Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 28, 2007

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Municipal Aboriginal Pathways – Next Steps
File CR-4.1

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 21, 2007, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Vandal,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS the United Way of Winnipeg's Eagle's Eye View: an Environmental Scan of the Aboriginal Community in Winnipeg identified the following from 2001 Census data:

- That in 2001 55,755 Aboriginal people lived in Winnipeg, comprising 8% of the city's population.
- That as of 2001, the Aboriginal population was the fastest growing segment of Winnipeg's population, projected to comprise 13% of the population over the next decade.
- That in 2001, the median age of the Aboriginal population was 24.7 years compared to 37.3 years for the non-Aboriginal population.
- That in 2001, more than 30% of Winnipeg's Aboriginal population were children between the ages of 0-14 years.
- That in 2001, almost 5,000 Aboriginal youths aged 15-19 resided in the City of Winnipeg;
- That in 2001 the unemployment rate for Aboriginal youth between the ages of 15-24 in Winnipeg was almost 21%.

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that Aboriginal youth continue to encounter difficult social and economic circumstances that are barriers to fully realizing employment and educational opportunities in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS Council first addressed these important trends in adopting an urban Aboriginal agenda – First Steps: Municipal Aboriginal Pathways (MAP) - on September 24, 2003;

AND WHEREAS the Administration was directed to prepare action plans to develop the strategic initiatives associated with each Aboriginal Policy Pathway (recognizing the MAP stated timelines spanning the term of Council of 2002 to 2006) and report back to the Executive Policy Committee and Council, as required;

AND WHEREAS after 2006 the Administration was to report back to MAP as well as to identify appropriate next steps in the development of an Urban Aboriginal Strategy for the term of Council 2006 to 2010;

AND WHEREAS Council recognizes the importance of ensuring that Aboriginal youth in Winnipeg are provided with education, training, recreational and employment opportunities so that they can be full participants in, and contribute to, the economic and cultural life of the City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration report back to the Executive Policy Committee with a "Next Steps" report to review the success of the "First Steps" initiatives;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration be directed to develop an Aboriginal Youth Strategy that identifies specific programming for Aboriginal youth and to guide the City's urban Aboriginal agenda during the current term of Council, 2006 to 2010, and that as a part of this proposal existing programs and services be identified and evaluated for their effectiveness.