Agenda - Council - April 30, 2003

Report - Executive Policy Committee - April 9, 2003

Item No. 6 Additional Appropriation - Winnipeg Harvest and Addition of Winnipeg Harvest as an Ongoing Line Item to the Operating Budget
File FE-1 (Vol. 31)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 9, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion and submits the following to Council:

WHEREAS Winnipeg Harvest currently collects and distributes more than 6.8 million pounds of food annually to feed those in the Winnipeg community who struggle to feed themselves and their families, and serving food to more than 37,000 people monthly;

AND WHEREAS the need for supplementary food requirements from the community clients who struggle to feed themselves and their families have grown every year since Harvest opened in 1985:

- In 1987, Harvest served 1,812 households
- In 1992, Harvest served over 7,500 households
- In 2000, Harvest served over 15,500 households;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg Harvest plays an active role in developing and implementing practical solutions to move clients and team members off of social assistance and into stable and gainful employment thru various Harvest initiatives:

- Forklift Training Program
- Safe Food Handling Course
- Onsite warehousing experience
- Call centre and General Office placements;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg Harvest, in 2002 saw over 900 adults participate in its training programs and over 750 youth take part in youth employment training opportunities thru various Winnipeg School divisions, which facilitated long term employment for many of these individuals helping them off of social assistance and no longer using Harvest food banks;

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AND WHEREAS Winnipeg Harvest has limited financial resources to achieve their objectives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that an additional appropriation in the amount of $50,000.00 be made to Winnipeg Harvest, in 2003 to help defray the costs of bus tickets and bus passes to provide transportation support to families and volunteers who use their services;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Winnipeg Harvest be added as an ongoing line item to the City of Winnipeg's operating budget to better assist Harvest's initiatives with helping Winnipeggers in times of crisis and additionally helping Winnipeggers move off of social assistance into gainful employment and away from using food banks.