The Chamber
The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce

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September 16, 2024

Re: Shareholder approval for a sale of the Portage Place Mall Assets, Assignment of Related Skywalk Agreements and financial support for a Redevelopment of the Mall

Dear Council Members,

The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Portage Place redevelopment project as it directly aligns with the pressing priorities identified by our members. In a recent membership survey, the top three government issues our members have asked The Chamber to advocate for are: downtown revitalization, affordable housing, and public safety and crime reduction. The redevelopment of Portage Place offers a meaningful step towards addressing these critical challenges and presents a long-term solution that benefits the entire community.

Portage Place, once a key hub in our downtown, has unfortunately become a challenge we must confront. This redevelopment project transforms that challenge into an opportunity. The revitalization of this space represents a turning point for downtown Winnipeg, offering not only an immediate aesthetic and economic improvement but also fostering a more vibrant and thriving downtown core that supports businesses, attracts talent, and enhances public safety.

We also want to highlight True North Real Estate Development as a trusted local developer with a proven track record of success in our community. Their commitment to Winnipeg runs deep, and their local ownership and investment provide an added layer of confidence for the long-term sustainability and success of the project. True North's involvement ensures that this development will reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

It is important to note that while this redevelopment is not a silver bullet for all the challenges our downtown faces, it is a significant step in the right direction. The project aligns with other key downtown developments, such as the Wehwehneh Bahgahkinahgohn, creating an aligned approach that strengthens the collective impact of all these efforts. This redevelopment is part of a broader vision for Winnipeg's future—one that fosters economic growth, enhances safety, and supports local businesses.

In closing, The Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce endorses this redevelopment as a crucial move towards a more vibrant, safe, and economically viable downtown.

Sincerely,

THE WINIPEG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Loren Remillard
President and CEO