Agenda – Council – April 29, 2021

Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2021

Item No. 18 Support of Canadian News Media

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 21, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee submitted to Council:

1. That Council recognize that a healthy, professional news media is important to the proper functioning of democracy in our city.

2. That Council place on record its support for future legislation and regulation which support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada.

3. That the Federal Government be urged to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Agenda – Council – April 29, 2021

Report – Executive Policy Committee – April 21, 2021

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 21, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS a healthy, professional news media is important to the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal, and international levels;

AND WHEREAS the Public Policy Forum declares in its report *The Shattered Mirror: News, Democracy and Trust in the Digital Age* that "real news is in crisis";

AND WHEREAS Canadians have lost the services provided by roughly 3,000 media workers across Canada due to temporary and permanent layoffs from the time the COVID-19 pandemic began;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Government acknowledged in its 2019 Budget that "a strong and independent news media is crucial to a well-functioning democracy.";

AND WHEREAS the news media in the Winnipeg area has been instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring local citizens have accurate local information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee recommend to Council:

1. That Council recognize that a healthy, professional news media is important to the proper functioning of democracy in our city.

2. That Council place on record its support for future legislation and regulation which support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada.

3. That the Federal Government be urged to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.