THE NEED FOR A CIVILIAN POLICE COMMISSION IN WINNIPEG

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Winnipeg is the only major city in Canada that does not have a civilian police commission to make sure the police service is responsive and accountable to the citizens it serves.

In June 2007, the major and executive police committee of city council proposed that instead of civilian police commission as it is in all major Canadian cities, there would be a police advisory mandate and function

On July 11, 2007, city council held a public meeting to get feedback from the community on councils proposed police advisory committee. About 30 delegation made presentations. The message from the delegations was unanimous and clear. That city council should reject the proposed police advisory committee, and establish a civilian police commission with decision making authority, just like every major city in Canada.

I am here once again to ask why is it so difficult for this council to follow all other big cities in Canada and do things that serve best the interest of its citizens? Winnipeg councillors need to justify to the citizens of Winnipeg why the rest of Canada cities are wrong and Winnipeg city council is right regarding this issue of civilian oversight of the police service.