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Date: March 11, 2024

To: Standing Policy Committee Community Services

From: Mike Purdy, President of General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres Board (GCWCC)

Subject: Municipal Accommodations (MA) Budget – As per page 189 Property Asset Management

In the Preliminary Budget, the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC) was very pleased to see the Community Centre Renovation Grant's annual budget remains at $2 million for the foreseeable future.

The decision to maintain that level brings a certain amount of relief for our 63 Community Centres that are facing the challenge of maintaining and improving the spaces we invite families to share and celebrate in.

Having said that, this budget also shines a light upon a much greater issue: the Municipal Accommodations department funding.

As stipulated in our UFF agreement, a portion of the City's role with respect to repairs includes looking after major structural repairs to preserve the infrastructure and to prevent further deterioration and possible danger to both building and people (e.g. foundation leaks, cracked concrete, excessive shifting and building movement). Replacement of handicap ramps due to age deterioration. Replacement of chimney, furnace, and air conditioning when caused by age deterioration but not by vandalism. This includes cracked heat exchangers and worn out air-conditioning compressors.

We understand that the Municipal Accommodations - Community Centre Facilities budget, as shown on page 189, is approximately $700,000 annually to cover those costs. Due to this limitation, the department can only fund repairs to the most immediate projects. Projects that can result in harm to the building's infrastructure or even worse, to occupants of those Community Centres.

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Having to select what can be paid for and those projects that must wait, inevitably results in denying public access to community centres.

This also puts undue pressure on our invaluable volunteers, that must address these critical building issues and face the ire of the public daily. This burden has caused some of the long-term volunteers to call it a day.

The Board of GCWCC requests a further review of the budget for MA's Community Centre Facilities, and perhaps reconsider the decrease that is expected year over year.

Thank you for your consideration.