STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT,

HERITAGE AND DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

MOTIONS

Minute No. 544
Moved by Councillor Lukes,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

WHEREAS Lake Winnipeg's watershed is almost one million kilometers in size and encompasses four Canadian provinces, four American states and multiple First Nations;

AND WHEREAS the health of Lake Winnipeg is a shared responsibility and every resident of Manitoba plays a role;

AND WHEREAS increased nutrient (phosphorous and nitrogen) loading to Lake Winnipeg from the watershed is one of the key reasons for algal blooms and poor water quality;

AND WHEREAS naturalized storm water retention ponds have been constructed in new developments in the City of Winnipeg since 2001 and became mandatory in 2014, helping to reduce nutrient loading and to improve water quality entering the rivers and streams in the Lake Winnipeg Watershed;

AND WHEREAS many Winnipeggers are not aware of the tremendous benefits native grasses, plants and bulrushes surrounding the storm water retention ponds have on the eco system, water quality and the health of Lake Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service submit to Council the necessary amendments to by-laws and/or Council Policies to ensure that all properties backing onto naturalized storm water ponds have an easement on the property registered to protect the native plants, grasses and bulrushes;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg Naturalist Services Branch prepare an information package on the significance of native plants, grasses and bulrushes around wetlands and provide an information package every two years to property owners backing onto naturalized storm water retention ponds.

Automatic Referral to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development in accordance with Rule 16.1 of the Procedure By-law