STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 516
In reference to the last federal budget, Councillor Steeves asked for a detailed breakdown of how much money the provincial government received from the federal government before the budget and how much they were getting after the budget, with the view to seeing if The City of Winnipeg might fit into some of the program reserves that were setup or increased. Councillor O'Shaughnessy replied that he would undertake to ask the provincial government to provide the information.

Councillor Swandel referenced information received from the administration about the City having thirty million dollars of capital projects that were still open and over five years of age and a liability of 13.9 million dollars in expropriations, funded to 16.1 million dollars for worst case scenarios, and asked what the over funding would be relative to the most likely case scenario on expropriations.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy replied that the last numbers he obtained, and some settlements may have occurred since then, would be in the neighbourhood of a most likely scenario of eight million dollars and a most optimistic scenario of just under five million dollars.

In noting that the 2006 capital budget included an amount for special innovative capital of 650,000 dollars and that, as of the end of February 2007, the 2006 special innovative capital had not been used, Councillor Swandel inquired if the money was earmarked for something specific and, if not, would it be available for projects this year or would it be put into the 2008 capital budget.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy replied that the money was not earmarked, nor could it be earmarked from within a prior or current years capital budget without coming before Council and advised that he would obtain a specific answer for all Members of Council from the Department.

Councillor Swandel inquired if the Standing Policy Committee on Finance would be used as some form of a treasury board to help ensure that matters are dealt with in a more current fashion as opposed to reacting to them when monies were not allocated to specific projects. Councillor O'Shaughnessy confirmed that the project was being worked on and would receive high priority.