Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – July 8, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 12 Landfill Search Operations

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Council Motion of June 26, 2025, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Duncan,
That the Council Motion of June 26, 2025, be received as information, and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Councillor Santos asked to be recorded as having voted against the above motion, in accordance with Rule 47(7) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

Councillor Browaty was absent from the vote on the above motion.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 26, 2025, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS the search of the Prairie Green Landfill has been undertaken in connection with the murders of Morgan Harris and Marcedes Myran, two Indigenous women whose lives were violently taken and whose remains are believed to have been left in the landfill;

AND WHEREAS these women, along with Rebecca Contois—whose remains were found at Brady Road landfill—and the still-unidentified woman known respectfully by community members as Buffalo Woman, are not statistics, but cherished daughters, sisters, mothers, and members of their communities;

AND WHEREAS the search effort, while complex, serves as a powerful testament to the belief that every life matters and that every family deserves the chance to bring their loved one home;

AND WHEREAS this tragic situation has highlighted the disproportionate violence faced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people, and the urgent need for action and accountability;

AND WHEREAS despite public debate about the financial cost of the search, this council affirms that the moral cost of inaction is far greater, and that justice and human dignity must always guide our decisions;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service be directed to:

1. Report back on lessons learned from this tragedy and establish how we can be better prepared in the future for landfill searches.

2. Reach out to other levels of government, indigenous leadership and community organizations to ensure that the City of Winnipeg approaches future missing persons cases—particularly those involving Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people—with a coordinated, compassionate, and adequately resourced response.

3. Establish protocols to support landfill search operations, when necessary.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.