WINNIPEG CONVENTION CENTRE

March 14 2008

Executive Policy Committee
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Your Worship and Fellow EPC Members:

It was with tremendous appreciation and gratitude that we acknowledge your leadership initiative in addressing the need to support the expansion of the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

While it is the decision of the city whether a room tax, or other means of financing, is made available, our current examination of potential financing models by the three levels of government, plus our own efforts to explore new revenue streams for financing, are extremely encouraging.

Our research indicates that the city's share of a $200 million project can be financially supported through a $2.5 million annual commitment, as well as an initial contribution of services in kind of approx $15 million.

The remainder of the $200 million can be financed by two equal parts (equivalent to the city's contribution) by both levels of government, ie. Provincial and Federal government. Our current research project with PKF Consultants is also indicating a Private Public Partnership can be a successful addition to the expansion.

It is not our desire to get into the debate about how final funding should be decided, but we are concerned that the current debate could sideline the need to expand. We are supportive of expansion and accordingly, encourage a full and comprehensive consideration to implement an appropriate financial protocol that will permit a timely development of the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

We are on the verge of a major addition to the growing downtown dynamic. The Winnipeg Convention Centre Board is of the view that such an expansion will play a vital role in supporting the revitalization of our downtown.

Yours truly,

THE CONVENTION CENTRE CORPORATION

Per: 

Zivan Saper
President

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