Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 17, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 10 Ethical Trade Policy

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee considered the Council Motion of December 15, 2022, and recommended to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of December 15, 2022, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the Council Motion of December 15, 2022, be received as information, and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Gillingham, Browaty, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins	6
Nay:		0

Carried

David Grant submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On December 15, 2022, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is a major urban centre in Canada that participates in complex international supply chains and the procurement of goods and services thereof;

AND WHEREAS on 23 February 2021, Canada's House of Commons adopted a motion recognizing that China's actions against the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region of China meet the definition of genocide as set out in the 1948 United Nations Genocide Convention;

AND WHEREAS on 31 August 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner released a report assessing human rights concerns in the Xinjiang region of China and found that serious human rights violations have been committed;

AND WHEREAS on 31 October 2022, 50 states represented at the United Nations, including Canada, issued a joint statement expressing grave concern with respect to ongoing human rights violations against the Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslims in the Xinjiang region and possible crimes against humanity;

AND WHEREAS in addition to other human rights abuses, China perpetrated the unlawful and retaliatory detention of Canadian citizens Michael Solvig and Michael Spavor in China for nearly three years;

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS among other recent and ongoing national sovereignty, espionage, and security concerns involving China, Canadian law enforcement and intelligence services are aware of and investigating allegations of China's interference in the 2019 federal election;

AND WHEREAS China maintains an official state policy of "unification" with Taiwan, increasing the prospect of international military conflict;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 and the recent vulnerability of international supply chains has highlighted the urgent need for building and prioritizing integrated, domestic economic capacity;

AND WHEREAS there is a growing recognition in western liberal democracies that existing foreign policy focused on engagement with China has largely failed and that the time has come to pursue a policy of "decoupling";

AND WHEREAS continuing to procure goods and services from China, in light of its human rights abuses, is morally untenable for the City of Winnipeg or other Canadian municipalities and is no longer reflective of modern foreign policy realities or domestic economic demands;

AND WHEREAS continuing to procure goods and services from China risks the City of Winnipeg and other Canadian municipalities implicit endorsement or ignorance of China's human rights abuses and reflects an improper prioritization of domestic interests;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City of Winnipeg develop an "ethical trade policy" and "approved country list" for any procurement of goods and services;

2. That the City of Winnipeg mandate that all sourcing and procurement of goods and services give priority to Canadian based, or controlled, entities;

3. That in the event that no available domestic sources of goods or services exist, that procurement from international sources must comply with the City of Winnipeg's ethical trade policy and approved country list;

4. That the City of Winnipeg request the federal government's assistance, in coordination with the provincial government, in developing said procurement standard;

5. That the relevant by-laws or policies of the City of Winnipeg and Council be amended accordingly;

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

6. That the Proper Officers of the City of Winnipeg do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.