REPORT OF THE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES

DATED AUGUST 31, 1998

On motion of Councillor Angus, the Report of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, dated August 31, 1998, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by Councillor Angus,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 1 and 2, be adopted.

Carried.

Development of a Policy regarding the Profits from sale of City-owned Properties
File FI-2.4 (Vol. 7)

968 - 1. Council, at its adjourned meeting held on April 30, 1998, ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, under Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law No. 5400/90:

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

WHEREAS the Property and Development Services Department is marketing certain City owned properties in the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the properties being sold were properties no longer required for streets and transportation, parks and other purposes;

AND WHEREAS this found money is reputed to be earmarked to be returned to the department for purposes of meeting expenses;

AND WHEREAS the profit from these sales belong to general revenue and should be considered in relation to the City's total budgetary requirements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues review this practice and develop a policy for consideration of Council;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any land sales that are concluded and the related monies generated by these sales be held in Property and Development Services until the policy is developed and approved.

On May 19, 1998, Committee referred this matter to Chief Financial Officer for report, and on June 24, 1998, Council granted Committee a 60-day extension of time in which to report back.

Inasmuch as the report from the Chief Financial Officer has yet to be received, the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues requests a further extension of time of 90 days to consider the matter.

Adopted by consent.

Report of the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues dated August 31, 1998

Shift in Assessment Values
File AA-3 (Vol. 7)

969 - 2. Council, at its adjourned meeting held on June 25, 1998, ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues, under Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law No. 5400/90:

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS there has been a shift in assessment values from apartment blocks to residential properties over the last several years;

AND WHEREAS this has increased property taxes on single family homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues review the reasons for this shift in assessment values;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues recommend possible strategies to ameliorate this shift.

On July 13, 1998, Committee referred this matter to the Administration for report back. Inasmuch as the report from the Administration has yet to be received, the Standing Committee on Fiscal Issues requests an extension of time of 90 days to further consider the matter.

Adopted by consent.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISCAL ISSUES

QUESTION PERIOD

970 - Councillor Thomas questioned if the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association increased arena fees due to an increase in operating expenses since assuming operational responsibility from the City last year.

Councillor Angus noted that operating expenses had not increased since the bid price but agreed to take the question as notice in order to provide a more detailed response.

Councillor Thomas further questioned if the increase in fees will revise the amount of savings the City anticipated by contracting out.

Councillor Angus advised that the savings to The City of Winnipeg will remain the same.

Councillor Thomas suggested that the additional user fee was unjustified and in contravention of the contract and requested assurance that further information would be provided expediently.

Councillor Angus agreed to investigate all of the alleged allegations in order to report back to Council.