

UPDATE - CCI ADVOCACY AGAINST CITY OF WINNIPEG CUTS TO CONDO GARBAGE SERVICE



In November, City of Winnipeg departmental budgets were presented to various Council Committees to meet the budget constraint for minimal property tax increases. The proposal to the City's 'Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and Environment Committee' (wow, that is a mouthful) to *"Discontinue garbage bin collection for multi-family, charity and commercial customers ... Impacted customers would select service directly through private contractors"* caught the attention of CCI-MB Directors and condo owners alike.

In January, CCI-MB sent a bulletin (see opposite page) to all condo property managers in the City (both member and non-member companies) asking them to forward to their unit owners. As well, we sent to all individual unit owners for whom we had contact details and also posted on our website. We'd like to thank all of you that have communicated with your City Councilor, the Mayor's Office and with us (*many hands lighten the load*).

In early February, the City announced the key dates for the budget process

- Release of preliminary budget on March 6th,
- Environment Committee budget meeting on March 18th,
- Executive Policy Committee (EPC) budget meeting on March 19th,
- EPC presents final budget on March 20th
- Council to vote on the budget on March 25th.

We have contacted the City Clerk's office and have been added to the delegate list to present our case on the 18th and 19th.

Additionally, we have approached the local print and broadcast media to get our views known. As we go to press with the winter edition of your *Condominium News and Views*, we have had the following coverage:

- Global News CJOB Radio Geoff Curier - *No More Pickup?* <https://globalnews.ca/winnipeg/program/geoff-curier/>
- CBC News - *City should turf proposal to end garbage pickup, condo owners group says* <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/city-winnipeg-budget-multi-family-garbage-collection-1.5468447>
- CTV News - *Proposed budget cuts may have condo owners paying for garbage and recycling pick up* <https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/proposed-budget-cuts-may-have-condo-owners-paying-for-garbage-and-recycling-pick-up-1.4821172>

Best case our efforts to date will have removed the proposal from the preliminary budget that will be presented on March 6th, but it is likely that our presentations to the Committees on March 18th and 19th will be required nonetheless. Hopefully your efforts and ours will stop this additional tax unfairness for condo owners. 🍀



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BULLETIN - CITY OF WINNIPEG BUDGET AND SERVICE CUTS TO CONDOS

Don't know if you've been following the City of Winnipeg's deliberations on their budget and potential service cuts but the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Condominium Institute (CCI-MB) wants you to be aware that as condominium owners, you may be impacted! On November 14th, the Water and Waste Department presented their budget proposal to the Environment Committee, which included a recommendation to "Discontinue garbage bin collection for multi-family, charity and commercial customers ... Impacted customers would select service directly through private contractors". On November 29th, Councilors on the Environment Committee voted to endorse the proposed service cuts, and forward them to the budget working group which will likely include all of the EPC (Executive Policy Committee).

The termination of garbage pickup service to condominiums could result in a non-trivial impact to your Condominium Corporation's budget and your monthly fees. Depending on the Condominium Corporation, the annual increase to the fees for each unit owner could be \$150 to \$250 for termination of garbage services and double that if the proposed service cuts includes recycling pickup services. As condominium owners, you pay the same mill rates and frontage levies as owners of detached homes with large yards, yet receive fewer services. In many cases your Condominium Corporation maintains your own roads, curbs, sidewalks, fire hydrants, sewers and water mains. As well, you pay for your own snow clearing, and all of these costs are passed on to you, the owners, through your monthly fees.

Asking condominium corporations to now pick up the tab for garbage pickup just adds to the overall unfairness in the property tax system.

This property tax unfairness flies in the face of all levels of government's stated desires for improved sustainability, not only for the physical infrastructure in cities, but also to mitigate the risks of climate change. Condominiums support higher population densities, which reduce the demands to increase the number of streets, bridges, parks and other infrastructure. As well, higher density residential housing, with shared walls, floors and ceilings, reduces the amount of energy required for heating and cooling, thereby lowering the carbon footprint. Also consider the greenhouse gas emissions from a large truck emptying those plastic wheelie bins from 50 or so detached homes versus emptying a single dumpster from a condominium corporation.

CCI-MB encourages you, as a condominium owner and tax payer, to contact the Mayor of Winnipeg and your City Councilor, asking them to reject the proposed cuts to garbage service for condominiums and take a step in the right direction to improve the fairness of the property tax system and to make our cities more sustainable. You can find their phone, fax and email details at <https://winnipeg.ca/council/contact.stm> or you can write to them at 510 Main Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 1B9.

Respectfully,

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