EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE – MARCH 13TH, 2006

On funding for

HERITAGE WINNIPEG CORPORATION

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg was created by the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the Heritage Canada Foundation over twenty eight years ago (1978); and

Whereas the work that it has done over the years has contributed to the designation of the Exchange District as a National Historic Site; and

Whereas the City has benefited economically from tourism and film activity generated by the existence of this historic district and the other heritage sites in Winnipeg, (Manitoba Film and Sound estimate the total value of investment to be in excess of $305.2 million on production activity since 2002), largely owing to the existence of the Exchange District); and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg not only promotes the City by its rich and colourful heritage but also provides access to a year round resource centre to students, teachers, and the public at large for research, and educational purposes. In addition, we provide school presentations and walking tours; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has been a major factor in the regeneration of the downtown by partnering in Doors Open, which has been a significant success in generating civic pride and economic spin-off; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has played a major role in encouraging the maintenance and redevelopment of heritage sites, encouraging building owners to maintain their properties and, through its advocacy role, challenging City Council to respect heritage properties and by continually providing a positive reminder of the value of our built heritage; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg plays a critically important role in working with and educating local property owners and the business community to encourage them to recognize that there are economic advantages to be gained through investment in heritage buildings; and

Heritage Winnipeg (cont'd)

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg participates in a wide range of events including a number of projects such as the restoration of Barber House, and the redevelopment of the Upper Fort Garry Gate as a major tourist attraction, undertakes events such as Manitoba Day that remind school children of the importance of our built heritage, cosponsors events such as Doors Open as a public reminder that we have a unique treasure in our heritage buildings, provides annual Preservation Awards and serves Winnipeg on the Heritage Canada Council; and

Whereas, in partnership with Canadian Heritage, Heritage Winnipeg completed in 2004, a bilingual website including 360 degree virtual tours, 170 historical vignettes and over 3,000 archival photos of the Exchange District and the surrounding downtown area at a cost of approximately $500,000. It is unique both in concept and design and serves to display to an international audience the historical significance of our city's past as well as our present; and

.

Whereas in recognition of our work, the Province provides $21,600 annually; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg receives an annual grant of only $9,000 from the City to undertake a broad based work program that directly benefits the City:

Therefore:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF WINNIPEG PROVIDE AN ANNUAL GRANT TO HERITAGE WINNIPEG OF $21,600.