Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – November 9, 2005

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Proposed Removal of School Tax Levies
File FL-3

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 1, 2005, the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That City Council support the Association of Manitoba Municipalities in its lobbying efforts and call on the Provincial Government to develop a taxation model that removes school tax levies from all properties in the City of Winnipeg.

2. That the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, request an immediate meeting with the Cabinet of the Provincial Government, and invite all members of City Council to attend, in order to directly lobby the provincial decision makers on the removal of school tax levies.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 1, 2005, the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee passed the following motion, namely:

> WHEREAS school taxes of various School Divisions have risen on average above the rate of inflation;
>
> AND WHEREAS any progress made by the City of Winnipeg on property tax freezes or tax cuts has created 'tax room', allowing school boards to raise property taxes which has effectively eliminated any potential tax savings for property owners;
>
> AND WHEREAS the system of education and its funding is a Provincial responsibility;
>
> AND WHEREAS at the 2004 Annual Convention of the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM), members adopted the following motion: "Therefore be it resolved that the AMM lobby the Provincial Government to develop a taxation model that removes school tax levies from all properties in the Province of Manitoba.";
>
> AND WHEREAS the recent provincial throne speech gave little to no details on any plans to reduce or eliminate school taxes from the property tax bill;
>
> THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council support the Association of Manitoba Municipalities in its lobbying efforts and call on the Provincial Government to develop a taxation model that removes school tax levies from all properties in the City of Winnipeg;
>
> BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, on behalf of City Council, request an immediate meeting with the Cabinet of the Provincial Government, and invite all members of City Council to attend, in order to directly lobby the provincial decision makers on this important matter,

and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee.