STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 334
Councillor Mayes asked the Chair of Finance to provide his comments, if any, on the Federal Budget.

Councillor Morantz advised that it was wonderful to see the major transit fund and, if it was a device to leverage transit projects, it could be very productive. He added that Council needs to continue to diligently lobby for the new Conservatory at the Assiniboine Park and Council must be ever diligent in its efforts to lobby for a fair share of growth-based tax revenues for Winnipeg.

Councillor Wyatt questioned when the 2016 budget process would start. Councillor Morantz stated that they hoped to have a new process that allows for more input from citizens and Councillors and get started on it as soon as possible as it would be a lot of work to get a balanced budget. He concluded that it would be a very, very difficult budget going forward.

Councillor Wyatt inquired about the timelines for the budget public engagement and Council engagements piece; to which Councillor Morantz agreed to take the question under advisement and report back.

Councillor Wyatt noted that the Mayor issued an election challenge to find 40 million dollars of savings over four years, 6.5 was successfully acquired or found this year and another 33 and a half million is the goal over the next three years and questioned if it was too early in the process to know if that would be a huge challenge.

Councillor Morantz stated that they would do their best to achieve that goal but, ultimately, whatever ends up happening, will be very, very good for Winnippers and results have already been seen in just a short period of time. He added that they would be putting out a call to the public service to come forward with ideas around efficiencies and will do their very best to meet that goal.