Minute No. 375
Report - Executive Policy Committee - May 5, 2004

Item No. 1 **Removal of School Taxes from Property Tax Bills**
File FL-3

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the April 21, 2004 Council Motion, pertaining to the removal of school taxes from the property tax bill be filed, inasmuch as on April 26, 2000, Council recommended to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities that the implementation of a method of funding public education that would reduce or eliminate the property tax burden altogether, and at a minimum, provide for a more equitable balance of funding education than that which presently exists in Manitoba today.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Deputy Mayor Eadie,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee that the item be filed be adopted.

Councillor Wyatt called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Deputy Mayor Eadie, Councillors Clement, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Lubosch, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Thomas and O'Shaughnessy. 10

Nay: Councillors Wyatt and Lazarenko. 2

and the motion for adoption of the item was declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 5, 2004, the Executive Policy Committee recommended that the April 21, 2004 Council Motion, pertaining to the removal of school taxes from the property tax bill be filed, inasmuch as on April 26, 2000, Council recommended to the Association of Manitoba Municipalities that the implementation of a method of funding public education that would reduce or eliminate the property tax burden altogether, and at a minimum, provide for a more equitable balance of funding education than that which presently exists in Manitoba today, and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL:

On April 21, 2004, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Lazarenko,
WHEREAS school taxes of various school divisions have risen on average above the rate of inflation;

AND WHEREAS any progress made by the City of Winnipeg on property tax freezes of property tax cuts has created 'tax room' to allow school boards to raise property taxes and eat into any potential tax savings for property owners;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS Manitoba is one of the last Canadian jurisdictions that relies so heavily on property taxes to fund education;

AND WHEREAS it is Provincial Government jurisdiction to fund education and develop education policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg immediately negotiate with the Province for a legislative change to remove all school property taxes from the property tax bill.