**Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – October 17, 2023**

**Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – October 5, 2023**

**Item No. 4 Agreement with Bell Canada for Planting and Maintenance of Visual Buffer in Relation to Proposed Telecommunications Facility**

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 5, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the following to Council:

1. That funding be approved from Bell Canada in the amount of $3,750.00 for the planting and maintenance of five trees at Sergeant Tommy Prince Memorial Park.

2. That the City enter into, execute, and deliver an agreement with Bell Canada and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the agreement with Bell Canada and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

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

**Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – October 17, 2023**

**Report – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – October 5, 2023**

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 5, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**Title:** Agreement with Bell Canada for Planting and Maintenance of Visual Buffer in Relation to Proposed Telecommunications Facility

**Critical Path:** Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – Executive Policy Committee – Council

## AUTHORIZATION

| Author | Department Head | CFO | CAO |
|---|---|---|---|
| D. Domke | J. Berezowsky | L. Szkwarek, Acting CFO | M. Jack |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council approve an agreement between the City and Bell Canada under which Bell Canada will provide a lump sum payment of $3,750.00 to be used by the City for the planting and maintenance of five trees at Sergeant Tommy Prince Memorial Park (Appendix A). The trees will provide a visual buffer between a planned Bell Canada cell tower at 1020 Selkirk Avenue, approximately 10 metres from the northern limit of the park.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That funding be approved from Bell Canada in the amount of $3,750.00 for the planting and maintenance of five trees at Sergeant Tommy Prince Memorial Park.

2. That the City enter into, execute, and deliver an agreement with Bell Canada and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor/Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the “Ancillary Agreements”).

3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the agreement with Bell Canada and the Ancillary Agreements**,** in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

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

## REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required to enter into the agreement and receive funds from Bell Canada.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no significant operating or capital budget implications as a result of this report.

An agreement between the City and Bell Canada would provide a lump sum payment of $3,750.00 to be used by the City for the planting and maintenance of five trees at Sergeant Tommy Prince Memorial Park.

## HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The Federal Government regulates and licenses radio communication and broadcasting services. However, they request input from the local municipality. The City manages cell tower location, design standards and public consultation processes through the *Winnipeg Antenna System Policy* (the "Policy"), adopted by Council on May 27, 2015, which involves reviewing proposals for alignment with the Policy and taking into consideration key stakeholders, existing infrastructure, land use compatibility and, if required, any public consultation feedback. The process finishes with the City providing a recommendation to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) through a letter of concurrence or non-concurrence.

The Policy specifies:

- Antenna Systems should be designed in terms of appearance and aesthetics to respect their immediate surroundings (e.g., Residential Areas, parkland, Heritage district, etc.), including being unobtrusive and inconspicuous, minimizing visual impact, and avoiding disturbance to natural features, and should reduce the need for future facilities in the same area, where appropriate. *(excerpt, 6.2 Development and Design Preferences)*

- Antenna Systems and associated equipment shelters/cabinets should be screened and concealed from ground level to mitigate visual impacts. A mix of deciduous and coniferous vegetation is preferred to provide year-round coverage. *(6.2 Development and Design Preference—Buffering and Screening)*

Sargent Tommy Prince Park is part of a larger community park space that includes the Old Exhibition Athletic Grounds. It is one of few locations within the neighbourhood where residents and visitors can experience nature, open greenspace and sports fields.

As part of its review of the Bell Canada proposal to locate a cell tower at 1020 Selkirk Avenue under the Policy, and in consultation with the Parks and Open Space Division, the Public Service determined that given the tower's proximity to the park and sports fields, trees should be planted as a visual buffer to make the proposed cell tower facility less obtrusive to park users. A diagram of the telecommunications tower location is attached as Appendix A to this report.

Bell Canada agreed to make a lump sum contribution of $3,750 to be used by the City for the installation and maintenance of five trees in Sergeant Tommy Prince Memorial Park for this purpose. The City will be responsible for determining the location of the trees and planting schedule as well as the ongoing maintenance of the trees once planted.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

**Financial Impact Statement** **Date:** August 16, 2023

**Project Name:** **First Year of Program** **2023**

Agreement with Bell Canada for Planting and Maintenance of Visual Buffer in Relation to Proposed Telecommunications Facility

| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Capital** | | | | | |
| Capital Expenditures Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Less: Existing Budgeted Costs | - | - | - | - | - |
| Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| **Funding Sources:** | | | | | |
| Debt - Internal | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Debt - External | - | - | - | - | - |
| Grants (Enter Description Here) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reserves, Equity, Surplus | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other - Enter Description Here | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Funding | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Total Additional Capital Budget Required | $ - | | | | |
| Total Additional Debt Required | $ - | | | | |
| **Current Expenditures/Revenues** | | | | | |
| Direct Costs | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Incremental Revenue/Recovery | (3,750) | - | - | - | - |
| Net Cost/(Benefit) | $ 3,750 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Less: Existing Budget Amounts | 3,750 | - | - | - | - |
| Net Budget Adjustment Required | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |

**Additional Comments:** The incremental revenue/recovery represents the lump sum payment Bell Canada will provide to be used by the City for the planting and maintenance of five trees at Sergeant Tommy Prince Memorial Park.

*J. Ruby, 2023-08-25*

J. Ruby, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance and Administration

## CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services

## OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

**Goal: Good Health and Well-Being**

**Policy 4.13 Inclusive Public Places** - Integrate public art and green infrastructure into neighbourhood-scale public gathering spaces, to promote usability, beauty, pride, belonging and sense of place.

## WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with Strategic Opportunity #7 Community Climate Resiliency

- 7.2 Increase and Preserve Tree Canopy
- 7.3 Preserve and Manage Parks and Natural Areas to Support Climate Change Mitigation

## WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

## SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property & Development
Division: Urban Planning & Design
Prepared by: Stephanie Whitehouse, Senior Urban Designer
Date: August 25, 2023

Attachment:
Appendix A: Cell Tower / Tree Buffer Location

Appendix A: *Cell Tower / Tree Buffer Location*




*Location of cell tower—red | Location of tree planting buffer--blue*