Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - February 18, 2004

REPORTS

Minute No. 173 Municipal Political Campaign Contributions and Tax Incentives
File GK-2.4

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee referred the January 28, 2004 Council Motion to the City Clerk for review and report back.

(amended February 24, 2004)

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,

That the January 28, 2004 Council Motion be referred to the City Clerk for review and report back.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 28, 2004, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Angus,
Seconded by Councillor Lazarenko,

WHEREAS at other levels of government, contributions made to a political campaign receive some form of tax incentive;

AND WHEREAS the City of Toronto has operated a successful program for municipal political campaign contributions since 1990;

AND WHEREAS The City of Winnipeg Charter, section 46(1), states that Council may by by-law, establish a program that entitles a contributor of a contribution made to a registered candidate during a campaign period:

- to a credit, of an amount equal to part of the contribution against taxes that are imposed by the city and that are payable by the contributor; or
- to a rebate of part of the contribution

AND WHEREAS several citizens of Winnipeg have expressed interest in a related program for municipal political campaign contributions;

AND WHEREAS candidates are required to incur costly expenditures to put their platforms forward to the electorate;

AND WHEREAS this type of program could stimulate an increase in the number of candidates running for municipal election, and enhance the electorate's knowledge of the political platforms;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS programs of this nature carry a cost and would require City funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee review this issue and report back to Council.