STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 620
Councillor Eadie asked Councillor Fielding, as the City representative on the NASCO Mexico to Canada trade corridor, about his impression of the recent conference.

Councillor Fielding stated that NASCO was a coalition from Mexico, to the United States, to Canada. He added that people came to the conference in Winnipeg from all over including Mexico, economic development agencies, politicians from throughout the United States and Canada; with approximately 100 delegates from outside the Province. He suggested that CenterPort was a linkage of the transportation system to markets abroad that can revolutionize the economy. The conference focused on ensuring the competitiveness of North America, representing close to 71 million people, with over a trillion dollars in commerce on a yearly basis. Councillor Fielding credited His Worship Mayor Katz for starting the initiative and added that a cities committee had now been established to focus on bigger cities, with issues that might be different than for rural areas.

With respect to garbage, Councillor Eadie noted that the Assessment and Taxation Department was responsible for assessing whether a home was a single, duo, or triple family home but distribution of garbage bins revealed that a number of households were made single-family homes but were paying double and triple bills for multiple family garbage. With respect to this scenario, Councillor Eadie asked if the Chair would make a commitment to ask the Assessment and Taxation Department to trust that these households were single-family, so they only have to pay $50.00 for their garbage.

Councillor Fielding agreed with the importance of the question and advised that Motion 3, tabled at Council today, directed the Administration to develop a reasonable accommodation policy for multiple dwelling units at the same address where there was a discrepancy between the number of assessed living units on the assessment rolls and the actual situation.

Councillor Browaty asked for an update on the status of the Civic Centre Parkade and if there was opportunity to reopen it or was it going to be part of the whole redevelopment of the site.

Councillor Fielding advised that the Chief Operating Officer, Winnipeg Parking Authority, indicated that an engineer`s report was expected over the next week or so. Councillor Fielding also stated that they would have to wait to see what the engineers had to say and then they would know what the next steps and financial implications would be.