Agreement with Office of the Fire Commissioner for Paramedic Training
File GF-1 (Vol. 20)

5. The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services has been advised that historically, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service provided three levels of accredited paramedic training programs internally to its emergency medical personnel as follows:

Paramedic I — Hired externally and then provided additional training to meet the standard necessary for the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

Paramedic II — A further three weeks of training, one week of various hospital activities spread out over a six-month period. This training allows for the practice of skills such as administration of intravenous fluids, manual defibrillation, and administration of some drugs.

Paramedic III — Spread out over one year (approximately two didactic days per month) with extensive clinical exposure. This is an advanced life support position, which allows for specific medical interventions normally practiced by doctors in emergency wards. Note that at this time the Department's Level III is not accredited because the program has not been run for some time.

In June 2001, four national levels of emergency medical service providers, each with their own competency profiles were adopted by a broad national group of emergency medical service stakeholders. The new levels of emergency medical caregiver are:

- Emergency Medical Responder
- Primary Care Paramedic
- Advanced Care Paramedic
- Critical Care Paramedic

To certify the Department's current emergency medical technicians to the new national standard of primary care paramedic (PCP), a CMA-accredited program must be established. The proposed agreement with the Office of the Fire Commissioner will facilitate the certification of the current emergency medical technicians to the new national standards, and allow the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service the future ability to hire individuals pre-trained to these standards.

The proposed agreement will allow the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service to certify its current emergency medical personnel to the new national standards, and to participate in the training of future paramedic recruits to these standards.

The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service currently hires most of its paramedics from the pool of graduates of the Manitoba Emergency Services College (MESC), operated by the Office of the Fire Commissioner, which is a special operating agency of the Province of Manitoba. This proposed partnership with the Province through the Office of the Fire Commissioner is mutually beneficial and will result in more efficient delivery of paramedic training.

Additional costs incurred through the training of paramedic students from the Manitoba Emergency Services College (MESC) will be reimbursed by the Office of the Fire Commissioner. During future recruitments, the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service will have the advantage of selecting recruits from a pool of students who were partially trained by the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.

Council approval is required to enter into the proposed agreement with the Office of the Fire Commissioner as it is a multi-year contract.

Legal Services participated in the development of the proposed agreement with the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

The Financial Impact Statement is on file in the office of the City Clerk.

The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services recommends:

I. That the agreement between the City of Winnipeg and the Office of the Fire Commissioner to develop an accredited primary care paramedic (PCP) training program and an accredited bridging program to certify current emergency medical technicians to the PCP level be approved.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing including the execution of any documents related thereto.

Copies of the documents referred to in the above Clause are on file in the office of the City Clerk.