of advertisement space by the Community Services Department to potential advertisers for a predetermined fee. A brief description of the proposed Community Services Department advertising initiatives including opportunities at civic pools and arenas, on civic equipment in arenas and pools, and in publications such as the Leisure Guide is provided. Next, an analysis of advertising issues is presented. Issues analyzed include benefits, business plan requirements, delegation of authority, purchasing policy implications, pricing, fairness, contracts, aesthetics and morals, and financial impact.

DESCRIPTION OF ADVERTISING INITIATIVES

The Community Services Department intends to sell advertising space at civic aquatic facilities, civic arenas, and on civic equipment such as the Mobile Skate Park, self-propelled ice resurfacers and score clocks. The implementation of most of these initiatives will include a partnership with the Public Works Department such that installation and removal fees will be transferred to the Public Works Department. A brief description of each initiative is provided below:

Civic Aquatic Facilities

A comprehensive market analysis and feasibility analysis has been completed for this initiative. Initially, due to demand, Pan Am Pool and Bonivital Pool will be targeted. Sixty-one wall board and banner spaces will be available in the main pool facility, main entrance area, and change rooms of Pan Am Pool. Nine wall board advertising spaces will be designated to the main pool area of Bonivital Pool.

Depending upon the success of this initiative, other advertising opportunities may be explored including the following:

- advertising space in the kiddies and training pools at Pan Pam Pool
- advertising space at other civic pools
- advertising space on the walls and floor of the basins of civic pools

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In order to maximize returns (with existing resources), these pool facility advertising opportunities will be sold by the Community Services Department, rather than by public solicitation.

Civic Arena Facilities

A comprehensive market analysis and feasibility study of advertising space at civic arenas will be completed during the summer of 2001. Potential advertising space will include wallboard, rink board, and ice signs (i.e., center ice) opportunities. Depending upon the market analysis and feasibility study and resources available, either the Community Services Department will sell the advertising and/or an intermediary will be contracted. If the intermediary option is chosen, a public solicitation similar to the Request for Proposal for the advertising on City buses would be issued.

Community Services Department Leisure Guide

Various print advertising opportunities are available in the Community Services Leisure Guide. The Community Services Department currently has an established client base and therefore will continue to sell advertising space in the Leisure Guide rather than using an intermediary.

Civic Equipment (i.e., Mobile Skate Park and Civic self-propelled ice resurfacers)

Advertising spaces will be made available on various types of civic equipment including the Community Services Department Mobile Skate Park. Other opportunities that will be explored include advertising on civic self-propelled ice resurfacers and score clocks. Depending upon the market analysis and feasibility study and the resources available, these advertising opportunities may be sold by Community Services Department and/or contracted to an intermediary. If the intermediary option is chosen a public solicitation similar to the Request for Proposal for the advertising on City buses would be issued.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES

Benefits

The benefits of selling advertisement space at civic facilities, on civic equipment and in the Leisure Guide include the following:

- increased incremental net cash flows
- advertising exposure opportunities for community organizations and businesses
- positive perception from the business community

Community Services Department 2001 – 2003 Business Plan

The Community Services Department 2001 – 2003 Business Plan includes the strategy of enhanced advertising initiatives. Associated revenue targets from selling advertising space in civic aquatic facilities and arenas, on civic arena and pool equipment and in the Leisure Guide include the following:

- $111,000 in 2001
- $162,000 in 2002
- $162,000 in 2003

Delegation of Authority to Set Advertising Fees, to Approve Advertising and to Execute Agreements for Advertising

Legal Services has indicated that the City of Winnipeg Council currently has authority over this type of advertising and any associated fee schedules pursuant to its powers to operate and manage services, buildings, structures, parks and facilities. Section 43(1) of The City of Winnipeg Act, provides that the City Council of Winnipeg shall by by-law establish and maintain the City's administrative structure and subject to Section 105 of The City of Winnipeg Act, may by by-law delegate any of its administrative powers, duties or functions to an employee.

Due to the potential number of advertising contracts, delegation of authority to the Chief Administrative Officer to set advertising fees and to approve and sign advertising contracts, is recommended.

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By-law No. 7100/97, as amended, is the Organizational By-law for the City. Section 3(1)(c) provides that Council is the final authority on "the fixing of prices, rates, fees and charges for all civic services and facilities, except as specifically delegated under this by-law" and Section 26(16) provides "the Chief Administrative Officer shall exercise such other powers and carry out such other duties as are prescribed by The City of Winnipeg Act or delegated by by-law or resolution by Council."

An amendment to By-law No. 7100/97 would be required to permit and authorize the delegation of authority to the Chief Administrative Officer to set the fees for the advertising contemplated by this report. The delegation of authority to the Chief Administrative Officer to approve the advertising itself may be by resolution.

By-law No. 7367/99 is the "by-law to delegate the execution of certain documents, instruments and agreements and to amend the Cemetery By-law No. 1996/78". That by-law authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer, or designate in writing, to execute certain agreements and documents, but does not authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to sign the type of advertising contracts contemplated by this report, and accordingly would need to be amended.

Implications on the Policy on Purchasing Procedures and the Disposal of Surplus Supplies

Materials Management has indicated that the solicitation of advertising at selected facilities is covered by the Policy on Purchasing Procedures and the Disposal of Surplus Supplies. Furthermore, in order to solicit advertising at selected City facilities, on equipment, and in publications, Materials Management has indicated that Council has the authority to waive the requirements of the Policy on Purchasing Procedures and the Disposal of Surplus Supplies.

Pricing

In order to determine fee schedules for advertising, comprehensive market research has been and will be conducted. For example, the following market determinants of pricing (where applicable and available) will be analyzed:

- costs
- other organizations' fees
- user groups (i.e., for profit/non-profit or facility user)
- space size
- space location within a facility
- type of space (i.e., wallboard, rink board, banner, etc.)
- facility advertising value
- reach
- potential demand
- number of advertising spaces purchased
- other advertising media

Standardized fee schedules will be developed in order to ensure pricing fairness and submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer for approval.

Fairness

Prior to a new advertising initiative being implemented, systems will be established in order to ensure that potential advertisers have equal opportunity to advertising space.

Contracts

All advertisers intending to participate in the pool facility, arena facility and equipment advertising initiatives will be required to sign a standardized contract prepared by Legal Services. Issues addressed in the standardized contract will include rights, advertising standards, exclusivity, term consideration, hours of operation, contractor's responsibilities, City's responsibilities, warranties and representation, vandalism, indemnity, events of default, relationship of the parties, modification of agreement, notice, assignment, waiver, disputes and other general matters.

Aesthetics and Morals

The standardized contract will require an advertiser to submit a colour sample of the proposed advertisement to the contract administrator for approval by the Chief Administrative Officer, or her delegate. In order to preserve the

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aesthetic and historical integrity of civic facilities, advertising will be required to be tasteful and moral, and generally, will be in accordance with The Canadian Code of Advertising Standards. Furthermore, advertising capacity will be determined in a manner that prevents advertising clutter.

There is no direct financial impact, though the streamlined process recommended will help the Community Services Department to achieve its budgeted revenue targets.

On June 5, 2001, the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues considered report dated May 23, 2001, from the Acting Director of Community Services with respect to the above noted matter and passed the following motion with respect thereto, namely:

"That the recommendations be concurred in, and same be forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee for favourable consideration."

The Executive Policy Committee concurs with the administrative recommendations and recommends:

I. That the authority to:
   a) set advertising fees;
   b) approve advertising:
      - at City pools;
      - at City owned and operated arenas;
      - on the City's mobile skate park;
      - on equipment in civic arena and pool facilities; and
      - in publications produced by the Community Services Department, including but not limited to the Leisure Guide; and,
   c) execute agreements for such advertising:

   be delegated to the Chief Administrative Officer.

II. That the solicitation of advertising at City pools, at City owned and operated arenas, on the City's mobile skate park, on equipment used in civic arena and pool facilities, and in publications produced by the Community Services Department, be declared exempt from the Policy on Purchasing Procedures and the Disposal of Surplus Supplies

III. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary amending by-laws.

IV. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Move by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

In amendment,

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

THAT the clause be filed inasmuch as the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services has submitted Clause 7 of its Report dated June 4, 2001, which was considered by the Executive Policy Committee on June 13, 2001, pertaining to this matter.

The motion that the clause be filed, was put and declared carried.

Economic Development Strategy
File G-8 (Vol. 6)

609 - 2. On June 13, 2001, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion, namely:

WHEREAS City Council has identified economic development as one of its priorities and there is no comprehensive City of Winnipeg economic development policy or strategy currently in place;

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AND WHEREAS an economic development policy which fuels a sustainable local economy is critical for enhancing business, investment opportunities, and quality employment for present and future generations;

AND WHEREAS the Homegrown Economic Development Strategy provides a framework for the City of Winnipeg's economic development initiatives and focuses on retaining and expanding existing firms in Winnipeg and, in particular, on three priorities:

- *Growing Local Enterprise and Expanding Exports*
- *Closing the Skills Gap and Enhancing Immigration*
- *Creating an Enabling and Competitive Municipal Government;*

AND WHEREAS on July 5, 2000, the Executive Policy Committee approved in principle an earlier version of the Homegrown Economic Development Strategy;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor has hosted three economic development strategy consultations, involving key stakeholders and community leaders, to review previous drafts of the Homegrown Economic Development Strategy, resulting in meaningful dialogue and contributions to the Homegrown Economic Development Strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Homegrown Economic Development Strategy as outlined on Appendix "A" be approved and forwarded to Council for approval;

and submits same to Council for favourable consideration.

Adopted by consent.

Plan Winnipeg By-law No. 7630/2000 – Municipal Board Hearings
File EP-1.1 (PW) (Vol. 14)

610 - 3. On June 13, 2001, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion, namely:

WHEREAS The Municipal Board Hearings will commence June 26, 2001 and the City of Winnipeg must be prepared to present its position on Plan Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Chairperson of the Plan Winnipeg Steering Committee, Councillor Dan Vandal, and/or his designate, be authorized to represent the City at the Municipal Board hearings into proposed Plan Winnipeg By-law No. 7360/2000, with the assistance and support of members of the administration; and

2. That the June 28, 2001 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Development be rescheduled to July 5, 2001;

and submits same to Council for favourable consideration.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Recommendations for Citizen Equity Committee Membership
File GC-7 (Vol. 30)

611 - 4. On March 21, 2001, Council adopted Clause 12 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 14, 2001, approving the creation of the Citizen Equity Committee (CEC) and the Citizen Outreach Equity Office (COEC). Membership of the Committee is comprised of the Mayor, two City Councillors,

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated June 13, 2001

the City's Chief Administrative Officer, and between seven and nine individuals from target group communities, with the broadest possible representation.

The mandate of the Citizen Equity Committee is:

1. To work in an advisory capacity to Winnipeg City Council, in order to advocate for systemic values of diversity and equity.

2. To provide an avenue of communication and support for community concerns with regard to equity and diversity issues as they impact on City policies, procedures and services.

3. To hold an annual public forum on diversity issues to elicit feedback from community members.

4. To provide a system of public accountability with regard to equity and diversity objectives, and to produce an annual report with regard to equity and diversity programs within the City's jurisdiction.

5. To review and monitor the special needs of youth and seniors to ensure their participation in the community.

6. To continue to monitor existing and new City policies on services, appointments and hiring, including all City boards, committees and agencies, and to make recommendations, as required, that will enable City government to better reflect the diversity of the City in the face of its workforce.

7. To inform the Mayor and City Council as to emerging issues and provide advice through summaries with appropriate support information.

8. To act with the Citizen Outreach Equity Office to disseminate relevant information between community groups, concerned individuals and the City of Winnipeg.

9. To meet with the City of Winnipeg Access Advisory Committee on an annual basis, to review the ongoing implementation of equity programs, and to review annual reports.

Notice of Citizen Equity Committee Vacant Positions was placed in the Community, Ethnic and local newspapers, and interested persons were requested to apply prior to April 27, 2001.

The Selection Committee has reviewed the resumes for membership on the Citizen Equity Committee and recommends that the following persons be appointed to the Citizen Equity Committee, namely:

Jocelyn Greenwood, Chair	Melissa Busch	Rosalinda Natividad-Canterveros
Larry Pelzer	Cecilia Castro-Greenberg	Garbiel J. Dufault
Dr. Shannon McDonald	Virginia Gonzales	Stacey Soldier

The Executive Policy Committee has ratified the recommendations of the Selection Committee and submits these appointments to Council for adoption for an 18 month term to expire on December 31, 2002.

Adopted by consent.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated May 9, 2001, was considered.

2001 Local Improvement Charges for Ornamental Street Lighting, Ornamental Lane Lighting and Wood Pole Lane Lighting as Established by By-law No. 98/72

Files H (Vol. 9), SC-6 (Vol. 5), SL-1 (Vol. 21)

612 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that amendments to Local Improvement rates require the approval of the Chief Administrative Officer and Council.

Local Improvement Capital Projects are financed partly by a direct levy on the properties benefited (Property Owner's Share) and partly by a mill rate levy over the City-at-large (City's Share). The direct levy is based on the Local Improvement Charges and the size of their property. Any costs above what is collected from the benefiting property owners are paid by the City-at-large, with the City paying no more than 4/7 (four/sevenths) of the total cost of each project.

Winnipeg Hydro, in consultation with Manitoba Hydro, conducted a review of the costs and charges established by By-law No. 98/72. The result of the review indicates that the assessment for Ornamental Street Lighting, Ornamental Lane Lighting and Wood Pole Lane Lighting should be increased. There have been no increases since 1995 for Ornamental Street Lighting and both Ornamental and Wood Pole Lane Lighting.

A financial impact statement has not been prepared because there is no way to measure the financial impact of increasing the local improvement rate. Increasing the rate means that the City will not incur any local cost beyond the 4/7 maximum cost requirement of The City of Winnipeg Act. With the proposed levy rate increases, the recovery rate for Ornamental Street Lighting, Ornamental Lane Lighting, and Wood Pole Lane Lighting will be approximately equal to the frontage foot cost of installing the above by Local Improvement.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the charges to the benefiting property owners for ornamental street lighting, ornamental lane lighting, and wood pole lane lighting be revised as follows:

Ornamental Street Lighting - no change.

Ornamental Lane Lighting - to increment by $5.43 from $5.50 to $10.93 for each foot of frontage. A 98.7% increase.

Wood Pole Lane Lighting - to increment by $0.05 from $1.20 to $1.25 for each foot of frontage. A 25% increase.

II. That the new rates become effective upon adoption by Council and shall apply to proposed Local Improvement projects intended to be advertised thereafter.

III. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be requested to prepare the necessary amending by-law in accordance with the foregoing.

IV. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

On April 26, 2001, Council referred the matter back to the Executive Policy Committee for further consideration.

Unfinished Business - Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated May 9, 2001 (continued)

On May 9, 2001, the Executive Policy Committee reconsidered the above matter, concurred in the recommendations noted above, and resubmits same to Council for favourable consideration.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
Adoption of the clause.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS Council, on May 23, 2001, laid over Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated May 9, 2001, "2001 Local Improvement Levy Rates for Ornamental Lane Lighting", in order for the Administration to provide additional information on the proposed increases;

AND WHEREAS the Administration has advised Members of Council that the 2001 Local Improvement Levy Rate increase for wood pole lane lighting was reported in error and should have been increased 4.2%, not 25% as shown in the clause;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Recommendation No. I be amended by deleting the reference to a "25% increase" and replacing it with "4.2% increase."

The amendment was put and declared carried.

The motion for the adoption of the clause, as amended, was put and declared carried.

The Speaker Councillor O'Shaughnessy asked to be recorded as having voted against the clause, as amended, in accordance with Rule 50.7 of the Procedure By-law.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

613 - WHEREAS numerous homeowners in older neighbourhoods incur the cost of having tree roots removed from their sewer lines on more than one occasion annually;

AND WHEREAS the trees blocking these lines are on public boulevards;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg currently refunds a maximum of $50.00 annually;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg refund $50.00 to homeowners on each occasion they incur the cost of cleaning tree roots from their sewer lines.

Automatic Referral to the Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

614 - Councillor Smith referred to the MWCRP, a provincial/City program, now renamed Building Communities, and questioned if the City was holding up the program from being announced.

His Worship Mayor Murray noted that the City had asked for an across the board agreement with the Province on a range of issues relating to financing and giving the City more permissive legislation to raise revenues and to cut expenditures. He cited that the Province has repeatedly come forward with agreements that would require the City to spend more money. His Worship responded that the City was not holding up the program, but stated simply, that the money wasn't there.

Councillor Steek referred to Clause 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated May 30, 2001, which stated that the fund manager would be responsible to identify actual credits and payments required to Can West, and questioned if cash payments were involved in this incentive transaction with CanWest.

His Worship noted that there would be contributions made for a portion of the investment which partially falls under the economic development criteria. He stated that if the Councillor requested greater detail, he would take the question under advisement.

Councillor Steek made reference to the MWCRP program and noted that the Daniel McIntyre/Wolseley and St. Boniface communities had been earmarked for funds for the years 2001 and 2002, and questioned why additional funds would be required, given that monies had been allocated in the capital budget.

His Worship advised that there were about 17 requests which were passed by Council before the Province. He noted that the Province had advanced certain projects without agreeing to the overall package and further advised that the City's intention was to complete the negotiations on the overall package so that the City could afford new programs, but unless those things come forward as a package, the City would not have the revenues to sustain additional programming.

Councillor Steek questioned whether the smoking issue would be before Council in July, to which His Worship responded in the affirmative.

Councillor Clement questioned if there had been any response from Moody's credit rating agency in New York about the City's bond rating, and also questioned if it was true that with this bond rating change, the City now had the strongest bond rating measure in its history.

His Worship advised that the City had its AA credit rating restored by Moody's and that it was one of the strongest bond rating records that the City had ever had. He also advised that the City received a straight AA rating from all three credit rating agencies.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph made reference to the "Home Grown Economic Strategy for Winnipeg" and questioned if Tourism Winnipeg would play a major role in the City's Economic Development.

His Worship noted that there were two different issues:- tourism, a sector of the economy and Tourism Winnipeg, an agency. He advised that the City lacked an investors bureau or visitors bureau, but had convention and tourism. He suggested that Council and the community should look at which model would be best suited to enhance both convention and tourism business and whether additional agencies were required.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph questioned how the Mayor would address the absence of the role that tourism played in economic development.

His Worship noted that tourism was extremely important and felt that Winnipeg was not keeping up with other cities. His Worship advised that Winnipeg had not tapped into the advantages it has and suggested a more aggressive comprehensive marketing strategy a generation beyond tourism.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph questioned if the Mayor was aware that the City of Winnipeg allocated less money for Tourism Winnipeg, than both the City of Saskatoon and the City of Grand Forks.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued)

His Worship responded that the City of Winnipeg spends less per capita on city services than any city in Canada other than Saskatoon, which meant in his view, that Winnipeg has the most efficient municipal government. He suggested taking a more comprehensive strategy, where tourism wasn't treated in isolation.

Councillor Steek noted that there was $7 million in the capital budget over the next five years for the neighborhoods of Wolseley, Daniel McIntyre and St. Boniface and questioned why it was not being spent.

His Worship reiterated his previous response that there were agreements with the Province and that there were certain assumptions about revenues.

Councillor Steek questioned when the Mayor would call a Council seminar to provide information on negotiations with the Province to which His Worship responded that he would like to do it quite soon.

Councillor Smith advised that it had been over two years since negotiations had stated on the MWCRP program and questioned if they would be completed within the next year.

His Worship responded that the City was still in negotiations with the Province on the matter.