Minute No. 142
Report – Executive Policy Committee – January 17, 2023

Item No. 4 French Language Services

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consult with the Société de la francophonie manitobaine, Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, Winnipeg's Francophone communities and the St. Boniface Ward Councillor, and report back to the Executive Policy Committee in 120 days with recommendations on the following:

    A. That the Public Service be responsible for implementing the following:

        i. That the City of Winnipeg's commitment to the development of a five-year French language services plan be maintained and that its implementation be prioritized.

        ii. That the City of Winnipeg's French Language Services Division report directly to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in order to promote an integrated approach to improving French language services. Currently, each department acts independently, without being required to take the linguistic rights of the official language minority seriously. A commitment that all branches of the City of Winnipeg meet with the Société de la francophonie manitobaine once a year to discuss progress in terms of French language services and that the Mayor chair these meetings.

        iii. That Part 9 of *The City of Winnipeg Charter* be modernized, according to the following principles:

            a. Expanding the geographic boundaries defined in Part 9 so that all residents of the City of Winnipeg have an equal right to French language services;

            b. Establishing faster and more effective mechanisms to ensure full compliance with Part 9. This could include penalties for departments that ignore their obligations;

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

c. Adopting positive measures to improve the delivery of French language services. Winnipeg's Francophone communities must be actively consulted and participate in the implementation of the services intended for them.

iv. That the City of Winnipeg, by adopting this motion, request from the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada a new permanent financial commitment to support the improvement, delivery and implementation of French language services for the City of Winnipeg and other bilingual municipalities in Manitoba and Canada.

v. That the City of Winnipeg, by adopting this motion, request that the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, support the objectives set out in this resolution through all means at their disposal.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
That the motion to adopt the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be rescinded, in order to allow Councillor Allard to speak to the item.

Carried

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 17, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee submitted to Council that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to consider the Council motion of December 15, 2022 and consult with the Société de la francophonie manitobaine, Division scolaire franco-manitobaine, Winnipeg's Francophone communities and the St. Boniface Ward Councillor, and report back to the Executive Policy Committee in 120 days with recommendations.

Daniel Boucher, Executive Director, Société de la francophonie manitobaine, submitted a communication in support of the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la fonction publique soit chargée de mettre en œuvre ce qui suit:

Que l'engagement de la Ville de Winnipeg envers le développement d'un plan quinquennal sur les services en français soit maintenu et que sa mise en œuvre soit priorisée.

Que la direction des services en français de la Ville de Winnipeg relève directement de la direction municipale afin de favoriser une approche intégrée à l'amélioration des services en français. À l'heure actuelle, chaque département agit de façon indépendante, sans être tenu de prendre au sérieux les droits linguistiques de la minorité de langue officielle. Un engagement afin que toutes les directions de la Ville de Winnipeg rencontrent la Société de la francophonie manitobaine une fois par année, et ce, afin de discuter des progrès en matière des services en français et que la mairesse ou le maire préside ces rencontres.

Que la Partie 9 de la Charte de la Ville de Winnipeg soit modernisée, selon les principes suivants:

a. L'élargissement des limites géographiques définies dans la Partie 9 pour que tous les résidents de la Ville de Winnipeg aient un droit égal aux services en français ;

b. L'établissement de mécanismes plus rapides et efficaces pour assurer le plein respect de la Partie IX. Cela pourrait comprendre des sanctions pour les départements qui ignorent leurs obligations;

c. L'adoption de mesures positives pour améliorer l'offre de services en français. Les communautés francophones de Winnipeg doivent activement être consultées et participer à la mise en œuvre des services qui leur sont destinés.

Que la Ville de Winnipeg, par l'adoption de cette proposition, demande à la Province du Manitoba et au Gouvernement du Canada, un nouvel engagement financier permanent pour appuyer l'amélioration, la prestation et la mise en oeuvre de services en français pour la Ville de Winnipeg et les autres municipalités bilingues du Manitoba et du Canada.

Que la Ville de Winnipeg, par l'adoption de cette proposition, demande à l'Association des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba, et la Fédération canadienne des municipalités, d'appuyer par tous les moyens à leur disposition les objectifs énoncés dans cette résolution.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

English Translation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service be responsible for implementing the following:

That the City of Winnipeg's commitment to the development of a five-year French language services plan be maintained and that its implementation be prioritized.

That the City of Winnipeg's French Language Services Division report directly to the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer in order to promote an integrated approach to improving French language services. Currently, each department acts independently, without being required to take the linguistic rights of the official language minority seriously. A commitment that all branches of the City of Winnipeg meet with the Société de la francophonie manitobaine once a year to discuss progress in terms of French language services and that the Mayor chair these meetings.

That Part 9 of *The City of Winnipeg Charter* be modernized, according to the following principles:

a. Expanding the geographic boundaries defined in Part 9 so that all residents of the City of Winnipeg have an equal right to French language services;

b. Establishing faster and more effective mechanisms to ensure full compliance with Part 9. This could include penalties for departments that ignore their obligations;

c. Adopting positive measures to improve the delivery of French language services. Winnipeg's Francophone communities must be actively consulted and participate in the implementation of the services intended for them.

That the City of Winnipeg, by adopting this motion, request from the Province of Manitoba and the Government of Canada a new permanent financial commitment to support the improvement, delivery and implementation of French language services for the City of Winnipeg and other bilingual municipalities in Manitoba and Canada.

That the City of Winnipeg, by adopting this motion, request that the Association of Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, support the objectives set out in this resolution through all means at their disposal.