EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE – MARCH 11th, 2009
CITY OF WINNIPEG, 510 Main Street

Funding for
HERITAGE WINNIPEG CORPORATION

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg was created by the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba and the Heritage Canada Foundation thirty years ago (1978), and serves the City of Winnipeg; and

Whereas the work that it has done over thirty years has contributed to the designation and the ongoing protection of the Exchange District as a National Historic Site; and

Whereas the City has benefited economically from heritage tourism and film activity generated by the existence of this historic district and the other heritage sites in Winnipeg, (Manitoba Film and Sound estimate the total value of investment to be in excess of $100 million on production activity in 2007-08), largely owing to the existence of our built heritage); and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg not only promotes the City by its rich and colourful heritage but also provides access to a year round resource centre to students, teachers, community groups, businesses and the public at large for research, and educational purposes. In addition, we provide school presentations and walking tours, and participates at the City and Provincial level for the Heritage Fairs; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has been a major factor in the regeneration of the downtown and the city's built heritage by facilitating the highly successful Doors Open Winnipeg, which has been significant in promoting awareness, civic pride, economic spin-offs, and to date has had over 170,000 site visits, including a highly successful Exchange District Film Set Walking Tour. The annual event generates over $200,000 in revenue, including over 200 volunteers; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg has played a major role in encouraging the maintenance and redevelopment of heritage sites, encouraging building/property owners to maintain their properties and, through its advocacy role and the creation of a "Buildings at Risk" Database, challenging City Council and developers to respect and invest in heritage properties and by continually providing a positive reminder of the long-term value of our built heritage and the economic spin-offs; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg plays a critically important role in working with and educating local property owners and the business community leaders, to encourage them to recognize that there are economic and environmental advantages to be gained through investment in heritage buildings, including increased property tax revenue; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg participates in a wide range of educational events/projects such as the redevelopment of the Upper Fort Garry historic site as a major tourist attraction, rehabilitation of Streetcar 356, Manitoba Day celebrations that remind school children of the importance of our heritage, and we are currently finishing up on our first publication, Armstrong's Point – A History. Our Annual Preservation Awards Ceremony gives due recognition to building owners, architects, and tenants, and serves Winnipeg on the Heritage Canada Board of Directors, giving Winnipeg national exposure, maintaining critical lobbying of all levels of government, and moreover we continue to increase awareness through public/private partnerships; and

Whereas, in partnership with Canadian Heritage, Heritage Winnipeg completed a successful bilingual website including 360 degree virtual tours, 170 historical vignettes and over 3,000 archival photos. We now have completed four high quality Websites. Heritage Winnipeg is also partnering with the Manitoba Museum and St. Boniface Museum to create a world class website of historic Hudson Bay artifacts. We are also embarking on another new media project in partnership with the National Film Board and Red River College to create the Virtual Reality Theatre at the Forks; and

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg is currently committed to work with CentreVenture Development Corporation to rehabilitate the historic Kelly House which will be our new headquarters. In addition we will continue to work with the City of Winnipeg by holding a valuable roundtable discussion with various stakeholders regarding such issues as the Vacant & Derelict Buildings by-law, and the Heritage by-laws.

Whereas Heritage Winnipeg is continually holding various educational fundraising events throughout the year in order to raise funds for our operational requirements.

Therefore:
BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE ARE REQUESTING THE CITY OF WINNIPEG, AS A COMMITTED SUPPORTER PROVIDE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $30,000.

Submitted By:
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