Dear Members of the Executive Policy Committee and Council

I want to begin by acknowledging the proposed new property tax increase and the continuation of corporate welfare and pork barrel spending has been an unspoken practice in city hall, and contained within this written submission presentation is what i think should be done about it to save taxpayers money, what all members of council should do, and what i believe to be a stadus quo that needs step change.

Below are the budget recomendation steps that shell begin genuine deliberative, debate and hard work towards putting Winnipeg onto a better direction in 2025 and beyond.

In this abridged written submission which I hope to expand on in the near future with any member of council, I stongly recommend these budget recomendation steps for all members of EPC and Council To:

1) **Reduce all Salary Top-Ups to Members of EPC, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Deputy Mayors by 50%.**

2) **Reduce The Mayor's Salary by an equal amount to that of members of EPC.**

3) **Reduce and Restrict Council Wards Budgets for members of council who claim expenses for:**

    - Meeting with their staff, fellow councilors or city employees,
    - Tickets to charitable events,
    - Golf tournaments,
    - Gala dinners,
    - Luncheons or similar events,
    - Cable or internet,
    - Tickets for sporting events,
    - Ward office space,
    - Self-promotional advertisements.

4) **Eliminate and Restrict All Taxpayer-Supported, Free and Complemtrary Passes, E-Passes, Memberships and Vouchers to All Members of City Council Including:**

    - Golf Course Passes
    - Chamber of Commerce Passes and Memberships
    - Assiniboine Park Zoo and The Leaf Vouchers and Passes (average winnipeger has to pay out of pocket between $24.70 to $22.45)
    - Winnipeg Transit Passes and E-Passes (Wpg Transit is stripped from money and the average winnipeger has to pay bus fare out of pocket and every year bus fares go up 5 cents to 10 cents)
    - Winnipeg Parking Passes and E-Passes (note: city employees pay the same rate for parking as everyone else, and members of council should be no

exception).

- Red River Ex Passes (average winnipeger has to pay out of pocket between $49.00 to $53.00)
- Active Living Passes (average winnipeger has to pay out of pocket between $56.66 to $652.74 in active living pass rates)
- Facility Passes (average winnipger has to pay out of pocket between $150.24 to $494.32 in facility pass rates)

5) **Eliminate and Restrict All Compensation and Remuneration For All Members of Council When Holding Emergency Meetings of Council and Special Meetings of Council.**

6) **Eliminate All Corporate Welfare and Public Subsidy To:**

- All Stadiums (i.e Blue Cross Park Stadium, Canada Life Centre Stadium, Princess Auto Stadium).
- All professional sports clubs/companies:

    - The Winnipeg Football Club

According to 2025 Preliminary Budget - Operating, Reserves and Capital

Under a LONG-TERM AGREEMENT with the city, the Winnipeg Football Club is expected to be allocated a Refund of Entertainment Funding Tax of **$1,400,000** for 2025.

    - The True North Sports & Entertainment

According to 2025 Preliminary Budget - Operating, Reserves and Capital

Under a LONG-TERM AGREEMENT with the city, The True North Sports & Entertainment is expected to be allocated a Refund of the Business Tax is **$246,000** and an additional Refund of Entertainment Funding Tax of **$6,650,000** for 2025

    - The Winnipeg Goldeyes,

According to 2025 Preliminary Budget - Operating, Reserves and Capital

Under a LONG-TERM AGREEMENT with the city, the Winnipeg Goldeyes is expected to be allocated a Municipal Property Tax and Frontage Levies Rebate of **$54,410** and additional Refund of Entertainment Funding Tax of **$325,000** for 2025.

7) **Eliminate All Corporate Welfare and Public Subsidy to The Winnipeg Convention Centre and Submit a Buinsess Plan to Council that Fulfils Section 8(2) of The Convention Centre Corporation Act: "The corporation shall manage and operate the convention centre as a self-supporting business.".**

According to 2025 Preliminary Budget - Operating, Reserves and Capital

Under GRANTS FROM RESERVES The Winnipeg Convention Centre - as payment to pay down a city commitment of $8 million, is expected to be allocated a **$1,000,000** grant, and an additional **$1,500,000** grant (a $8 million non-city commitment payment) for 2025.

8) **Eliminate All Corporate Welfare and Public Subsidy to The Winnipeg Park Conservancy by Requiring The Assiniboine Park Conservancy Submit a Buinsess Plan to Council to make it a more self-supporting corporation.**

According to 2025 Preliminary Budget - Operating, Reserves and Capital

Under a LONG-TERM AGREEMENT with the city, The Assiniboine Park Conservancy is expected to be allocated a **$13,756,000** operating budget in the 2025 city budget

9) **Convene and harness new and existing public, private and nonprofit support and press the provincial government to engage in New Fiscal Deal For Winnipeg discussions which must and ought to reimagine and improve new and existing sources of revenue flows and generation for the city of winnipeg. Explore and investigate jurisdictions in and outside North Americaian Cities for use of robust and out of the box sources of revenue flows and generation for the city of winnipeg.**

Fact: Winnipeg's "entertainment funding" tax is not really just about arts funding. While the title implies otherwise, Section 20 of the Simplified Entertainment Funding By-law is worded to give Council full discretion on what it does with the funds collected. **Over half the taxes raised are remitted back to sports facilities.**

Considering the above budget recomendation steps, I am in Support of:

- Keeping the Property Tax Rate Maintained at Current 3.5% Levels.
- City Pursing Tax Relief or Reduction to make daily life more affordable for all winnipeg residents and businesses.
- The continued operational funding needed to reopen Millennium Library's Community Connections Space past December 31, 2024.
- A new security screening exit plan that phases out the millennium library "airport-style" security screening by 2029, if certain conditions are met, such as hiring more crisis workers and providing more training for staff.
- Relocation of millennium library's Community Crisis Workers to the millennium library lobby's old gift shop space acorss from the community connections space that clusters community connections and community crisis supports and services that reduces deterance to acesss downtown

public library services at location and over-relince on intrusive and encroaching security screening stop gap measures.

- A Millennium Library Lobby Redesign to Improve Safety.
- The continued investment in core asset management.
- Reinvestment into more incremental and smaller infrastructure projects.
- the key steps to replenish the Fiscal Stabilization Fund.
- the value of finding more efficiencies and targetted optimizations.

Honestly submitted,

Mark D. Head (MDH)