REPORTS

288. Motion 2002/07/17

Economic Development Issue - Immigration Pilot Project
File G-8 (Vol. 6)

WHEREAS City Council passed A Homegrown Economic Development Strategy for Winnipeg in June, 2001, outlining new, integrated approaches and goals to focus and support Winnipeg's economic development efforts;

AND WHEREAS The Homegrown Economic Development Strategy focuses on "closing the skills gap and enhancing immigration" as one of its three priority policy foundations and issues;

AND WHEREAS the Homegrown Economic Development Strategy stresses that the City must "play a leadership role in supporting enhanced immigration sponsorship programs";

AND WHEREAS experts and organizations including the Canada West Foundation and the Business Council of Manitoba have stressed the need for Winnipeg to increase its population;

AND WHEREAS The Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council has requested the City of Winnipeg to consider acting as a guarantor in support of "family linked" (individuals with relatives or friends in Manitoba) refugee sponsorship;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg is known nationally in immigration circles as having the greatest success with welcoming and successfully integrating immigrants, and in particular, refugees;

AND WHEREAS representatives of the City of Winnipeg have had preliminary discussions with representatives of the Governments of Manitoba and Canada in support of developing a broad tri-level agreement towards building innovative immigration partnerships;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

I. The Executive Policy Committee mandate the Mayor, supported by the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat, to enter into negotiations with the Governments of Manitoba and Canada in support of developing a broad tri-level agreement towards building innovative immigration partnerships in favour of growing Winnipeg's population.

II. The Executive Policy Committee mandate the Mayor, supported by the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat, to enter into negotiations with relevant parties to carry out a pilot project in support of increasing immigration to Winnipeg by supporting family linked refugee sponsorship.

III. That an Advisory or Steering Committee be created to establish relevant criteria, terms and conditions, including for accessing funding and for measuring success, and to provide oversight to this sponsorship project.

IV. That the Mayor submit any draft agreements to Executive Policy Committee and City Council for approval.

V. That the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat work with the Proper Officers of the City to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
That the recommendations be concurred in.

Carried