Winnipeg

Civic ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE



Annual Report 2003

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair, and on behalf of the Civic Environmental Committee, it is my pleasure to submit our 2003 annual report. The year was a busy one and I believe that we have made a great deal of progress.

As part of our constituting mandate, the Committee was charged with the responsibility of developing the first environmental strategy for the City of Winnipeg. Much of 2003 was devoted to the production of the document. In May, a draft of the strategy was distributed to the community at large. Throughout the spring and summer the Committee engaged Winnipeggers through four town-hall style meetings on a variety of environmental issues. In addition, we met individually with many community, environmental, and business groups regarding issues raised in the document.

For me the opportunity to hear from the community was tremendously beneficial and thought provoking. The experience has demonstrated to the Committee the value and need to continue our public outreach and engagement endeavors.

2003 was also full of changes for the Committee. Environmental Coordinator, Andrew Cowan, took a position as Senior Climate Change Analyst, with the Energy Science and Technology Department at the Province of Manitoba. Andrew's distinguished contribution to the Committee will be missed. James Allum, of the CAO Secretariat was appointed Interim Environmental Coordinator. In addition, two of the Committee's original members, Toby Maloney and Doug Johnson, have also moved on to other community pursuits. I wish to extend my thanks to the Committee and our administrative staff for their unqualified dedication to the committee.

Warm Regards,



Councillor Gord Steeves

Chair, Civic Environmental Committee



INTRODUCTION

The Civic Environmental Committee (CEC) is an advisory committee that reports to Council through the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) and, where appropriate, through other Standing Committees. Annual Reports, such as this one, are the only required submissions to Council.

MANDATE

On July 18, 2001, Winnipeg City Council approved the creation of the Civic Environmental Committee. The Committee was established as a voluntary "advisory committee" of experts asked to provide advice to City Council and report on environmental and urban sustainability issues. This initiative reflects Council's desire to ensure that Winnipeg has strong sustainability policy and programming. The CEC aims to continue its work on public engagement and facilitate education and awareness, promote responsible environmental decision-making, and sustainability within all City of Winnipeg institutions.



DELEGATIONS TO THE CEC

The CEC holds monthly public meetings in the Council Building at 510 Main Street. Agendas and dispositions are available on the CEC website, **www.winnipegcec.org.**

Civic officials, members of the civic administration, stakeholders and members of the public often appear in delegation.

In 2003 the following delegations were heard:

Harry Finnigan
Director, Planning, Property and Development
01/13/03 re. Residential development guidelines

Al Harmacy
Manitoba Lung Association
02/03/03 re. Vehicle scrappage program

Councillor John Angus
St. Norbert Ward and Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Works
03/10/03 re. Rapid transit proposal

Michael Dudley
Research Associate, Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg
03/10/03 re. Pedicab Service Pilot Project

Frank Caldwell
Community Resource Coordinator, Community Services
03/10/01 re. Assiniboine Park Plan

Elizabeth Evans
Concerned Citizens of Transcona
05/12/03 re. Emission from New Flyer Industries impacting neighbourhood air quality

Anne Lindsey, Steve Rauh, and Kimlee Wong Morrisseau
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
09/12/03 re. Funding request for "Exposed for Life": Children's Health and the Environment conference.

Sheldon McLeod *(Consultant)*, Mike Shkolny *(Manager of Engineering)*, Terry Kjartanson *(Project Management Engineer)*, and Barry McBride *(Director, Water and Waste Department)*
11/10/2003 re. Environmental Management System ISO 14001 process being undertaken by the Water & Waste Department.

PROJECTS

COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

Throughout 2003 research analysis and writing continued on the Comprehensive Environmental Strategy. With the public release of a draft strategy in May, the Committee held Town Hall sessions and met with key stakeholders for feedback on the document. In February 2004, *Sustainable Winnipeg: A Comprehensive Environmental Strategy* was referred by the Executive Policy Committee of Council to the Chief Administrator's Office for the development of a Priority Plan.

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Committee Chair Councillor Gord Steeves, Environmental Coordinator Andrew Cowan, and Policy Assistant Molly Johnson met with many local stakeholder groups to discuss the Draft Comprehensive Environmental Strategy.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Mission to the Netherlands

In late August 2003, Committee Chair Councillor Gord Steeves and Environmental Coordinator Andrew Cowan participated in a Federation of Canadian Municipalities mission to the Netherlands.

New Deal workshop

Throughout most of the fall of 2003, the New Deal was big news in Winnipeg. Over 50 workshops on the initiative were held with local stakeholder groups. In October, representatives from the Chief Administrative Office Secretariat's Strategic Management Team met with the CEC to discuss the policy initiative.

Strategic Partnerships Funding Criteria

Partnering on conferences or hosting conferences are strategic ways in which the CEC can advance its mandate. Partnering with other organizations can provide forums to discuss and advance key initiatives of the Committee. From its inception the CEC has been able to accommodate several self initiated conferences and workshops in addition to requests for funding from outside organizations. However, in 2003 the Committee developed the following criteria to manage future requests in order to ensure budgetary responsibility and fairness in the community.

1. Opportunity to be a partner allowing for the leverage of limited funds
2. Level of exposure for the Committee and its members
3. Theme(s) consistent with the Committee's strategic priorities.
4. Level of community influence - dissemination of theme and outcomes to public
5. Level of influence on community decision makers – outcomes and spin-offs of planned initiatives
6. Defined communications and media opportunities
7. Ability to strengthen relationships with key community players (networking potential)
8. Ability to strengthen relationships with key national and international stakeholders (networking potential)
9. Opportunities to increase learning and competency of the Committee
10. Credibility and influence of host organization

THREE MAJOR PROJECTS WERE FUNDED IN 2003

PESTICIDE BYLAW AND EDUCATION BEST PRACTICE REPORT

This report contains a best practices review of the impact of by-laws and public education programs on reducing the cosmetic/non-essential, residential use of pesticides. In-depth research was conducted on nine communities in Canada, the United States and Europe that were leaders in reducing their pesticide use.

A subsequent phase of this work will involve communicating the results of the review to targeted stakeholders and engaging them in what was learned so that best practices can be implemented.

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG'S CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE EXPOSED FOR LIFE

This two-day conference focused on the links between children's health and the environments that children live in: at home, at school, at play and in their communities. A wide variety of speakers explored the issues related to children's environmental health including: toxins and pesticides, water, food, built environments, climate change, green spaces and community planning.

Breakout sessions were an effective way to raise awareness and allow key stakeholders to discuss potential solutions. The success of this conference brings the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg one step closer to defining public policy which supports environmental health for all children.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION'S "HEALTHY COMMUNITIES DON'T IDLE" SIGNAGE PROJECT

The Climate Change Connection operates the "Healthy Communities Don't Idle" sign project to build awareness about the impacts of unnecessary vehicle idling and to empower Manitobans to take action to reduce this unsustainable habit - and their greenhouse gas emissions.

Four hundred and forty-one (441) Idle-Free Zones (IFZ's) have been created around Winnipeg to date. Two hundred (200) of these IFZ's were created through signs co-produced with the City of Winnipeg and bearing both partner logos.

With funding support from The Winnipeg Foundation and EcoACTION (Environment Canada's Community Funding Program), 855 signs will be made available in April, 2004 to child-centred locations – daycares, kindergartens, museums, religious buildings, clinics and hospitals.

CIVIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE WEBSITE

Work has continued to develop the CEC website **www.winnipegcec.org**. The website provides general information about the Committee, its members and its endeavours. This information is complemented by links to other local, national and international environmental organizations.

EVENTS

TOWN HALL SESSIONS

In May and June 2003, the CEC encouraged the public and the media to attend a series of Town Hall meetings on environmental issues in Winnipeg. The Committee wanted to hear from the public on some of Winnipeg's key environmental issues as it continued to develop a long-term environmental strategy to submit to Council. These Town Hall meetings were held between May 20th and June 4th and included pre-eminent speakers from across Canada.

Sustainable Transportation and Land Use Planning – a Traffic "Jam" Session with Winnipeggers
Todd Litman, *Victoria Transport Institute*
Tuesday, May 20th

Weighing the Risks: Pesticides and Human Health
Kapil Khatter and Dr. Keith Soloman
Thursday May 22nd

Youth, the Environment and Sustainable Communities
Severn Cullis-Suzuki
Tuesday June 3rd

Smart Growth and Cities
Mark McCullough *(Canada Lands Company)* and Dr. David van Vliet *(City Planning, University of Manitoba)*
Wednesday June 4th

Each session allowed for the discussion of important issues and provided advice on where the City should focus and prioritize efforts on environmental issues. Open discussions where the public could ask questions, debate and propose solutions were included. Participants also heard from experts, from across Canada, about how other cities are managing their environmental priorities.

Questionnaires were distributed at the sessions. Thirty-nine of the participants, approximately 10% of attendees, returned a completed questionnaire. Sustainable land use, water and wastewater management and sustainable transportation were identified by participants as the areas of greatest importance.

WEB CHAT

A live web chat with Mayor Glen Murray and Councillor Gord Steeves took place over the lunch hour on July 8, 2003. It served as an opportunity for the public to provide input on *Sustainable Winnipeg: A Comprehensive Environmental Strategy*.

Publicity for the chat included three mass emails to stakeholders and individuals who attended the Town Hall sessions, notices on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Institute for International Sustainable Development web pages, and a media release.

It is estimated that 75 people logged on to the site to participate. Transcripts of the moderated chat were posted on the CEC website at: **www.winnipegcec.org/environmental_strategy/chat_transcript.html**

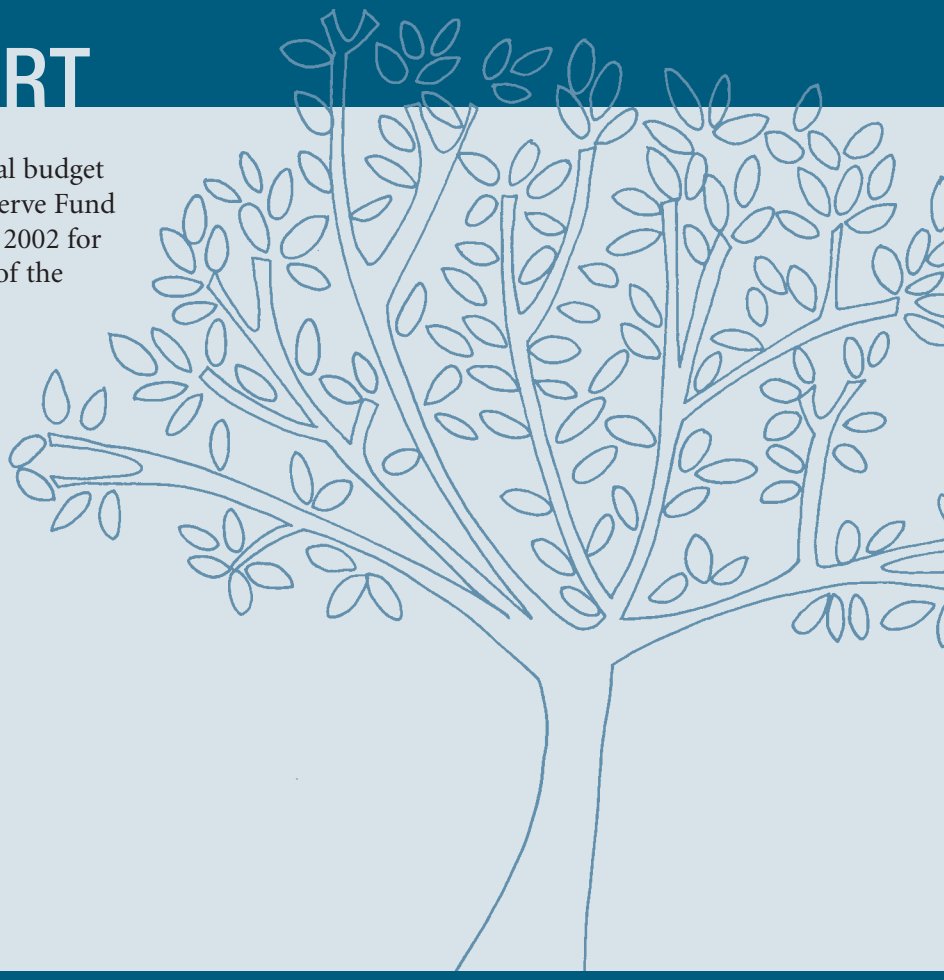
VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER'S RESEARCH COMMISSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STUDY TOUR

5-10 October 2003
In October 2003, a delegation of senior policy advisors from the Vietnamese Prime Minister's Research Commission (PMRC) conducted a study mission to Canada to learn about sustainable development. The study tour sought to assist PMRC members in developing a better understanding of the policies, programmes, and institutions which Canada has built on over the past decade to enable its own transition towards sustainable development. CEC member Terri Willard acted as a guide to PMRC members during their stay in Ottawa and Winnipeg. In order to further educate PMRC members and foster dialogue Molly Johnson, Policy Assistant for the CEC, and James Allum, CEC Interim Environmental Coordinator, both gave presentations on the details of sustainable development policy at the municipal level. This exposure identified the initial steps that the PMRC may recommend for the implementation of sustainable development in Vietnam. This study tour was undertaken as part of the CIDA-funded Policy Implementation Assistance Project (PIAP) in Vietnam, coordinated by Experco-Stikeman Elliott Int'l.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The CEC budget for 2003 was $69,000. This annual budget was supplemented by a $21,517 Commitment Reserve Fund containing unexpended monies carried over from 2002 for use in 2003. The following were the expenditures of the CEC in 2003.

STAFF	$33,230.88
TRAVEL	$8,924.23
PUBLICATIONS	$532.27
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS	$2,728.34
WEBSITE	$1,112,40
PETTY CASH	$954.37
TOTAL	$47,482.49



CIVIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Gord Steeves, *Chair*
Bob Foster
Douglas Johnson
Michele Kading
Ken Klassen
Toby Maloney
Rodney McDonald
Ken MacKinnon
Terri Willard

Annitta Stenning, *Chief Administrative Officer*
Councillor Mark Lubosch
Councillor Harvey Smith
James Allum, *Interim Environmental Coordinator*
Kristine Koster, *CEC Policy Assistant*
Krista Kunz, *Assistant Clerk*

While the CEC has a term of four years expiring December 31, 2005, individual committee members are appointed for a period of one year. Committee membership is voluntary and can be renewed at the end of each year. In addition to attending monthly CEC meetings, committee members may also serve on sub-committees convened on an 'ad hoc' basis.

Contact Us

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