STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 295
In reference to the Audit Department report, "Review of Community Centres 2003", which stated that only one of the three community centres audited complied with all reporting requirements necessary to qualify for their annual grant from the City, Councillor Smith questioned if the City would still be giving grants to the two centres that had not complied. Councillor Gerbasi agreed to take the question under advisement and report back.

In reference to the same Audit Department report which states, "We were disappointed to find that the majority of the recommendations from our two previous audits had not been implemented", Councillor Smith questioned why the Community Services Department was not following the recommendations of the previous audit completed in 2001, and inquired if they would do so with this audit.

Councillor Gerbasi replied that community centres are run by volunteer boards, rather than being City Departments, and are thus more difficult to control or change quickly; she further stated that the centres were taking steps to improve their financial accountability, adding that the Community Services Department was working closely with the centers and had done some very good work in this regard.

Councillor Smith further questioned why the City was providing grants to organizations that do not meet all the necessary qualifications to which Councillor Gerbasi replied that it was important to consider the result of simply shutting down a community based and run organization and the impact it would have on the community, but agreed to take the question under advisement and report back.