EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 557
With respect to the recent release of the Public Use Facilities (PUFS) Report and the concerns of the various stakeholders, Councillor Steeves asked His Worship Mayor Katz to put on record his plans for the PUFS Report and how the City of Winnipeg would be handling the issue.

His Worship Mayor Katz acknowledged that during his election campaign, he made a commitment to make the PUFS report available as soon as possible, a commitment that was kept. His Worship suggested that Members of Council should read the report, with a focus to what is important in their wards, and advised that the report's author would be available to all Councillors to address their questions and concerns. He further made commitments to future Council Seminars on the issue and to setting up mechanisms to obtain feedback from the citizens.

Councillor Pagtakhan referenced the "First Steps: Municipal Aboriginal Pathways Strategy", that was passed unanimously by Council on September 24, 2003, and questioned if His Worship would state his plans relative to the strategy.

His Worship responded that he had briefly reviewed the report, noting that it contained many great suggestions, and indicated that he would be thoroughly briefed in the following weeks. His Worship acknowledged that there were major issues and concerns to be resolved and that he was aware of the situation that currently exists with the growth of the Aboriginal Community, adding that it would be important for everyone to embrace the issue and empower those within the community.

With respect to the Rapid Transit Issue, Councillor Gerbasi questioned if His Worship could give Council a sense of his position on the issue before September, inasmuch as there was a lot of work that needed to be proceeded with, to which His Worship acknowledged that he did commit to revisit this issue and that he would be briefed later this week. He added, that following the briefing he would be happy to meet with any member of Council to discuss his thoughts.