Minute No. 663
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Finance – June 19, 2014

Item No. 1 Request to Amend the Building Canada Fund Eligibility Criteria

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance and adopted the following:

1. That the City of Winnipeg call on the Government of Canada to amend its Building Canada Fund eligibility criteria so that it truly becomes a one-third funding share program to recover the cost of selected capital projects.

2. That this matter be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for adoption as a national policy in order to lobby the Government of Canada on this matter.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 2, 2014, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Finance, and submitted the matter to Council.

Further, David Sanders submitted a communication dated July 2, 2014 in support of the request to amend the Building Canada Fund Eligibility Criteria.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 19, 2014, the Standing Policy Committee on Finance passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Building Canada Fund is crucial to municipalities across Canada with regards to addressing infrastructure deficits;

AND WHEREAS the new Building Canada Fund program will be announced shortly and rolled out to municipalities across Canada;

AND WHEREAS in the past the concept of a one-third funding share has been the basis of these tripartite programs;

AND WHEREAS in actual practice, Municipalities across Canada do not receive two-thirds of the cost covered by the Province and the Government of Canada and due to eligibility rules around the program, Municipalities pick up more than the one-third of the cost of a capital project;

AND WHEREAS much of the ineligible work is crucial to a capital project being undertaken;

AND WHEREAS it is best practice, as identified by the Public Works Department, to do due diligence and the design work in advance which makes such costs ineligible according to Building Canada Fund rules;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg call on the Government of Canada to amend its Building Canada Fund eligibility criteria so that it truly becomes a one-third funding share program to recover the cost of selected capital projects;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this matter be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for adoption as a national policy in order to lobby the Government of Canada on this matter;

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.