THE FORT GARRY
HOTEL, SPA AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

May 4, 2015

~~To whom it may concern,~~

The Fort Garry Hotel is interested in developing a rooftop apiary on its premises, as already seen in numerous successful examples Canadian and North American cities. As local business owners we believe that the establishment of such an initiative achieves significant movement forward in the city including education of the public on the plight of bees and the development of local food sources, the promotion of an active and healthy city and the development of an enterprise that also has positive social impacts.

If successful, we intend to develop this program with the understanding our responsibilities to the surrounding community and the public in general.

To this end, we support the following motion; put forth by Councillor Jenny Gerbasi, to the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage Riverbank Management:

WHEREAS the maintenance of a healthy bee population is critical to sustaining bio-diversity through the pollination of vegetation, and

WHEREAS the declining population of bees throughout North America has been recognized as a significant environmental issue, and

WHEREAS many Cities have amended by-laws and adopted policies to encourage the practice of urban bee keeping in an effort to restore and enhance the bee population, and

WHEREAS a number of property owners in Downtown Winnipeg have expressed an interest in establishing bee colonies on high roof tops,

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage Riverbank Management be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to investigate and report back at the September meeting on the following:

1. A cross jurisdictional analysis and a summation of best practices over several Canadian cities of urban bee keeping in particular on the roof tops of high buildings.

2. Recommendations for amendments to the Downtown Winnipeg Zoning By-law to allow for the keeping of bees on building roof tops in the downtown.

Sincerely,

Richard Bel

Managing Partner/Owner

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