From: Tricia Boch
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 2:51 PM
To: Park, Jo-Ann

Subject: Proposed Funding to Upgrade the Wilkes Avenue Snow Dump

Executive Policy Committee Meeting

September 21, 2006

Dear Chairperson Mayor Katz, and Executive Policy Committee Members:

RE: Funding to Support Upgrading of the Wilkes Avenue Snow Dump

I am writing in support of the proposed funding to upgrade the snow dump located at Wilkes Avenue and the Perimeter, in order to facilitate the closure of the Highwood Snow Dump. The basis of my support for the funding stems from an overwhelming need to relocate the Highwood Snow Dump north of Saskatchewan Avenue for the following reasons:

- the extreme and severe impacts of having a heavily used snow dump next to a residential community
- the intensive night-based truck traffic that runs within meters of homes along Saskatchewan Avenue when accessing Highwood Snow Dump, and the horrific impacts of this type of truck traffic on our community
- the environmental impacts associated with melting waste-snow that drains directly into Sturgeon Creek (as outlined by Environment Canada's Code of Practice for Road Salts Management)

With funding to upgrade the snow dump on Wilkes Avenue, it is anticipated that our community (along Saskatchewan Avenue) will benefit from:

- a massive reduction of snow hauling trucks that in the past few years has increased to a point where 40 trucks are on site at any given time during the night for several weeks following every medium to heavy snowfall

- a desperately needed resolution to the extreme and severe problems that residents have been forced to live with as a result of Highwood's poorly situated entrance which is less than 30 meters from residential properties

In conjunction, should this funding not be approved, money must still be spent this fall on upgrades to the Highwood Snow Disposal (one of many facts not pointed out in the report issued by the Public Works Department at the beginning of September, 2006), including an overhaul to its entrance (enlarging), its rail crossing (paving), and its service road (reconstructing). Further, due to the environmental issues associated with the location of the Highwood Snow Dump, which results in waste-snow drainage directly into Sturgeon Creek, there is no question that more money will have to be invested into this facility within the immediate future should it continue operating.

Given the magnitude of problems associated with the Highwood Snow Disposal, its highly inappropriate location, the heavily expanded use of this facility over the years, an apparent lack of alternative options to better situate this snow dump at this time, and the extended time period in which the Public Works Department has had to address this matter, but yet failed too, I strongly support the proposed funding to upgrade the Wilkes Avenue Snow Dump in order to facilitate shutting the Highwood Snow Dump.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Standing Policy Committee for Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works for demonstrating a genuine and willing interest in helping to improve our community by putting forth the sensible and viable option to upgrade the Wilkes Avenue Snow Dump. Further, I would like to thank the timely support of Mayor Katz, and Councillor De Smedt for their genuine interests in helping our community resolve problems with truck traffic along Saskatchewan Avenue.

Please support this funding proposal put forth by the Standing Policy Committee for Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, for its approval will provide a monumental and positive step forward in resolving matters relating to Saskatchewan Avenue. Thank you for considering my letter.

Regards,

Tricia Boch