Social Planning Council of Winnipeg est. 1919
412 McDermot Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3A 0A9
Telephone (204) 943-2561 • Fax (204) 942-3221 • E-mail: info@spcw.mb.ca • Internet: www.spcw.mb.ca

May 11, 2006

His Worship Mayor Sam Katz
Mayor's Office
Council Building, Civic Centre
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3B 1B9

Dear Mayor Katz:

We have been hopeful that the City of Winnipeg would consider ways and means by which the leadership of the Mayor and Council could be involved in the considerations of the circumstances of citizens who struggle within a low income/poverty condition. There are many Winnipeggers who care deeply about the situation faced by their fellow citizens. Many have ideas, time and expertise to apply to the dilemma. This includes the United Way of Winnipeg, who have consulted extensively with Winnipeg through their *Journey Forward* process which identified poverty as a central issue. Additionally the Moffat family has provided a sizeable donation to the Winnipeg Foundation to support efforts aimed at the issue of poverty. These are significant indications of community and business leadership but unfortunately both organizations, not unlike the city, have tremendous demands upon their resources.

We would request that you, as Mayor, recognize these efforts and consider a leadership position from your office. I'm certain this would be greeted with enthusiasm by the leadership of those organizations and the community at large.

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, which essentially is a very small organization consisting of five staff positions, would be happy to play a supportive role with the provision of previous research, information and partnerships. Some volunteer leadership could also be arranged. Beyond this level of involvement as is suggested by the recommendation #2 before you, we have the following request. In assessing the resource implications of assuming more of a facilitating and consultative role, I would suggest that a commitment of financial resources of $50,000.00 would be required. Should the City Council consider this request I have some confidence that the Provincial Government would match the commitment.

.../2

As a longstanding organization working under a vision of Winnipeg being a "just, caring, inclusive and responsive" city, we truly believe the time is opportune to create a comprehensive approach to addressing the issue of poverty.

Sincerely,



Wayne Helgason
Executive Director

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg