Executive Policy Committee
City of Winnipeg
re: Item #12 Proposed Grant Intake and Review Process

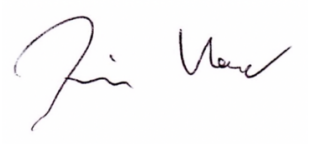
Dear Mayor Gillingham/City Councillors:

I appreciate your proactive stance in sending the proposal to cut funding to the City of Winnipeg's Community Grants Program back to the Executive Policy Committee. As you clearly recognize, poverty is at the root of many of the crises impacting our city, including but not limited to substance abuse, crime and homelessness. Funding community services that provide nurturing activities, safe spaces and food security is critical to the future of all Winnipeggers, and thus, I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to the Community Grants Program and instead of cutting funding and revising the review process as proposed, to:

1) Maintain the existing grant review process.
2) Restore the 2.1 million dollars that was formerly allocated to the program.
3) Expand the reach of the program by adding additional funds to it.

Only by sharing the wealth Winnipeg taxpayers enjoy with those less fortunate than ourselves will we achieve a fair and just society, where all can thrive and contribute positively to the collective good. While I recognize that tough decisions must be made in terms of where to allocate public monies, investment in youth through community services will pay huge dividends in the end by alleviating pressure on law enforcement, social services and our health care system. Even over the short term, it will improve the quality of life for all city residents, and as such, it is in everyone's interests to fund the Community Grants Program to the maximum extent possible.

Sincerely,



Dr. James F. Hare