SUBMISSION – CINDY CHOY

ITEM 1 – STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON WATER WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT- OCTOBER 4, 2024 - BUILDING EMISSIONS REDUCTION STRATEGY

Submitted: Wed, 10/23/2024 - 11:04

Committee you want to address
Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – Notice of Motion Item No. 1 Retrofit Investments

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments
I am writing in support of the motion to refer the recommendations of the "Retrofits to Reduce Carbon Tax Payment Obligations" which was adopted by Council on September 29, 2023, be referred the 2025 Budget Update Process. It is very important for the City of Winnipeg to follow through on commitments to our city's financial and climate responsibilities. It is NOT sufficient to adopt a report and its recommendations without committing the resources to execute. Public infrastructure INCLUDES PUBLIC BUILDINGS. In fact, I would add that the investments in building infrastructure and deep energy retrofits are a better investment for Winnipeg not only in the carbon reductions and tax costs they represent, but also the good stewardship of vital public assets: preserving and enhancing their value, improved service delivery to citizens so they can safely and comfortably attend at public buildings, better workplaces for public servants to help with staff retention, increased resilience to fluctuating energy prices and extreme weather events. Importantly - this is also part of the work and investment Winnipeg MUST undertake to reap the economic benefits described in the Community Energy investment Roadmap (CEIR) that ALSO was adopted by Council. Focusing on energy retrofits and other forward-looking actions as reported in the Roadmap is the economic opportunity of a lifetime that pays for itself twice over in the projected 28 years of modelling through avoided carbon costs, reduced energy costs, reduced maintenance and jobs for local construction and trades businesses. Addressing these through the Retrofit Investments avoids political embarrassment like the Portage and Main and demonstrates that the City of Winipeg can actually be trusted with the safe and responsible stewardship of our public assets. I strongly support this motion and expect that the rest of council also recognize the importance and value that this investment represents and refers this work for inclusion in the budget update.

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
Yes