REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED APRIL 5, 2000

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated April 5, 2000, was considered clause by clause.

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

Councillor Lazarenko requested that Clause 3 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1 and 2, was put and declared carried.

Proposed Closing of Part of Elgin Avenue
East of Bertha Street File DAC 2/99

493 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that in September of 1998, 3870902 Manitoba Limited offered to purchase the portion of Elgin Avenue shown as "Proposed Closing" on Schedule "A".

3870902 Manitoba Limited intends to incorporate the closed street into the planned expansion of the parking area south of the land identified as "Applicant's Property" on Schedule "A".

All affected City Departments and public utilities have reviewed the application. There are no administrative objections to closing the street. This proposal was approved by the City Centre Community Committee at its public meeting held on October 12, 1999, subject to the following condition:

> "That the Chief Zoning Officer, Development and Inspections Division, Property and Development Services Department, confirm that a Zoning Variance is not required, and, that if it is determined that a Variance is required because the street closing will create a land locked site, the necessary variance be obtained prior to approval of the street closing by the Executive Policy Committee."

The Chief Zoning Officer has confirmed that the street closing will not create a land locked site and that no variance is required.

This report is submitted in accordance with the provisions of By-law No. 7325/98, a by-law to amend current procedures to allow certain street opening and closing applications to be submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for report to Council without the requirement to be reviewed by a Standing Policy Committee.

The following criteria must be met before the authority given in the by-law may be exercised:

1. The proposed closing must have been addressed at a public meeting and received approval from the Committee before which the public meeting took place.
2. The proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of Public Works.
3. The proposed closing must have been submitted to all affected City Departments and public utilities with no objections having been received.
4. Any conditions regarding engineering aspects (i.e. relocation of facilities) must have been mutually agreed to.
5. The terms and conditions of any easement agreements created by the proposed closing and sale must have been addressed.
6. The proposed closing must have been approved by the affected property owner(s).
7. The terms and conditions of any agreements concerning the proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of the department that requested the closing and either the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, or the Director of Planning, Property and Development Services, as is appropriate.

All of these criteria have been met.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 5, 2000

The street must be closed before it can be transferred to the applicant. Title to all public rights-of-way in Manitoba is vested in the name of the Crown. The registration in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office of a closing by-law removes the public right-of-way status from the land and vests the ownership of the property in the City's name.

The City is not entitled to dispose of the land until this has been done.

In April of 1999, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development approved the sale of the street to 3870902 Manitoba Limited for $18,439.00. All of the costs associated with this closing are to be borne by the applicant.

The closing of public streets requires a by-law pursuant to Section 495 of The City of Winnipeg Act.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the City Solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law for submission to Council to effect the street closing in accordance with Schedule "A" Misc. Plan No. 10533/1.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachment referred to in the above clause is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Proposed Opening and Closing of Public Lanes South of Portage Avenue, west of Sherbrook Street File DAOC 4/99

494 - 2. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that in August of 1999, McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited offered to purchase the portion of the public lane shown as "Proposed Lane Closing" on Schedule "A".

McDonald's intends to incorporate the closed lane into the restaurant site shown on Schedule "A". McDonald's will dedicate and construct an alternate lane, shown as "Proposed Lane Opening" on Schedule "A", to replace the closed lane.

All affected City Departments and public utilities have reviewed the application. There are no administrative objections to the lane opening and closing. This proposal was approved by the City Centre Community Committee at its public meeting held on October 12, 1999.

This report is submitted in accordance with the provisions of By-law No. 7325/98, a by-law to amend current procedures to allow certain street opening and closing applications to be submitted to the Executive Policy Committee for report to Council without the requirement to be reviewed by a Standing Policy Committee.

The following criteria must be met before the authority given in the by-law may be exercised:

OPENINGS

1. The proposed opening and acquisition must have been approved by the Director of Public Works.
2. The proposed opening must have been submitted to all affected City Departments and public utilities with no objections having been received.
3. Any conditions regarding engineering aspects (i.e. relocation of facilities) must have been mutually agreed to.
4. The affected property owner(s) must have agreed to the terms and conditions of the acquisition of the land required for the proposed opening.
5. The terms and conditions of any agreements concerning the proposed opening and acquisition must have been approved by the Director of the department that requested the opening and either the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, or the Director of Planning, Property and Development Services as is appropriate.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 5, 2000

CLOSINGS

1. The proposed closing must have been addressed at a public meeting and received approval from the Committee before which the public meeting took place.
2. The proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of Public Works.
3. The proposed closing must have been submitted to all affected City Departments and public utilities with no objections having been received.
4. Any conditions regarding engineering aspects (i.e. relocation of facilities) must have been mutually agreed to.
5. The terms and conditions of any easement agreements created by the proposed closing and sale must have been addressed.
6. The proposed closing must have been approved by the affected property owner(s).
7. The terms and conditions of any agreements concerning the proposed closing and sale must have been approved by the Director of the department that requested the closing and either the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, or the Director of Planning, Property and Development Services, as is appropriate.

All of these criteria have been met.

The lane must be closed before it can be transferred to the applicant. Title to all public rights-of-way in Manitoba is vested in the name of the Crown. The registration in the Winnipeg Land Titles Office of a lane closing by-law removes the public right-of-way status from the land and vests the ownership of the property in the City's name. The City is not entitled to dispose of the land until this has been done.

The area of the lane being opened is greater than the area of the lane being closed. In accordance with City policy, the closed lane will be transferred to the applicant, McDonald's Restaurants of Canada Limited, for the nominal sum of $1.00. All of the costs associated with this opening and closing are to be borne by the applicant.

The opening and closing of public lanes requires a by-law pursuant to Section 495 of The City of Winnipeg Act.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the City Solicitor be instructed to prepare the necessary by-law for submission to Council to effect the lane opening and closing in accordance with Schedule "A" Misc. Plan No. 10722.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachment referred to in the above clause is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Discussions with the Provincial Government to Investigate the Nature and Cause of the Gas Price Increases
File GG-2.2 (Vol. 11)

495 - 3. On March 22, 2000, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee, under Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law No. 5400/90:

Moved by Councillor Lazarenko,
Seconded by Councillor Smith,

WHEREAS since the end of January 2000, gasoline prices in the City of Winnipeg have risen from 61.5 cents a litre to 71.5 cents a litre or more;

AND WHEREAS Statistics Canada has reported that fuel prices in February were up 63.6%, the largest annual increase on record;

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 5, 2000

AND WHEREAS the 2000 Preliminary Estimates include the following budget for Account Number 553301, Motive Fuels and Lubricants:

Tax-supported	*$1.53M*
Utilities	*6.94M (of this $4.8M is for Transit)*

Total	*$8.47M*

AND WHEREAS Council will have little choice but to pass on any increased cost to City taxpayers through increased taxes, fees, charges and transit fares;

AND WHEREAS the Public Utilities Board has the ability and section 107 of the Public Utilities Board Act states in part:

> *The board may perform duties assigned to it*
>
> *(a) by Act or resolution of the Legislature;*
> *(b) by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council;*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that through its Secretariat of Intergovernmental Affairs, Council enter into discussions with the Provincial Government on the possibility of directing the Public Utilities Board to investigate and report on the nature and cause of the gas price increase, its effect on Provincial and City operations and on Manitobans in general, and to consider and to recommend possible remedies.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends that the motion be filed.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, that the clause be filed be adopted.

The motion to file the clause was put.

Councillor Lazarenko called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Steek, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Timm-Rudolph, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 10

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Golden and Smith. 3

and the motion for the adoption of the clause was declared carried.

REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED APRIL 12, 2000

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated April 12, 2000, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3,4 and 5, be adopted.

Councillor Steek requested that Clause 2 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph requested that Clause 3 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,4 and 5, was put and declared carried.

Annual Report to Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs regarding compliance with Part 3 of The City of Winnipeg Act - "Official Languages of Municipal Services" File GL-5.7 (Vol. 6)

496 - 1. Part 3 of The City of Winnipeg Act (87.13) requires that:

"The council shall annually, not later than four months after the end of the fiscal year of the city, make a report in English and French to the minister respecting the compliance by the city with its obligations under this Part and that report shall include particulars of any complaints under this Part filed with the ombudsman and the disposition of each of those complaints."

In June 1992, the Province of Manitoba passed Bill 78 amending Part 3 of The City of Winnipeg Act. Part 3 was proclaimed effective May 1, 1994. As required under the new law, a French Language Services Coordinator was appointed in September, 1993.

Pursuant to The City of Winnipeg Act requirements, Council, in 1994, passed By-law No. 6402/94, being its first French language services by-law. On July 19, 1999, Council adopted By-law No. 7409/99 (Appendix “C”), to replace By-law No. 6402/94. Council also adopted a revised Statement of Policy on French Language Services at that time.

The extent of the City's compliance with the Act to date is outlined in Appendix “A”. A letter from the Société franco-manitobaine (SFM) with their views on the City’s progress is outlined in Appendix “B”.

There is no financial impact.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That Council receive the report as information and refer it to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs by the end of April 2000, in accordance with Part 3 of The City of Winnipeg Act.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachments referred to in the above clause are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

Winnipeg Hydro Study File H (Vol. 8)

497 - 2. In March of 1997, City Council adopted the Reshaping Our Civic Government report which described a series of initiatives aimed at addressing City Council's priority – Improving our Local Government. Significant among those initiatives was a directive to the administration to examine the options and issues related to the future of Winnipeg Hydro.

CIBC World Markets and Ernst & Young were engaged to prepare a report providing "an analysis of the strategic options available to the City in regards to its ownership of Winnipeg Hydro." Among these options to consider were:

i) the status quo;
ii) a recapitalization of Winnipeg Hydro;
iii) a merger or sale of all or a part interest of Winnipeg Hydro;
iv) a sale of a component business (generation, transmission or distribution);
v) a public offering.

On March 24, 1999 Council approved updating the original study to reflect the current hydro electric environment and to look at and report on recent developments in the industry.

Copy of the City of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Hydro Review of Winnipeg Hydro and Appendices dated February 2000, prepared by Ernst & Young and CIBC World Markets are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

The role of CIBC World Markets and Ernst & Young was to conduct a review which would provide:

a) an overview of the electricity industry, and an assessment of the potential impact of recent developments on Winnipeg Hydro;

b) an overview assessment of the operations, financial condition and outlook for Winnipeg Hydro, an examination of Winnipeg Hydro's strengths and weaknesses, and its key financial issues;

c) an analysis of strategic options available to the City in regards to its ownership of Winnipeg Hydro;

d) a valuation analysis of the alternatives;

e) advice on the strategic issues regarding valuation;

f) an overview of the step involved in the merger or sale of the City's interest; and

g) advice on the marketing aspects of any option involving a public offering of securities.

A summary of some of what is contained in the consultants report on these issues as follows:

a) In the past fifteen years, there have been substantial changes to how the electric industry is structured, owned and regulated. Recent changes within Manitoba include legislative changes which open the Province to wholesale competition, but not to retail competition. Manitoba Hydro offers some of the lowest electric utility rates in North America and therefore, other than Winnipeg Hydro's own generation, cheaper sources of power are not likely alternatives for Winnipeg Hydro.

b) Winnipeg Hydro is a reliable utility offering its customers affordable electricity. Significant dividends have been earned by the City. Winnipeg Hydro's distribution system is reliable and responsive to its customer needs.

c) The value of Winnipeg Hydro is based upon the expected cash flow generated by the business. The City participates in this cash flow through a receipt of a dividend stream and the retention of its interest in the ongoing business.

d) A merger with or sale to a strategic partner may allow the City to realize a premium if the particular purchaser could derive cost synergies or increased revenues or strategically place it to benefit from deregulation of the energy services industry in Canada.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

e) A successful divestiture of Winnipeg Hydro requires a process which will achieve the City's financial and Winnipeg Hydro's operational objectives and maximize the likelihood of a successful closing.

f) Like a private sale, the timetable for a public offering will be primarily determined by the legislative changes, financial and operational restructuring, and the regulatory approvals necessary to privatize Winnipeg Hydro. The report offers advice on the marketing aspects of a public offering.

It is important to note that Winnipeg Hydro's generation facilities produce only part of the annual electricity requirements of the utility. The remaining power is supplied by Manitoba Hydro. The cost of this power is determined by the Power Agreement that exists between Manitoba Hydro and Winnipeg Hydro. The Power Agreement was established in the 1950s and the current agreement has not changed substantially since then. The existing Power Agreement expired on March 31, 2000 and will need to be renegotiated.

There is a steady stream of dividends available from Winnipeg Hydro and upgrading of the Pointe du Bois facility will render the utility more valuable in the future. The pace of the Straflo upgrade will be dependent upon the conclusion of the Power Agreement negotiations with Manitoba Hydro.

The Administration has been asked to report to Council on the results of the study of Winnipeg Hydro which was undertaken at Council's direction.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the City continue to own and operate Winnipeg Hydro.

II. That the dividend stream to the City from Winnipeg Hydro be stabilized at current levels.

III. That no decision be made on the pace of the Straflo upgrade until the Power Agreement with Manitoba Hydro is concluded.

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

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

Moved by Councillor Prystanski,
That the clause be laid over to the next meeting of Council.

The motion to lay the clause over to the next meeting of Council was put.

The Speaker called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Lazarenko, Golden, Prystanski, Steek, Timm-Rudolph and O'Shaughnessy. 6

Nay: Councillors Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Smith, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie and His Worship Mayor Murray. 10

and the motion to lay the clause over to the next meeting of Council was declared lost.

The Speaker called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko, to the Chair in order to participate in the debate.

The motion for the adoption of the clause was put.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

Councillor Smith called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Golden, Lubosch, Prystanski, Smith, Steek, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Timm-Rudolph, Vandal, Eadie and His Worship Mayor Murray. 14

Nay: Councillor Lazarenko. 1

and the motion for the adoption of the clause was declared carried.

Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund and the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program

Files EP-1.2.3 (Vol. 2), G-3 (Vol. 10), G-3.1.5 (Vol. 2)

498 - 3. On April 30, 1997, Council established the Gail Parvin Hammerquist By-law No. 7040/97 and on February 25, 1998, Council established the Heritage Conservation Tax Credit By-law No. 7224/98 (amended by By-law No. 7155/98). On May 27, 1998, Council established the Downtown Heritage Tax Credit Program By-law No. 7200/98.

On May 13, 1999, Council amended and adopted the CentreVenture - Downtown Revitalization Report and its companion, CentreVenture: A New Approach to Downtown Revitalization Report, dated May 5, 1999. City Council endorsed the creation of CentreVenture Development Corporation to provide leadership in creating and sustaining business opportunities and economic growth in downtown Winnipeg.

On July 9, 1999, CentreVenture Development Corporation was duly incorporated under the laws of the Province of Manitoba.

On September 24, 1999, the CentreVenture Board adopted its Start-Up Business Plan. On Pages 35 and 37 of the Start-Up Business Plan, CentreVenture identified the Downtown Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program and the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund as programs that should be administered by CentreVenture under the Development Bank Function.

On September 29, 1999, Council “endorsed the spirit and intent of CentreVenture’s Start-up Business Plan”.

On March 15, 2000, Council established the Heritage Investment Reserve in accordance with Section 338(1) of The City of Winnipeg Act.

Council created the CentreVenture Development Corporation to facilitate private and public sector investment and development, by aggressively seeking new business, leveraging investment, and partnering with other levels of government. CentreVenture is proceeding in each of these areas by actively marketing Winnipeg to the business and development community, through the provision of gap financing that encourages project initiation, and by lobbying the provincial and federal governments to participate in a unique Urban Tax Credit Program designed to facilitate substantial private investment with minimal risk to public funds. CentreVenture’s Start-Up Business Plan established a goal to either initiate or facilitate $60 million in small to medium-sized redevelopment projects in downtown Winnipeg within three years.

Within the Start-Up Business Plan, CentreVenture recognized the importance of the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund and the Downtown Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program as significant tools to lever private investment.

Following discussions with the administration, on March 1, 2000, CentreVenture sent a communication to Mayor Murray containing two requests that require Council approval:

1) To share with the City of Winnipeg in the approval process of the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Capital and Research Grant Programs.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

The City established the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund (By-law No. 7040/97) to encourage greater investment in the retention, improvement and use of designated buildings. Financing is provided by an annual allocation from the capital budget and a share (5%) of revenues from sales of City-owned real estate. The fund is administered by the City's Planning, Property and Development Department (Designated Officer) and the Historical Buildings Committee.

Grants have been available to assist owners in restoring the heritage character, architectural elements and detailing of their buildings. Support is also available to make the premises more accessible to persons with disabilities. Grants are set at 50% of total approved costs up to a maximum of $25,000. Initial priority has been assigned to projects in the Exchange District and adjacent historic and character areas.

Other initiatives included grants to fund innovative measures to attract new investment, occupants and uses for heritage buildings. Lastly, funds were made available to stimulate basic and analytical research that adds to knowledge about the history of Winnipeg's architectural environment.

The Planning, Property and Development Department has identified a total of $600,000 within the existing Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund (5% of gross land sales) which could be utilized to fund Heritage Programs for the year 2000. In recognition of the downtown development partnership that has been established with CentreVenture, the administration therefore recommends the following:

- That two programs be established within the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund; namely:
  a) the CentreVenture Downtown Heritage Program, to be managed in consultation with CentreVenture and the City's Designated Officer; and,
  b) the City-Wide Heritage Program, to be managed in consultation with the Historic Buildings Committee and the City's Designated Officer.

- That of the total of $600,000 (previously identified), $500,000 be allocated to the CentreVenture Downtown Heritage Program, and that the remaining $100,000 be allocated to the City-Wide Heritage Program for the Year 2000.

- That two initiatives be created within the CentreVenture Downtown Heritage Program, namely:
  - the CentreVenture Capital Grants Initiative; and
  - the CentreVenture Heritage Economic Development Grants Initiative.

- That the amendment to By-law No. 7040/97 as outlined on Schedule "A", enabling these recommendations be approved.

- That Council activate the CentreVenture Downtown Heritage Program through the approval of the appended program criteria and procedures (as outlined on Schedule "B").

- That the City-Wide Heritage Program be activated following Council's approval of the criteria and procedures, which will be the subject of a further report.

Highlights of the proposed by-law amendments are as follows:

a) The existing by-law would be simplified by removing the detailed program criteria and procedures.
b) Future program criteria and procedures would be approved by Council on an annual basis. This would allow the program to remain flexible, while allowing the partners to target the program criteria to priority areas on an annual basis.
c) The proposed replacement by-law for the administration of the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund does not provide for the appeal of decisions by the Designated Officer.
d) In accordance with the intent of this recommendation, the City's Organization By-law No. 7100/97 would be amended to reflect CentreVenture's reporting relationship with the Executive Policy Committee.

2) To have the City of Winnipeg extend the Downtown Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program for a further $2.5 million over the next three years.

Council established the Downtown Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program (By-law No. 7200/98) to encourage and assist in the renovation and improvement of designated structures in the downtown. It was a two-year test program which is due to expire on April 30, 2000.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

The tax credits are calculated on the basis of fifty percent (50%) of the net private investment made in eligible work. The maximum relief available from the program is $250,000 per building. At least a portion of this program was targeted towards significantly underutilized or vacant designated buildings. The maximum possible City exposure under the existing program is $2.5 million in tax credit liability spread up to ten years from the date of approval of the last project.

The exact duration of the commitment and the annual amounts of tax credit expenditures are determined by:

- the amount of approved credits,
- the date that the last credit takes effect,
- the pace of tax credit redemption over the maximum 10-year period,
- whether the credits are fully used by applicants.

The existing program is administered by the Planning, Property and Development Department, on a first-come first-served basis. Although the existing program is fully subscribed with up to 17 projects, the majority of projects have not yet started. Thus an analysis of the program is premature.

Following the detailed review of CentreVenture's request to extend the existing Downtown Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program, it was determined that revision of By-law No. 7200/98 could cause administrative and procedural problems with projects previously approved under the Program. It is therefore recommended that a new by-law and program criteria which creates the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program be established (as outlined in Schedule "C"). This measure would effectively achieve the intent of CentreVenture's request. In keeping with CentreVenture's reporting relationship with the City, the Executive Policy Committee is identified as the Designated Committee for the purposes of administration of this new by-law.

Funding Sources

It is recommended that the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program be funded from the newly established Heritage Investment Reserve. A tax credit is technically a tax expenditure and must therefore appear as a line item expense in the tax-supported budget.

Within the 2000 Current Estimates of the Planning, Property, and Development Department, Council approved $600,000 towards the Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program (the two Council-approved projects under this program are the former Free Press Building and 136 Market Avenue), as well as $500,000 towards the Downtown Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program. It is expected that in the year 2000, no more than $300,000 would flow to approved projects under the Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program, while no more than $150,000 would flow to approved projects under the Downtown Heritage Conservation Program.

Therefore, of the total $1.1 million in budgeted heritage program tax credits, only $450,000 is anticipated to flow in the year 2000, creating a minimum surplus of $650,000 available to be deposited within the Heritage Investment Reserve. An additional estimated amount of up to $2 million from 1999 surpluses will also be available to seed the Heritage Investment Reserve.

Should Council approve the establishment of the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program, new projects would only be eligible for tax credits starting in 2001. Therefore, the Program could be funded out of the Heritage Investment Reserve, with cash flows over a 10-year period beginning in 2001.

Furthermore, the Council-approved 2001 and 2002 current tax-supported estimates contain an additional $1.3 million in heritage funding per year within the Heritage Conservation Tax Credit Program ($800,000 per year), and the Downtown Heritage Tax Credit Program ($500,000 per year).

The administration is currently preparing the necessary funding, policy, and procedures with regard to the Heritage Investment Reserve. Following the funding allocation within the Reserve, the Fund Manager would advise CentreVenture in writing of the available funding for the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program. Should Council approve of this report, the new CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program would have a total of $650,000 in tax credits available for immediate allocation.

CentreVenture believes that the Corporation will be better able than the City to successfully lever these limited public funds against more substantial private investment. This is one of the main reasons for establishing CentreVenture as a catalyst for downtown revitalization.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

Furthermore, CentreVenture has suggested that many of the designated structures within the downtown are currently underutilized or lie vacant, thereby providing very little in the way of municipal or business tax revenues to the City. The Corporation believes that, should these structures be renovated or improved, and put back on the tax rolls in productive use, the City would receive financial and social benefits far in excess of the tax credits utilized as incentives to motivate such development.

Performance Monitoring

The CentreVenture Contribution Agreement requires CentreVenture to publish and present semi-annual reports to the City highlighting its activities, and presenting financial statements for the reporting period. It is expected that the projects initiated from the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program will form a part of CentreVenture's reporting.

The administration is in the process of establishing performance measures whereby the success of downtown investment and improvements will be monitored and analysed.

The $600,000 in funding identified herein is currently available within the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund as administered by the Planning, Property, and Development Department and, as such, there is no further financial commitment necessary.

The additional $650,000 in funding identified herein is currently available to seed the proposed CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program. These funds will be allocated from within the Heritage Investment Reserve. A maximum of $2.5 million over three years will be allocated by the Fund Manager to the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program. There could be no increased financial impact, assuming that the financial limits of the reserve determine the pace and extent of both funding and project approvals.

CentreVenture's requests would require Council approval.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That with regard to the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund, Council approve the following:

a) The amendment of By-law No. 7040/97, as outlined on Schedule "A";
b) A total of $600,000 be directed towards the Fund for the year 2000, of which $500,000 would be allocated towards the CentreVenture Downtown Heritage Program and $100,000 would be allocated to the City-Wide Heritage Program;
c) The activation of the CentreVenture Downtown Heritage Program through the approval of the Program Criteria, as outlined on Schedule "B"; and
d) That the City-Wide Heritage Program be activated upon Council approval of the Program Criteria for the year 2000.

II. That Council approve the establishment of the CentreVenture Heritage Tax Credit Program, and;

a) That the by-law and Program Criteria as outlined in Schedule "C" creating this program be approved;
b) That a maximum of $2.5 million over the next three years be made available;
c) That the funding for the program be provided from the Heritage Investment Reserve as established by Council on March 15, 2000;
d) That the program funding be limited by the ongoing financial capacity of this reserve; and
e) That the program be activated and initially supported with $650,000 available to be issued as tax credits.

III. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachments referred to in the above clause are on file in the office of the City Clerk.

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

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Timm-Rudolph,
Seconded by Councillor Steek,

THAT the clause be amended by adding the following:

II f) That a detailed program performance be reported annually to Council.

The amendment was put and declared carried.

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

Appointment of Member - Committee for Safety File CR-5 (Vol. 2)

499 - 4. On April 28, 1999, Council adopted Clause 5 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated April 21, 1999, creating the "Committee for Safety" to support, assist, stimulate and mobilize the work of the community on safety and including the appointment of members.

On February 23, 2000, Council adopted Clause 2 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated February 22, 2000, directing the Committee for Safety to form a Working Group to review the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry conducted by the Honourable Mr. Justice Perry Schulman (Lavoie Report).

At its meeting held on April 3, 2000, the Committee for Safety considered its membership in view of an existing vacancy and recommended that Carolyn Buffie be appointed to the Committee for Safety to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Judy Fijal for the balance of the three-year term which expires December 31, 2001. The Committee also accepted the resignation of Ruth Laveman whose term expires December 31, 2000.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That Carolyn Buffie be appointed to the Committee for Safety for the balance of the three-year term expiring on December 31, 2001.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Adopted by consent.

Appointment of Administrative Assistant - Access Advisory Committee File CR-3 (Vol. 4)

500 - 5. On April 3, 2000, the Access Advisory Committee considered the matter of an appointment as the Administrative Assistant and in this connection passed the following motion, namely:

"That Judy Redmond be appointed as the Administrative Assistant to the Access Advisory Committee at an annual salary of $35,000.00."

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the City of Winnipeg enter into a personal services contract with Judy Redmond for the provision of Administrative support services for the Access Advisory Committee, as follows:

(a) The contract be of a one year duration commencing May 1, 2000 to April 30, 2001.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 12, 2000

(b) The fee for service to be $35,000.00 per annum utilizing funding from the existing Access Advisory Committee budget allocation.

II. That the City Solicitor/Manager of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary contract between the City of Winnipeg and Judy Redmond.

Adopted by consent.

REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

DATED APRIL 19, 2000

On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the Report of the Executive Policy Committee, dated April 19, 2000, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Murray,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1,2,3,4,5 and 6, be adopted.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph requested that Clauses 1 and 2 be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

The motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, Clauses 3,4,5 and 6, was put and declared carried.

SMART Winnipeg - A "Smart City" Initiative File EP-1 (Vol. 20)

501 - 1. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that SMART Winnipeg is a wholly independent incorporated company created by the Mayor in June of 1999 with a mandate to work towards making Winnipeg a "Smart" City. A document that concisely sets out what SMART Winnipeg is all about, what it does, what has happened so far and what are SMART Winnipeg's hopes for the future is outlined in Appendix "A".

To date the Civic Administration along with numerous private and public local interest groups, including the Provincial Government, educational institutions and the like, have been lending support to SMART Winnipeg's efforts for the most part on an informal basis. However, as the various initiatives have progressed the amount of support required has grown and hopefully will continue to grow in the future.

The Civic Administration is very supportive of the concepts that are being explored by SMART Winnipeg but finds itself constrained by the absence of any related Council direction or approval.

The purpose of this report is not to request specific and or additional authorization to use City resources in direct support of SMART Winnipeg. For the time being Council's general authorization to use resources to the extent existing budgets and established priorities will allow is sufficient. However, if Council were to adopt the Administration's recommendation as set out herein, it will be understood that, should SMART Winnipeg approach the Administration requesting additional support in future, the Administration will bring forth appropriate recommendations for consideration by Council at that time.

The Administration requires Council's authorization to expend City resources in support of external agencies and or initiatives.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That Council authorize the Administration to support the efforts of SMART Winnipeg to the extent that approved budgets and established priorities will allow.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Copy of attachment referred to in the above clause is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

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

Carried.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000

City of Winnipeg Ombudsman
File GL-5.9 (Vol. 3)

502 - 2. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that in November 1989, the Province of Manitoba enacted legislation, through amendments to The City of Winnipeg Act, which required the City to have a position of Ombudsman, complete with appropriate staff. The legislation described such provisions as term, reporting, budget, organization of office, employees, jurisdiction and others.

The current Ombudsman was appointed by Council effective May 9, 1994. She and her staff have served the citizens of Winnipeg very well during the course of her six-year term. However, the expiration of the Ombudsman's term has provided the City with the opportunity to consider its options.

Since its creation, the Office of the Ombudsman has been the subject of much discussion and numerous reports concerning a variety of alternatives including the provision of Ombudsman services to The City of Winnipeg by the Provincial Ombudsman. As recently as May of 1998, a joint City-Province initiative - Partners in Public Service - identified the Ombudsman office as one of a number of potential areas where the City and Province might be able to share resources and to deliver more efficient services.

The potential for City-Province cooperation was recently realized with respect to the administration of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA). The August 31, 1998 FIPPA Notice of Proclamation moved jurisdiction of appeals to the Provincial Ombudsman instead of the City Ombudsman, effective September 1, 1998. This arrangement seems to be working well. It would seem logical to conclude that an extension of this arrangement to include all of the City Ombudsman services could work equally well.

Research has revealed that Winnipeg is the only municipality in Canada with an Ombudsman's office. The cities of Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, London and Ottawa were contacted directly. Of these, only Calgary has an information and complaints department which is staffed by two people. In all other cases, complaints are referred to the appropriate Department Head, City Councillor and, ultimately, the Mayor.

The budget for the Ombudsman office for 2000 is slightly under $470,000.00. It is projected that for 2001/2002, the budget will increase to approximately $475,000.00. It is anticipated that economies of scale resulting from a shift to a Provincial Ombudsman-provided service will result in a significant cost savings for the City with no diminution in the quality or quantity of service provided to Winnipeg's citizens.

Council must authorize requests to the Province for changes in legislation including The City of Winnipeg Act.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That Council request the Province of Manitoba to amend The City of Winnipeg Act to delete the requirement that the City have its own Ombudsman and to amend other legislation as required to allow the Provincial Ombudsman to provide Ombudsman services currently being provided by the City Ombudsman.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

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

The Speaker here resumed the Chair.

Moved by Councillor Lazarenko,
That the clause be laid over to the next Council Meeting.

The motion to lay over the clause was put.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000

Councillor Lazarenko called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Lazarenko, Steek and Timm-Rudolph. 3

Nay: Councillors Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Smith, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 11

and the motion to lay over the clause was declared lost.

Council recessed at 11:55 a.m., and reconvened at 1:38 p.m., same members present.

Councillors Clement, Prystanski and Steek entered the meeting after Council had reconvened.

The motion for the adoption of the clause was put.

Councillor Lazarenko called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Angus, Clement, De Smedt, Smith, Deputy Mayor Thomas, Vandal, Eadie, His Worship Mayor Murray and Councillor O'Shaughnessy. 9

Nay: Councillors Lazarenko, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Steek and Timm-Rudolph. 5

and the motion for the adoption of the clause was declared carried.

Winnipeg Development Agreement, Sub-Program 3A, Neighbourhood Revitalization - Lord Selkirk Playground 2000 Project File FR-3.2(PA-3) (Vol. 4)

503 - 3. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Program Authorization for the Winnipeg Development Agreement, Sub-Program 3A. was approved by the three levels of government on August 4, 1995.

On July 22, 1998, Council adopted the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy as a concept plan to guide the activity of the Neighbourhood Revitalization Program in the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood. Budget categories for the Housing, Safety, Health and Community Well-being, Employment, Image and Lord Selkirk Development were approved based upon neighbourhood issues identified in the Strategy and recommended by the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council.

The Playground 2000 project addresses the issues of Neighbourhood Safety, Image, Health and Community Well-being as identified in the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy.

The Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council at its January 5, 2000, meeting recommended funding up to $195,000, from the WDA Sub-Program 3A, Neighbourhood Revitalization, to support the Lord Selkirk Playground 2000 Project.

The Lord Selkirk Playground 2000 Project is being launched by the David Livingstone School Parent Council in consultation with the Playground 2000 Committee, a broad based neighbourhood working committee made up of representatives of David Livingstone School administration, Turtle Island Community Centre Board and tenants, Lord Selkirk Park Tenants Association, B.L.A.S.T. Day Care, Community United for Change, and the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council. The project is being supported and facilitated by the City of Winnipeg Planning, Property and Development, Public Works and Community Services Departments. The project is supported by the Winnipeg School Division No. 1, and a joint use agreement to address the development will be undertaken.

The project will provide a new aboriginal theme playground, provide athletic facilities for soccer, basketball and tetherball, and renovate the present wading pool into a waterpark facility.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000

The project will increase the scope and level of play and recreational facilities for the neighbourhood's children; improve the quality and image of an important neighbourhood green space, and will recognize the significance of Aboriginal Culture represented by approximately 90% of the resident population within the neighbourhood.

Funding from the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council will be used to pay for Phase I of the project, which will include the development of an Aboriginal theme play structure and a family water park. Additional phases will be completed as funding becomes available.

The project will be coordinated by the Planning, Property and Development Department, Design and Implementation Branch.

The equipment being purchased is designed to be low maintenance requiring no additional staffing. Ongoing, maintenance of the Phase I components will continue to be undertaken by the City of Winnipeg.

Complementary funding of $25,000 has been recommended and approved by the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services through the City of Winnipeg's Community Incentive Grant Program. In addition the Playground 2000 Project is listed as one of the City of Winnipeg's Millennium Projects from which additional assistance may be generated to meet the overall project objective.

The project addresses several goals and objectives within the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy:

- it addresses the negative perception of the area by enhancing the physical conditions of public spaces; and
- it contributes to community well-being by addressing some of the distressed social conditions of the neighbourhood by enhancing recreation opportunities and activities and in uniting residents and groups as they participate in creating a healthy environment.

The site where this project is proposed is the only significant greenspace/playground located within the Lord Selkirk Park Neighbourhood. It is located adjacent to Turtle Island Recreation Centre which is quickly becoming a hub of increased resident activity, in both formal and informal programs and events developed by the community in partnership with other stakeholders.

Total Project Cost	$431,210
Phase I – Funding requested:	$220,000
Funding approved from other sources:	
City of Winnipeg Community Incentives Grant:	$ 25,000
Funding Requested from WDA	$195,000
Phase II – Funding required:	$211,210
Applications pending for Phase II:	
Manitoba Community Places Program	50,000
Manitoba Community Services Council	25,000
Golden Gardens	500
Habitat 2000	500
Aboriginal Community	25,000
Provincial and Federal Millennium Grants	20,000
Winnipeg School Division Children's Heritage Fund	5,000

WDA funds have been budgeted for in prior years; therefore there is no additional borrowing authority required to accommodate this project.

Council is the approval authority for Winnipeg Development Agreement initiatives involving funding over $100,000. All recommendations on proposals submitted to the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council are forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council's recommendation to provide up to $195,000 from the Winnipeg Development Agreement, Sub-Program 3A, Neighbourhood Revitalization to the David Livingstone Parent Council to assist with the development of the Lord Selkirk Playground 2000 Project, be approved.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Adopted by consent.

Winnipeg Development Agreement, Sub-Program 3A, Neighbourhood Revitalization - Turtle Island Recreation Centre Expansion Project
File FR-3.2(PA-3) (Vol. 4)

504 - 4. The Executive Policy Committee has been advised that the Program Authorization for the Winnipeg Development Agreement, Sub-Program 3A, was approved by the three levels of Government on August 4,1995. On June 22, 1998, Council adopted the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy as a concept plan to guide the activity of the Neighbourhood Revitalization Program in the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood.

The Turtle Island Recreation Centre Expansion Project addresses the issues Neighbourhood Safety, Image, Health and Community well-being identified in the Council approved Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy.

The Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council at its March 1, 2000, meeting recommended funding up to $200,000 from the WDA Sub-Program 3A, Neighbourhood Revitalization, to support the Turtle Island Recreation Centre Expansion Project.

The Turtle Island Expansion Project has been developed cooperatively by the Turtle Island Recreation Centre, through its recently reconstituted Board of Directors, its community partners, and the Community Services Department of the City of Winnipeg. The purpose of the project is to accommodate and integrate the expanding programming and services needs of the Centre, its tenants and neighbourhood campus area organizations.

Funding from the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Revitalization Program will serve two purposes:

1. To construct a Healing and Wellness Room:
   - to create a respectful environment for community justice functions, group wellness counselling, elder group workshops, healing and sharing circles;
   - to reduce scheduling conflicts and provide appropriate and much needed space for current cultural activities at the centre including the Aboriginal Youth Drum Group, the Ka-Wanni-Beek Eagles traditional square dancers and Youth Pow-Wow Club;
   - to serve as a focal point for community celebrations and ceremonies centered around the Medicine Wheel.

2. To renovate and equip the current kitchen for expanded uses.

A preliminary program of requirements has been completed to set the physical terms of reference for the project.

The project is conditional upon approval of an increase in an annual maintenance budget of $7,500 to the Public Works Department to cover increased costs associated with the expansion.

The need for the project has been identified by tenants at the centre and community partners to accommodate existing and expanded activities in response to community identified needs.

The project will complement existing programs and supports within the community to address issues of family violence, youth justice, community healing and mediation.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000

The project will accelerate the Center's development as a multi-functional neighbourhood resource centre and enable more effective delivery of community-based services and programs from a single site.

Complementary funding for capital costs of the project is being requested from Community Incentive Grants Program, Manitoba Community Places Program, and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy.

The Province of Manitoba through the Departments of Justice, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, and Inter-Governmental Affairs have participated in discussions on the project to address program funding for a community restorative justice model, and implementation of programs identified through the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry Recommendations.

The Turtle Island Recreation Centre Expansion Project addresses the following goals and objectives within the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Revitalization Strategy:

Health and Well Being
- By creating an environment for individuals, families and the community that is safe, accessible, culturally appropriate and responsive to facilitate the opportunity for community healing and respectfulness for each other;
- By improving an existing neighbourhood facility to respond to the cultural needs of the community; and
- By improving an existing community facility to offer a multi functional resource centre to unite residents, schools and agencies as they rebuild the neighbourhood together.

Neighbourhood Image:
- By providing appropriately planned, community valued expansion to this important neighbourhood amenity;
- By creating a culturally sensitive design to reflect the significant aboriginal population (90%) who reside within the neighbourhood.

Estimated Project Cost:	$300,000
Funds Requested from other sources:	
- Community Incentives Grant Program	25,000
- Community Places Program	25,000
- Urban Aboriginal Strategy	50,000
Funds requested from WDA:	$200,000
Percentage of WDA Funding:	66%

WDA funds have been budgeted for in prior years; therefore there is no additional borrowing authority required to accommodate this project.

Council is the approval authority for Winnipeg Development Agreement involving funding over $100,000. All recommendations on proposals submitted by the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council are forwarded to Executive Policy Committee.

Turtle Island Recreation Centre is currently operated and maintained by the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department. Increased costs associated with ongoing maintenance and operation must be approved prior to any capital project being undertaken to minimize operating budget impacts.

The Executive Policy Committee recommends:

I. That the Lord Selkirk Neighbourhood Council's recommendation to provide up to $200,000 from the Winnipeg Development Agreement, Sub-Program 3A, Neighbourhood Revitalization to renovate and expand the Turtle Island Recreation Centre be approved subject to:

   A. Concurrent approval of an increased annual maintenance budget to an upset maximum of $7,500 ($5.00/sq. ft.) to the Public Works Department to reflect the costs of maintaining the 1500 sq. ft. facility expansion;

   B. All necessary funds are in place to complete the project by September 30, 2001.

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to effect the intent of the foregoing.

Adopted by consent.

Proposed Text Amendment - Winnipeg Zoning By-law No. 6400/94 - Regulation of Advertising Signs File DAZ 215/99 [c/r DAZ 209/94 (Vol. 3)]

505 - 5. On November 10, 1999, the Executive Policy Committee laid over Clause 1 of the Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development dated October 26, 1999, with respect to the referenced matter.

On January 26, 2000, Council granted a 90 day extension of time.

In accordance with Section 61.5 of the Procedure By-law No. 5400/94 as amended, the Executive Policy Committee recommends that Council grant a further extension of time of 30 days inasmuch as the matter has been referred back to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development for further consideration.

Adopted by consent.

Request to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities to Establish a Municipal Task Force re Public Education Funding File GG-2 (Vol. 25)

506 - 6. On April 19, 2000, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion, namely:

WHEREAS part of the cost of providing public education in Manitoba comes from property taxes levied by both the Provincial Government and local school boards;

AND WHEREAS the balance of public education costs are paid from the general revenue of the Provincial Government;

AND WHEREAS for many years it was historically the case in Manitoba that approximately 80% of public education funding came from Provincial general revenues, while the remaining 20% was funded through local property taxation;

AND WHEREAS reductions in Federal transfer payments to Provincial Governments across Canada has created the situation where Provincial Governments have had to reduce their contributions to public education costs, thereby forcing more of these costs to be picked up from the local property tax base;

AND WHEREAS it has been the case within the past 25 years that the Provincial contribution toward public education funding in Manitoba has dropped to approximately 60% contribution from Provincial general revenues, and the contribution from local property taxes has increased to approximately 40%;

AND WHEREAS this increased reliance on local property tax funding for public education purposes is a matter of serious concern for many Manitobans, in particular for senior citizens living on fixed incomes;

AND WHEREAS repeated requests over time to the Provincial Government from municipal governments and school boards asking that the Province undertake a comprehensive review of education funding methods have been met with the response that the status quo works best;

AND WHEREAS the lack of Provincial Government interest in changing the present inequitable system of funding public education makes it clear that any serious review of this issue is going to have to be driven by municipal governments, school boards and other stakeholders working together to strive for meaningful change;

Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Winnipeg recommends that the Association of Manitoba Municipalities establish a municipal task force, in consultation with organizations such as the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, municipal and school administrators and other stakeholders identified by the Association, whose mandate will be to conduct a comprehensive review of public education funding in the Province of Manitoba with a view to recommending a method of funding public education that will reduce or eliminate the property tax burden altogether, and at a minimum, provide for a more equitable balance of funding education than that which presently exists in Manitoba today;

and submits same to Council for favourable consideration.

Adopted by consent.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by Councillor Vandal,
507 - WHEREAS at its meeting of April 11, 2000, the City Centre Community Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that an expenditure in the amount of $15,000 from the City Centre Land Dedication Reserve Fund be approved to the Laura Secord Parent Council to assist with the cost of the Laura Secord Playstructure Project;

AND WHEREAS at its meeting of April 19, 2000, the Executive Policy Committee referred the matter back to the City Centre Community Committee for consideration under the Community Incentive Grant Program;

AND WHEREAS the project meets the criteria for funding under the Land Dedication Reserve Fund;

AND WHEREAS this project requires immediate consideration if it is to go forward;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT an expenditure in the amount of $15,000 from the City Centre Land Dedication Reserve Fund be approved to the Laura Secord Parent Council to assist with the cost of the Laura Secord Playstructure Project, subject to the following conditions:

1. Confirmation of other funding sources;
2. Approval of final plans and specifications for the project by the City of Winnipeg; and
3. The applicant entering into a formal agreement with the City.

The Speaker ruled automatic referral to Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Steek,
That the rule be suspended to allow consideration of the motion at this time.

The motion to suspend the rule was put and declared carried.

The motion was put and declared carried.

Councillor Clement asked to be recorded as having voted against the motion, in accordance with Rule 50.7 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Steek,
Seconded by Councillor Prystanski,
508 - WHEREAS the business tax will raise 55 million dollars at a rate of 9% in 2000 and is projected to raise 57.2 million dollars in 2001 and 57.4 million dollars in 2002;

Executive Policy Committee - Motions (continued)

AND WHEREAS the business tax has been frozen at the same level since 1996;

AND WHEREAS a reduction in the business tax is essential to creating an atmosphere that encourages existing business to expand and attract new businesses to located in Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration develop a strategy that will progressively lower the business tax rate over the next 5 years.

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

Moved by Councillor De Smedt,
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi,

509 - WHEREAS more time may be required for the Province to consider the City's request to delete the requirement for the City to have its own Ombudsman as recommended in Clause 2 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated April 19, 2000;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a three month extension to the current Ombudsman contract be considered in order to provide a smooth transition for the transfer of Ombudsman services to the Province.

The Speaker ruled automatic referral to Executive Policy Committee in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor De Smedt,
That the rule be suspended to allow consideration of the motion at this time.

Carried.

The Speaker called the Deputy Speaker, Councillor Lazarenko, to the Chair in order to participate in the debate.

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
That the motion be referred to the Executive Policy Committee.

Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

510 - On motion of His Worship Mayor Murray, the following by-laws were read a first, second and third time, the rule being suspended for the third reading of each by-law and were passed and ordered to be signed and sealed, namely:

By-law No. 7598/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 6546/95, being a by-law of the said City to regulate the construction, maintenance and removal of private approaches and private walks. Files FE(2000-2002) (Vol. 1) & SC-1 (Vol. 43)

By-law No. 7599/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to close a part and to open a part of the public lane south of Portage Avenue and west of Sherbrook Street. File DAOC 4/99

By-law No. 7605/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to amend By-law No. 7100/97 being the City Organization By-law. File FE(2000 - 2002) (Vol. 1)

By-law No. 7629/2000, a by-law of The City of Winnipeg to close part of Elgin Avenue, East of Bertha Street. File DAC 2/99

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

511 - Councillor Timm-Rudolph raised the matter of problems with accessibility for disabled people at the Elmwood Kildonans Pool on Concordia Avenue and questioned if funding through Winnipeg Development Agreement or another avenue could be available to address the problem.

Mayor Murray noted that the item appeared to be a routine ward matter and suggested that it be raised at Community Committee. His Worship also advised that the Winnipeg Development Agreement program was over as of March.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph raised the matter of the City's ambulance service and that previoiusly, the Mayor had stated that the City would hand over the keys to the Province on May 1st if satisfactory funding was not negotiated, and requested an update on the negotiations.

His Worship advised that the City has been given assurance by the Province that there would be a significant financial commitment coming. It was his understanding that the Province had indicated that there would be an agreement in principal by May 1st and that they have asked for 60 days until June 30th to conclude negotiations.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph questioned if the Province did not provide significant funding how would the shortfall would be dealt with given that the City's budget process had already concluded.

His Worship Mayor Murray noted that the City did not have enough money and stated that if negotiations weren't resolved, that he would recommend that the City start a very orderly and cautious way to transfer ambulance service to the Regional Health Authority. He further noted that it was the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority that was responsible for delivering the service.

Councillor Clement questioned if the Provincial Government would be providing matching monies for residential street renewal.

His Worship responded that he did not have any information on whether or not the Provincial Government would provide matching monies for residential street renewal.

Councillor Steek questioned if the Province had communicated a timeframe as to when they would be proceeding with the Red River College downtown, and requested that Council be kept abreast of any related details.

His Worship advised that the matter was on hold for 60 days, and that his conversations with the Premier over the last 30 days, had identified that the Premier appeared to be quite strongly committed to the Red River College Downtown Campus in the Exchange District, and noted that this was a key priority for City Council.