**PEMBINA TRAILS SCHOOL DIVISION**
**Submission to Plan Winnipeg Public Hearing**
**Executive Policy Committee-Waverley West**

January 4, 2004

This submission is being made on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Pembina Trails School Division.

## 1. Preamble

The proposed amendment to Plan Winnipeg to redesignate lands from Rural Policy Area to Neighbourhood Policy Area in the area referred to as Waverley West which area is significant in size and is situated wholly within the Pembina Trails School Division. The scope of the development is such that we can anticipate a sizable number or students at all levels living in the area who require school accommodation. The Division has not yet received projections regarding the anticipated pace of development or numbers of students who would reside in the development but it is certain that careful planning of schools and school services will be an important part of the Development's evolution.

## 2. Board's Position

The Board of Trustees of the Division is taking no position of either support for or opposition to the Waverley West Development. The interests of the Division which are being advanced are with respect to the most efficient and effective planning and implementation of school services within the Development and Division as a whole and of making the best use of the school facilities which currently exist within the Division.

## 3. School Sites

It has been the experience of school divisions that the pace of residential development moves more quickly than the Division can provide school facilities. This is problematic especially for a residential development the magnitude of Waverley West. There are empty classrooms in schools in Pembina Trails but they are not uniformly distributed throughout the Division. In the area of the Division nearest to the Waverley West Development, there are some limited numbers of empty classrooms primarily at the elementary level. There are not a sufficient number of empty classrooms, however, to absorb the enrollment potential for Waverley West both in the short term and certainly not for a prolonged period of time. The availability of existing classrooms in the Division is situated primarily in the Charleswood area of the Division.

The development of school facilities is a process which requires careful planning, projection and working through various levels of approvals with the Public Schools Finance Board. Consequently, it will be challenging for the Division to respond quickly enough in the provision of classroom space for a rapidly growing Waverley West Development. If the Public Schools Finance Board is not timely in responding to the facilities needs of the Division in the light of a growing Waverley West Development, the Division will not be able to accommodate students in schools in areas contiguous to the Development. If the growth in enrolments in the Development outstrip our available classroom spaces in our nearby schools, the Division will be forced to transport students to the Charleswood area of the Division where more classrooms would be available. This potential transportation obligation would present the Division with a financial burden and the parents and students with inconvenience as children would be accommodated in schools further away from home than is desired until school facilities in the Waverley West Development received approval and were constructed. The Division cannot control the speed of the Development and cannot control the speed of approval of the Public Schools Finance Board. The Division would work as diligently as it can to ensure that the students of the Waverley West are appropriately accommodated as soon as possible within their residential area.

The more intimately involved the Division is during the planning of the Development and receiving information as to projections and timelines the better armed it will be to try to meet the educational needs of that area.

The initial stage of planning relates to the identification of the anticipated school sites. As the Development's planning is proceeding, the Division needs to be a party to the following:

a. Determination of the number of school sites;
b. Location of the school sites;
c. Size of the school sites as determined by the Division's plan for the type of school configuration required at each site.

The Division needs to be involved as a partner with the City and Developers in the identification, selection and development of these sites and their relationship to City owned playgrounds.

**4. Joint Use**

The Division is interested in pursuing Joint Use Agreements and Joint Use Development Agreements with the City of Winnipeg in connection with school sites in the Waverley West Development. We believe that early and frequent

sharing of information between the City and Division will lead to the best use of the land and schools which will be required in the Development.

## 5. Transit

In a Development such as Waverley West, the Division urges the City to ensure that there is a transit service in place which meets the needs of the residents, including the students of the Development. As the Development will be a large one, and particularly as we anticipate that students will need to access transit service to get to school, the introduction of an appropriate transit system for the Waverley West Development is crucial.

## 6. Ongoing Relationship

As can be seen, the Board of Trustees is concerned that the Division is embraced as a partner in the planning of the Waverley West Development. The Board believes that the best way for that partnership to be realized is for the Superintendent of Education or his designate to be involved in a meaningful way in the ongoing planning process over the long term for the Development where such involvement is pertinent to the issues which the Division has raised.

This submission is being respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Pembina Trails School Division.