Agenda – Council – February 22, 2018

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MOTION

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg recognized 2016 as the "Year of Reconciliation", to demonstrate the City's commitment to reconciliation with Winnipeg's Indigenous community;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is committed to identifying ways to implement the five Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action including article 47 which reads:

"47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies, and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts."

AND WHEREAS on March 22, 2017, City Council unanimously adopted Winnipeg's Indigenous accord as a demonstration of the City's commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord states that Winnipeg is located within Treaty No. 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota, and is the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland;

AND WHEREAS on November 1, 2017, His Worship Mayor Bowman appointed Councillor Jenny Gerbasi as Secretary of Urban Indigenous Opportunities;

AND WHEREAS Councillor Gerbasi as Secretary of Urban Indigenous Opportunities and as a signatory to the Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord, committed to working collaboratively with the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle, the public service and the community to make changes in the policies and practices of the City of Winnipeg to encourage the continued act of reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS one change in practice and policy that has been adopted in this regard has been to acknowledge at some meetings of City Council and its Committees that the meetings are taking place on Treaty 1 land, the traditional homeland of the Metis Nation;

Executive Policy Committee - Notice of Motion (continued):

AND WHEREAS ensuring this change in practice and policy occurs at all City Council and Committee meetings will show Winnipeg's continued on-going support of its Indigenous citizens and Winnipeg's history and heritage;

AND WHEREAS the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 governs the procedure at meetings of Council and its Committees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be amended to require that at the commencement of each Council or Committee meeting, the Chair acknowledge, in wording of their choosing, that the meeting is taking place on traditional Indigenous & Métis peoples' lands;

2. That the City Solicitor / Manager of Legal Services be directed to prepare the necessary by-law amendment for Council approval within 60 days.