EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 433
Councillor Gerbasi made reference to the Housing Committee and inquired as to the role of the Committee, if they had yet met, and if the Committee would be discussing items related to the Winnipeg Housing Homelessness Initiative.

His Worship Mayor Katz advised that he assumed a meeting would take place in the very near future and asked the Committee Chairperson, Councillor Pagtakhan, to get back to Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Fielding requested a status on the dispute between the Federal and Provincial Governments in terms of outstanding ambulance receivables.

His Worship replied that there was approximately 9.8 million dollars outstanding that was comprised of 3.6 million dollars in outstanding invoices that are in the process of being paid, insurance claims and related items as well as 6.2 million dollars in outstanding invoices that have to do with situations where people may be on social assistance or have treaty status. His Worship stated that he believed the Province acknowledges that these monies are owing and believed that the monies would be paid in a very short period of time.

Councillor Thomas noted that during last month's Question Period, the Mayor stated that the Kelvin Community Centre field house was ready for occupancy. Councillor Thomas stated that the information she had received from the Director of Community Services was different, and as such she wished to know from whom His Worship had received his information, to which His Worship replied that his information came from the department Director, Clive Wightman.

Councillor Vandal inquired if His Worship had received any responses to the surveys that had been sent to the leaders of the three major political parties in the upcoming Provincial Election.

His Worship replied that the Premier had responded and that he believes the Premier was committed to providing more infrastructure dollars. His Worship noted that the leader of the Conservative party had also responded through the media by stating that they would be prepared to provide revenue in the form of a half percent of the P.S.T.

Councillor Vandal inquired if His Worship felt there was a particular policy from either of the leaders which would best serve the interests of Winnipeggers.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued)

His Worship stated that he had not seen a response from the leader of the Liberal Party and would only comment on specifics, that being the Conservative Party proposal of providing revenue in the form of a half percent of the P.S.T. His Worship further stated that he believes the party leaders do understand the needs of the City and realize that the City has its finances in order and can handle new monies / responsibilities.