REPORTS

Item No. 5 Replacement of the Winnipeg Electrical By-law and Adoption of the Manitoba Electrical Code

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Electrical By-law, a draft of which is attached as Schedule A to this report, be approved.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Dobson,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Replacement of the Winnipeg Electrical By-law and adoption of the Manitoba Electrical Code

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
R. Klassen	H. Borys	N/A	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province of Manitoba will be changing electrical safety regulations in Manitoba in two key ways.

First, it will set a code of standards for electric wiring and related equipment across all Manitoba. This includes their installation, repair and use. The set of standards is called the Manitoba Electrical Code. The City of Winnipeg must adopt this code and enforce it in Winnipeg. To do so, the City must replacement of the existing Electrical By-law.

Second, the Province will set performance standards for the City regarding electrical permits. The City will have to do inspections and make decisions on permit applications in set timeframes.

These provisions will to come into effect in December 2025. This means the City must pass its new electrical by-law in December 2025.

Stakeholders involved in the development of this regulatory scheme include;

- the Province of Manitoba (Manitoba Finance),
- Manitoba Hydro; and
- the City of Winnipeg.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Winnipeg Electrical By-law, a draft of which is attached as Schedule A to this report, be approved.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The City will be required by provincial law to enact a new electrical by-law. The legislative requirement for the new electrical by-law is based on amendments to *The Manitoba Hydro Act* (the "Act") under Bill 38, which was originally passed in May 2021; specifically, section 28.1 of Bill 38 will require the City to adopt and implement the new Manitoba Electrical Code regulation (the "Code") via by-law. These amendments to the Act are expected to come into effect in late December 2025 or early January 2026. Assuming the Province meets that timeline, the City will need to have the new electrical by-law passed as of its December 2025 meeting of Council.

Council approval is required for the enactment of by-laws.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no financial implications to the recommendations of this report.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Background

The Building and Electrical Permitting Improvement Act (Various Acts Amended and Permit Dispute Resolution Act Enacted May 20, 2021) will implement two major changes to *The Manitoba Hydro Act* and the scheme regulating electrical safety in Manitoba.

Firstly, a uniform code of standards (the Manitoba Electrical Code) for the installation, repair and use of electric wiring and related equipment across Manitoba. The City of Winnipeg must adopt this code and enforce it in Winnipeg, which requires the repeal and replacement of the City's existing Electrical By-law.

Secondly, performance standards that require Manitoba Hydro and the City of Winnipeg to conduct inspections and make decisions on applications for electrical permits within time periods established by regulation.

These changes will come into effect with the coming-into-force of section 28(1) and (2) of Bill 38, Schedule C (the Manitoba Hydro Amendment Act) ("Bill 38").

With provincial adoption of amendments to the Act, and promulgation of the Code as a regulation, the City will be required to enact a by-law that:

- adopts the Code for the City of Winnipeg;
- implements the Code within the City of Winnipeg, including provisions that:
    - require electrical permits for electric wiring and related facilities;
    - require plans and specifications for electric wiring and related facilities; and

    - relate to the inspection, testing and approval of electric wiring and related facilities.

- enforces the Manitoba electrical code within the City of Winnipeg.

Under the previous version of the Act, the City was required to implement its own electrical code, which it did through the Winnipeg Electrical By-law No. 72/2022. This by-law adopted and varied the *2021 Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Twenty-fifth Ediction, C22. 1-21, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations*, governed all installations of electrical wiring and electrical apparatuses, and regulated all uses of electrical current within the City of Winnipeg.

After the Bill 38 amendments to the Act are implemented, the City will no longer have authority to adopt its own electrical code. One of the legislative purposes of Bill 38 was to implement a single, province-wide standard that would apply to the construction, installation, maintenance, repair, extension, alteration and use of electric wiring and related facilities regardless of where those activities took place. In order to implement this uniform standard, Bill 38 enables provincial cabinet to approve a single Manitoba electrical code under subsection 28(1) of the Act. Provincial cabinet is expected to approve a final version of the Code in December 2025, with the Code expected to come into effect shortly after.

Since the City can no longer impose its own electrical code, the City is required to repeal the Winnipeg Electrical By-law No. 72/2022 and replace it with another electrical by-law that meets its legal obligations under the amended Act. The new Code imposes rules that, in a few cases, differ from those imposed under the Winnipeg Electrical By-law No. 72/2022; these changes are set out in more detail below.

The new by-law will not include any technical standards for wiring or any other electrical installation, since those standards are now exclusively dealt with in the Code. Instead, its primary purpose will be to function as an administrative by-law, ensuring that the Code is followed within the City of Winnipeg by setting out the requirements for electrical permitting, plans and specifications, and the inspection, testing and approval of electrical wiring and other installations.

Discussion

Manitoba Hydro ("MH") and The City of Winnipeg ("the COW") have been engaged with the Province in developing a single Manitoba Electrical Code regulation (the "Code") since January 2022.

The Code itself is largely based on the Canadian Electrical Code ("CEC"), a collection of safety standards developed by the CSA Group that was most recently updated in 2024. The current 2022 Winnipeg Electrical By-law, as well as previous versions of the Electrical By-law, largely adopted the CEC as well.

Although the Province has been responsible for drafting this new Code, both MH and the COW have been engaged in discussions through the Code's Project Charter and associated working group; the Manitoba Electrical Regulation Committee ("MERC").

MERC, which consists of six members (three each from MH and COW), has been formed to serve as the decision-making body at the regulatory level to provide recommendations

(amendments to the Canadian Electrical Code) for the adoption of the Manitoba Electric Code to the provincial Minister Responsible or Manitoba Hydro.

Additionally, both MH and COW have representatives on CSA Part 1 committee, which play an important role at the national level of Code development.

While the *2024 Canadian Electrical Code, Part I, Twenty-fifth Edition, C22. 1-21, Safety Standard for Electrical Installations,* as adopted through the Code, will mark the first version of the CEC to apply both within and outside of the City of Winnipeg and will be referred to as either the 2025 or 2026 Manitoba Electrical Code. However, MH and COW have previously harmonized the vast majority of provisions under the City's respective Codes and Bylaws so this will not represent a major change to the overall enforcement regime.

Timing

The proposed draft regulation will be posted for a 30-day public consultation period, which will provide industry and other private stakeholders to offer feedback to the Province. Subject to any changes identified through the consultation period, the Public Service anticipate that the Code will include approximately 17 variations to the CEC. Most of these will be variations that were already in place under the City's Electrical By-law, with the few additional changes including provisions for farm building voltage drop, clarification on electrical vehicle equipment, and machine room-less elevator equipment.

- Estimated Provincial timelines, with regulations to go through a committee of Cabinet for review and approval before going to Cabinet for Lieutenant Governor in Council ("LGiC") approval and promulgation.

- Mid-September (~September 19): Provincial legal and translation services to finalize drafts of MEC and performance standards, and determination of scope of Statutes and Regulations Board of Cabinet review.

- November 10, 2025: Statutes and Regulations Board of Cabinet review and approval.

- Mid-November to mid-December 2025: public posting

- December 2025 or January 2026 (following the Council meeting scheduled for December 18, 2025): LGiC proclamation of Bill 38 amendments, MEC 2024, and Performance Standards regulation.

These timelines may be subject to change if there are unanticipated delays in the Provincial process.

Changes Under Bill 38

New Performance Standards for Electrical Permits Regulation

- The following time frames are anticipated to be put into place:
    - Completeness of electrical permits (two days)

- Decision on electrical permits (10 to 30 days depending on type) and
- Inspections (two days)
- Aligned with Performance Standards Regulation, M.R. 103/2023 (Schedule A) which applies to Building, Plumbing and Mechanical Permits.
- As the Public Service anticipated this alignment, the City has already been working within these timelines since March 1, 2024 (Phase 1) and March 1, 2025 (Phase 2).

New Safety Standards under the Code:

- Loss of Subrules 12-300 2) and 60-500 2) which required special permission to have exposed wiring (e.g. overhead) on exteriors of buildings and between buildings on the same premises. We are required to remove these because they were previously unique City requirements and not included under the Province's new Electrical Code. This is more prevalent on lots with a detached dwelling and accessory structure; don't anticipate a high uptake on overhead wiring vs buried on these properties.

Changes in the New Winnipeg Electrical By-law:

- Re-structuring and re-numbering to replace CEC numbering and terminology (e.g. rules / subrules) to more conventional by-law numbering and terminology (e.g. sections, clauses).
- Removal of all provisions that are now directly enforceable under the Code.
- Provisions allowing for City adoption and implementation of the Manitoba Electrical Code.
- Removal of three-year term for contractor licensing; COW will maintain the one-year option (e.g. increased engagement with contractors for Code and Bylaw changes / ongoing online licensing renewals via Permits Online / slight increase in cost of contractor licenses as the three-year option provided a small discount relative to the one-year option [approximately $7 per year]).
- A licensed contractor will be required to install services on single detached dwellings, whereas homeowners will no longer have this permission. This change will align the COW with MH requirements.
- Numerous minor changes to clarify existing practices and expectations, as well as to enhance internal consistency in the by-law.

What is not changing

- No changes to the City's permit application, review or inspection processes.
- No changes to fee structure (except for the elimination of the small fee reduction for three-year contractor licence terms).
- Continued collaboration with MH on Technical Interpretations, now through MERC.
- The new by-law will continue to be under the Municipal By-Law Enforcement Act, with no new fines being imposed under this by-law.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: October 15, 2025

Project Name:

Winnipeg Electrical Bylaw amendments and the adoption of Manitoba Electrical Code

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Mike McGinn Oct. 15, 2025
Mike McGinn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services (as to legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Leadership and Good Governance

1.4 Integrated Knowledge and Resources
Coordinate inter-departmental systems, projects and resources, making the best use of internal and external expertise to better understand service needs, find the most appropriate solutions, optimize resources, and maximize community outcomes.

Good Health and Well-Being

4.8 Building Safety
Enforce compliance with building codes and property maintenance standards, to ensure housing quality, safe building occupancy, and extended building lifecycles

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Division: Development & Inspections
Prepared by: G. Mikolayenko
Date: October 27, 2025

Attachment:

Schedule A - Winnipeg Building By-law