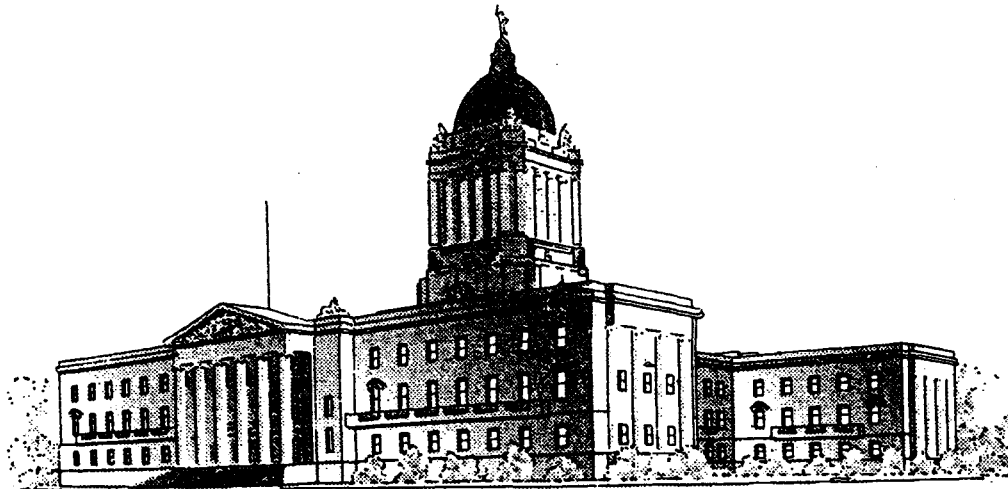




Fifth Session - Thirty-Fifth Legislature
of the
Legislative Assembly of Manitoba

**Standing Committee
on
Municipal Affairs**

*Chairperson
Mr. Jack Penner
Constituency of Emerson*



Vol. XLIII No. 1 - 10 a.m., Tuesday, June 14, 1994

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MANITOBA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Thirty-Fifth Legislature

Members, Constituencies and Political Affiliation

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Tuesday, June 14, 1994

TIME — 10 a.m.

LOCATION — Winnipeg, Manitoba

**CHAIRPERSON — Mr. Jack Penner
(Emerson)**

ATTENDANCE - 10 — QUORUM - 6

Members of the Committee present:

Hon. Mrs. McIntosh

Ms. Friesen, Ms. Gray, Messrs. Helwer,
McAlpine, Penner, Reimer, Mrs. Render,
Messrs. Schellenberg, Sveinson

APPEARING:

Cam MacLean, Chairperson, The Forks
Renewal Corporation

Nick Diakiw, President, The Forks Renewal
Corporation

Al Baronas, Vice-President, The Forks
Renewal Corporation

Marilyn Williams, Communications Manager

Del Crewson, Deloitte & Touche

Sid Kroker, Archaeologist

MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION:

Annual Report of The Forks Renewal
Corporation for the year ended March 31,
1993

* * *

Clerk of Committees (Ms. Judy White): Good morning. Will the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs please come to order.

I have before me the resignation of Mr. Sveinson as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Municipal Affairs. The letter reads: I would like to resign as Chairperson for the Standing Committee of Municipal Affairs effective June 13, 1994.

The floor is now open for nominations.

Mr. Edward Helwer (Gimli): I would like to nominate Jack Penner as Chairperson.

Madam Clerk: Mr. Penner has been nominated as Chair. Are there any other nominations? Seeing none, Mr. Penner, please take the Chair.

Mr. Chairperson: Will the Committee on Municipal Affairs please come to order. We have before us the following report to consider, the Annual Report of The Forks Renewal Corporation for the year ended March 31, 1993. Although it was not referred to the committee, is it the will of the committee to also consider The Forks Renewal Corporation Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 1993, and the Auditors' Report? Agreed? [agreed]

For any members who have not received a copy of the reports, they are available on the desk in front of me here.

Before getting underway, I would like to remind the committee that we are here to only consider the report, not to pass it as is done with other annual reports. The committee proceeds in the same manner as when other annual reports are considered, with the opening statements, followed by questions by the committee members to the minister responsible, but for, at the conclusion of the meeting, when all questions are exhausted, the committee rises without passing the report.

One other matter of business, I understand that the staff of The Forks Renewal Corporation would like to make an audio-visual presentation. This is not the usual practice of our standing committee as Hansard cannot record the presentation, so I would like to ask, what is the will of the committee? Do you want to see the presentation? [agreed] I would invite the honourable minister to make her opening statement and to introduce her staff present this morning.

Hon. Linda McIntosh (Minister of Urban Affairs): Mr. Chairperson, I will be brief in my opening comments. I simply wanted to indicate that The Forks Renewal Corporation, as you know, was established in 1987 by the Government of Canada, the Province of Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg, so it is a partnership of the three levels in a very true sense of the word. It has become a place where Winnipeggers, Manitobans and tourists have come and found much pleasure in that setting.

The Forks refers to the junction of the two rivers. It is a site that has become known in recent years in large part because of this corporation for its historic significance and as a meeting place.

I am very proud to be able to be responsible at this point for The Forks, and I must give credit to the people, the board and the staff who have worked so hard over the years to take this place, which was really ignored for such a long time, and make it into the very popular and productive place that it is today.

I know that in the time to come, there have been plans that have been laid and a foundation that has been built that will see this centre of the city, this meeting place become ever more significant in the lives of Manitobans and those who come to our city to visit.

That is just a general, very subjective opinion. I know it is one that is shared. The number of visitors that have come to The Forks has increased phenomenally as time has gone on.

The technical questions that will be coming, I will rely upon staff and the board chair to assist me in answering. With that, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to introduce Mr. Cam MacLean, who is chairman of the board, Mr. Nick Diakiw, who is the chief staffperson, the CEO, the one who is on site working hard all the time, and then we have board members here, as well. Mr. Del Crewson is here, and I think with that perhaps we will proceed.

Mr. Chairperson: Does the critic for the official opposition have a position or a statement to make?

Mr. Harry Schellenberg (Rossmere): I am very pleased to be here today as the official opposition

critic for Urban Affairs. As the members of the Legislature realize, I was just elected in the by-election last fall, so this is my first direct experience with the board's work.

I am generally aware of how successful The Forks has been for the tourists in a commercial centre. Like most residents of the city, I have been there many times and must commend all those who have worked on a professional and volunteer basis on the many attractions at The Forks. It is a job well done. It is an excellent example of partnership of all three governments.

The number of tourists who visit the site each year is truly remarkable, given the size of the city and the overall dismal tourism record over the past few years.

Canada, we are told, has an overbuilt commercial capacity, something that the rash of department store and chain store closures over the past year or so have bluntly pointed out. We only have to look at a few blocks away, the situation facing Portage Place, to recognize how vulnerable many shopping centres have become. I say this with regret and as a point of caution.

Many people before me have questioned the speed of commercial development at The Forks on the basis of changing the original green space plans. This is a valid concern. Given the economic record of this province, we should also be sure that developments are not proceeding beyond the potential markets, that commercialism is going faster than the development of public activities.

Certainly, programs like The Public Archaeology Program, and a new Children's Museum, along with the move of the Children's Festival have rightly brought thousands upon thousands of people to The Forks.

I know all too well how hard it is to get a parking space at The Forks. Just last weekend I was at The Forks for part of the Mennonite Central Committee relief and auction sale. That drew thousands of people. It is relief sale for third world countries, and no doubt many came because of the location. The location was The Forks.

Whenever you seem to have an event at The Forks it seems to be a success. I think The Forks has something to do with it. It has tremendous support in the community.

There is no question about the historical importance of The Forks to the history of this city and as a focal point, reminding Manitobans how this province came about or how this province began.

Amidst all of the successful ventures that are occurring at The Forks, it is vital, in my opinion, that we do not lose sight of the original purpose of The Forks development. If we lose sight of this purpose, we risk eventually having The Forks slip into just another shopping mall. This tendency must be avoided. You hear this continuously from people, and I think you are aware of it, but I must highlight that.

I am given to understand taxpayers have put \$30 million into the development of The Forks, which is truly a staggering sum of funds. With such a large public commitment, the public has every right to ensure that the public interest is not taking second place to commercialization of The Forks. However, despite putting in \$30 million, the public is very much in support of the general development of The Forks.

*(1010)

As everyone around this table knows, the recent revelation of the \$43-million projected loss to the province from the '91 Jets owners' deal with the province is, of course, relevant for this committee since there are some proposals outstanding to build a new arena at The Forks.

We will, no doubt, get into that debate later, but it should be noted now that according to the figures released by the previous minister last year, the vast majority of those surveyed think that The Forks is of national importance in its current state.

I would caution the minister against spending another \$25,000 or more to see whether they want an arena at The Forks or more commercial development at the site. From what I have heard over the last ten months, Manitobans want this government to cut spending on all polling, call a

moratorium on the commercial expansion of The Forks. We are getting very close to seriously overexpanding at The Forks. Manitobans do not want to build a West Edmonton Mall at The Forks.

While I have not had a lot of time to review the situation at The Forks, I am struck by some concerns that the public goals have not received the priority that was expected. It seems that many of the projects that were public have been delayed for a variety of reasons, many of them no doubt explainable, but nonetheless, overall we see that despite best intentions some of these projects are still behind schedule while commercial aspects, if anything, are proceeding ahead of schedule. There is a fear there that we will overcommercialize the area and destroy the original purpose or vision of The Forks.

I look forward to the debate and presentation this morning and honestly hope that my perceptions are erroneous about this matter. If they are not, I hope we can work together to ensure that these very exciting proposals can push forward on an urgent basis.

The Forks, in my opinion, is one of the most important projects to occur in this province in the last 10 years. This is not a partisan issue. I think I speak for all political parties when I say that The Forks project is not a partisan issue but basically a mixture of heritage, commercialization and tourism. We all want The Forks to succeed.

We may disagree about some aspects of how development has occurred or is planned, but essentially we are all agreed that The Forks is crucial to the future of the city, and in many ways, development in the province. In the five years that The Forks has been operating it has earned its reputation as a No. 1 tourist site in the province, something we can all be proud of.

I know my colleague the member for Wolseley (Ms. Friesen), who was on the original Forks board from '86 to '87 until her election in 1990, shares my enthusiasm for the potential and promise of The Forks.

I am very pleased that members of The Forks board and representatives of some projects are here

today. I want to welcome the committee. We all look forward to the presentations and debate this morning. With these few words I will pass the mike over to the Chair.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you very much, Mr. Schellenberg. Does the critic for the second opposition have a statement to make?

Ms. Avis Gray (Crescentwood): Mr. Chairperson, many people have said that no politician has ever been criticized for giving too short a speech, so I plan to follow with that advice. I see the purpose of this committee is to really have an opportunity to discuss some of the issues surrounding The Forks.

I think that there is no question that The Forks has been an excellent addition to not only the city of Winnipeg, but to the province of Manitoba, and certainly the idea as it was developed a number of years ago by the former federal government and the city and the provincial government is an excellent one.

I am glad to hear the Minister of Urban Affairs (Ms. McIntosh) talk about the partnership among the three levels of government. I am pleased to hear that in committee. I hope that discussion of partnership and co-operation extends when we get into Question Period each day.

Be that as it may, I remember last year during the discussion of The Forks Renewal Corporation that some of the concerns were expressed in regard to the ability of The Forks Renewal Corporation to be self-sustaining over a certain number of years. I will be interested today in pursuing that line of questioning. I will be interested to hear from the board members as to the progress that they have made over the last year and perhaps some of the barriers or concerns that they still have in regards to that.

Again, suffice it to say that we know that The Forks is an excellent project. I agree that in terms of what The Forks was meant to be in regard to a meeting place and an opportunity for people to gather, whether it is through the Children's Museum or other activities, what we do not want to see is overcommercialization, but I do recall as well that in last year's committee that I think there

certainly was a sense from the board and staff that in fact they did not want that to occur as well. So I think we are all on the same wave length with that.

With those few opening comments, I look forward to a discussion and to the presentation from the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you very much, Ms. Gray. If it is the will of the committee we will start the proceedings with questioning by the members of the committee to the minister and/or the corporation, whomever you would like to direct the questions to.

I am not sure what the wishes of the corporation are, whether they would want to show the tape first.

If it is the will of the committee, let us view the presentation and then we will continue the questioning after that.

Mr. Cam MacLean (Chairperson, The Forks Renewal Corporation): Mr. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, we have some other people with us today. I would like to introduce them to you, and I would ask them to stand when I introduce them. Mr. Al Baronas, vice-president of operations; Mr. Randy Cameron, general manager of The Forks Market; Mrs. Anna Shymanski, corporate accountant; Mr. Sid Kroker, site archaeologist; and Marilyn Williams, communication manager. We also have with us Del Crewson, who is the auditor of The Forks.

Just a few opening remarks. I want to thank you for the opportunity of appearing again. This is the fourth time we have appeared before your committee. The Forks, of course, is accountable to you people as well as the federal government and the City of Winnipeg. As you know, we also hold annual meetings every year, allowing the members of the community to ask questions about developments at The Forks.

Community interest and appreciation for amenities at The Forks continues to grow. 1994 is the Year of the Family, and The Forks is going to highlight family-year activities, beginning with the kick-off event on New Year's Eve. Promotion of family year is continuing throughout the year and

dozens of special events and festivals taking place on the site. What better place to celebrate the family than at The Forks. Families, young and old, come here to meet, to stroll, to play, to shop, to relax and enjoy our rivers in all seasons, continuing our tradition in more than over 6,000 years.

Public use of the site has been confirmed, the appropriateness of the two waterfront awards presented to Winnipeg and the corporation in 1992.

Public appreciation of the heritage of The Forks is also flourishing.

* (1020)

Our board meets at least monthly and a lot of our members are on the different committees, such as the Aboriginal Planning Committee, the finance and audit committee, and the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Today the presentation is going to be structured as follows: Mr. Diakiw will provide an overview of our continuing activities, and according to past practice we request the opportunity to highlight his comments with slides.

The presentation will include a brief reference to the Phase II proposal, and Mr. Del Crewson will then offer a report on the 1992-93 financial statements.

Mr. Diakiw, would you—

Mr. Nick Diakiw (President, The Forks Renewal Corporation): Thank you very much, Mr. MacLean. Mr. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen, I, as well as Cam, welcome the opportunity to appear before you for the fourth time.

What I intend to do is to give you a brief overview of where we have come from, where we are at, and what we see as the future long-term plan and the intermediate five-year plan. I hope to cover that with slides and spend a little more time on the planning than on the challenge that we had when we started this project some six or seven years ago.

Six years ago we inherited this 56-acre site that a large part of the rail operation had already been

relocated to the Symington Yard. It was a site that was out of sight, out of mind.

Most people in Winnipeg, in Manitoba, never knew it existed, it was bounded on one side by the high line of the railway, on the other side by rail warehouses. So most people did not have an idea of the site. The biggest challenge that we felt we had when we came onto this project was to get people to rediscover The Forks and, just as importantly, to rediscover the rivers. The rivers are something that we have turned our backs on for decades and centuries, and this rail operation had taken this site out of the view of most Manitobans.

We had a series of public meetings at the start, and what came out of that was a Phase I concept of financial plan which was approved by the three levels of government. It envisioned a mixed-use approach for development, one that would feature recreational development, cultural heritage development, supplementary commercial and, importantly, residential. I highlight residential because as we get through the presentation you will see that the emphasis on residential changes quite dramatically.

The theme unanimously chosen was the "Meeting Place" theme. This was the meeting place for thousands of years for the aboriginal people of North America coming to this particular area.

Our intent was to develop our waterfront areas and reintroduce the public to the rivers. This is a shot from the south point that shows what we have done on the main, at the basin area. This is the project that we have won both national and international awards for, and really served as the kickoff for the riverfront walkways that have become so popular in Winnipeg and Manitoba.

In order to achieve this challenge that we had of bringing this site back to the public, we did it two ways, through programs and activities and through physical developments. The programs and activities were, first of all, as you see before you, to encourage year-round public use of the site, to bring public enjoyment.

This shows the spontaneity of buskers. Buskers are not new to Winnipeg. We have made them welcome at The Forks, and they have become an integral part of the programming at the site and, clearly, are very important to us. We do not pay them. They get their pay from the people who enjoy the entertainment they provide. We do review these buskers and, generally speaking, they are of a very high calibre.

One of the things that surprised us a little was how quickly—and I think the member of the opposition recognized this right away—was the festivals and events that came to The Forks because of The Forks site. Right now the member referred to the Mennonite function that we had just last weekend, which was a wonderful event. We have the Children's Festival, we have Ukrainian festivals, we have Caribbean festivals, we have any number of festivals and events.

We highlight the year by two areas where we concentrate our programming. One is the Walk 'n' Water Weekend, which is on the long weekend in May. The other is our Christmas festival that extends now—it started off with Christmas at The Forks, which was a one-day event, but now starts with Hanukkah at The Forks in the end of the first week in December and runs through all of the traditional Christmas festivities and culminates in the Ukrainian Christmas at The Forks on January 7.

The ethnocultural activities: The Caribbean community has a parade every year that culminates in their celebrations at The Forks. We have highlighted aboriginal participation at The Forks. We have also made sure that the historical elements and programming were included, and as was indicated earlier, one of the most important and popular programming activities is the public archaeological program, something that has grown in importance to, not only the total community, but the tourists and particularly to the young students in the fall who come in September to participate in this event.

Normally we have two members of the public that work along with a professional archaeologist. They dig on the site, and then they screen,

catalogue all of the artifacts that are found at the site.

So then we turn from the programming aspects of our endeavours to the physical developments, and here again is the historic port, something that I am sure all Manitobans are proud of and certainly recognized—international recognition.

Secondly, a Wall Through Time, which was something that was a necessary part of the construction of the boat basin. The masons came to us and indicated they wanted to celebrate their centenary, and so that gave us an opportunity to build the Wall Through Time.

They provided all of the labour; the industry itself provided the materials, and we have this wonderful Wall Through Time that serves three purposes: the historical purpose in front of you; as well, it provided a ramp for the handicapped that went from the plaza down to the riverfront; and, thirdly, and almost most importantly, and most people do not recognize, it provided a wall to contain and protect a very archaeologically fertile part of our site back at the Johnston Terminal building.

The tall grass plantings are a feature of our site. We encourage year-round use. We wanted to make sure that Winnipeggers and Manitobans could enjoy the site twelve months of the year. Toboggan slides and winter events have been very important.

The Splash Dash—when the City of Winnipeg cut out the Dash service that brought together the downtown area, in Winnipeg, we have an exceptionally large downtown area. When Dash was cancelled, we came up with the idea of a Splash Dash. We turned to our rivers and said, let us make the rivers do what they did centuries ago and provide transportation.

We worked with the Downtown BIZ organizations and have provided a service that runs from Osborne Village to St. Boniface to the Legislature here and, of course, down to the Exchange District as well.

* (1030)

The first full year was last year. It was working very, very well until we got the flood that

happened in July, and we are hoping that this year it will work as well.

It is private. We put this out to public tender. It is a private venture. We get a percentage of whatever they earn on the site.

We went to a public proposal call on some of the old buildings. This is the Johnston Terminal building, an old warehouse building that was built in the latter '20s. It was a Class 3 historical building in the City of Winnipeg, which is the lowest class of building. We could have torn the building down under that designation. We chose not to, and the private sector has put in close to \$9 million in converting that building to a very popular asset on the site.

So as a result of these efforts, the public has been reintroduced to the rivers and through the public spaces that are now the pride of, not only Winnipeg, but Manitoba as well.

So those were some of the things that we accomplished in the first five years. What we were required to do under the Phase I plan was to come up with a plan for Phase II. We had an extensive public hearing process that lasted about a year and a half, that involved surveys. It involved advisory committees of all stripes, the public community; the private sector was invited.

From that, I just share with you some of the views that we found from that extensive review. What we found, that 93 percent of the public held positive views of The Forks; 79 percent felt that development reflects the public's wishes to date—that the site, they felt, was of national significance; 92 percent feel that all Winnipeggers should be proud of The Forks. It appeals to a wide range of interests, and designers have done a good job of blending old and new, and that was 94 percent of the people surveyed felt that.

In terms of the pace of development, the question that was asked, 74 percent deemed the pace of development was correct; 17 percent finding it too slow; 2 percent feeling it too fast; 83 percent said the "Meeting Place" theme was appropriate. More than 80 percent supported mixed use; 96 percent supported recreation; 94

percent supported history and culture; 80 percent supported commerce.

Now, there is one important omission, residential, which I highlighted at the start. What we found was that 72 percent of the public involved in this public consultation process did not support residential development at the site. That was a very important consideration in our financial projections because we would get a fair amount of money out of residential development. Clearly, the public said to us, no, that they felt, for whatever reason, that the land should not be translated into residential development.

Seventy-seven percent rejected leaving the site as an undeveloped green space. There were some people in the community who said, leave it in grass. Seventy-seven percent said, no, preferring a mix of green space and development. Above all, they said they wanted this to be a special place available to all. It should not be the playground of any specific segment of our community. It should be a meeting place, and all the people should feel welcome at The Forks.

So, with that kind of public advice, we turned to developing the Phase II proposal. It involved, again, a number of advisory committees. We looked at about seven different development proposals that went from a very heavy development proposal to a no development proposal, and we ended up with what was supported by most of the people who gave us advice in this.

I break the future into the long-range vision and then the five-year vision. There were some comments before in terms of our Phase I concept plan that it was not clear as to what things would happen in what sequence. There was a fear that there would be the construction of a lot of concrete and a lot of residential development. There were people in the community who used that as a source of criticism. So we have tried not to not only give you the long-range vision but to give you a five-year-range vision so there would be no surprises of what is going to happen, what is proposed to happen over the five years.

Now, will it happen or will it not happen? That depends on the economy. It depends on many things, but the fact is these are the things that we think will happen over the next five years. As well, in our approach to the shareholders, we have indicated that we should have, every five years, again a public consultation review for The Forks. It is a very, very important site in Manitoba.

So, our long-range vision, the rail lines are at the top of that slide and the confluence of the Red and the Assiniboine. If you look to your left, you see the south point, which is where the aboriginal community is planning to celebrate their presence. What this long-range vision shows is, first of all, you see the river park zone. It is the lighter green; it does not show up that well. There are two greens there. The lighter green is the river park zone, and it runs from the south point and along the riverfront and all the way through our property to the north. It envisions extensions of river walks, extensions of bicycle paths, pedestrian paths, very much a celebration of the kinds of riverbanks we have in that area.

The next zone up, between the very light green and the river park zone, is what we call the festival park zone. That is building on the strength of the festivals that we have had on the site and extending that green area up to the light green area, which would mean that the gravel parking that exists now would move. Everything, all the parking will move eventually to the area west of Pioneer, which is shown in orange. So as we develop the site, our intention is to move parking, the temporary parking that exists, over to the west side.

Next to that is really the long-term vision. It is the light green. It is a year-round indoor park zone, a zone that we see would start somewhere in the vicinity of Portage and Main. It would be a year-round indoor park zone that would run from Portage and Main, culminating at The Forks site itself. As I say, that is the long-range vision.

Then up above is the transportation and commercial zone. This is the area that we see most of our commercial development and institutional development happening in.

These are just some renderings of the kinds of character we see. This is a proposal, this shows a potential multicultural use for the site. You see, it is in a tentlike or catenary structure. I do not expect you to read this or understand it. What it does do, though, it shows the Phase II site map. As most architects do, they confuse the colour. So it is difficult to read. Let me just say that the green are the trees, the yellow-orange is the grass—hopefully it will be green, but right now in the drawing, that is the way they depict grass—and the white elements are the development projects.

So that is the way it will look in the summer. Of course, we have six months of winter in Winnipeg, and people who look at this and talk about greening The Forks forget that the site is six months of winter. So the long-term vision is one of this spine, this indoor-outdoor spine, that would run from Portage and Main down to The Forks Market and that area. It would not be similar to the plus-16 quarters we have now. What you see is activity areas. The circular areas are activity areas in which people who wanted to stay indoors could stay indoors. Those who wanted to enjoy the winter activities outdoors would have that opportunity as well. So there would be a series of projects that would run and connect to Portage and Main.

This is just a rendering, again, a tentlike structure. This would be what it could look like, that indoor spine. This is the same rendering but with a water feature. A water feature is something our board has always supported at the site, and this could be part of a leisure type of activity where people who cannot afford to go south or to warmer climes could come and enjoy winter both indoors and outdoors at The Forks.

Okay, so then the question is, that is the vision. That is the long term. What are we going to be doing in the next five years? What this drawing shows again is the site, and you will see numbers on it, numbering one to 12 on projects that we feel will happen in the next five years.

I will highlight those projects. One, circled up above, is the aboriginal interpretive and educational centre. The aboriginal community has

been working on this for a couple of years now. They have developed a project that they are now taking to their various communities in the North for them to review, and they are going ahead at their own pace. Hopefully, we envision something happening at that site within the next five years.

* (1040)

Number two is the historical bridge that runs between the south point and the plaza area. We are not proposing anything at this time until we know exactly what the native community will celebrate on the south point. Then we will renovate and rehabilitate that bridge in a fashion to allow pedestrians to cross, maintenance vehicles, but not a road type of connection.

Three is the archaeological lab. We are proposing that in the next five years a permanent archaeological lab be built so that people can enjoy archaeology year round.

The next project is the plaza project which would complete the landscaping and the construction between the Children's Museum, which is the B & B Building, and the Johnston Terminal. That is under construction, has been under construction over the last six months, and under the infrastructure program, the remainder of the project was approved last Friday.

Five is the Children's Museum. We take a great deal of pride in this project. This is the way the building looked before. Many people felt it should be taken down. Our board and our chairman did not agree. That is the oldest—I think it is a 105-year-old building—maintenance facility at least in western Canada. It was in very poor shape. The roof was taken down. The original roof was put back into place—the original shape, I should say—and these are shots showing the construction that occurred over a period of about a year. This is the project as it looks now, a very beautiful facility. For those of you who have not been inside, I can recommend it to you and tell you that it will be recognized as one of the top 10 probably in the world. It is an outstanding children's museum.

Six is the tourist facility, one project that had been envisioned in Phase I. It was just opened about two weeks ago. This is a federal-provincial

facility that highlights Manitoba and divides Manitoba into six regions. When you go in, each of the regions is put forward to the public with icons, with word messages and highlighting the various ethnic cultural groups and activities throughout the province.

Seven is the steam plant. It is the last remaining building on the site that we have not been able to renovate or bring to other use. We have been working with the rail heritage people. They have not been successful. There are other groups that are interested, and our board is considering other uses for this building at the present time.

Eight would be the construction of the first stage of the permanent parking that would occur on the west side. It would be structured parking in the lower levels, and on top of the structure would be some residential—we are still showing a very small residential component and a supportive commercial, and I believe there is some office space as well there.

Just to go back again, if you look at item 11, you will see that as we build 8, item 11 moves out. That is practically all gravel parking. That becomes part of the festival area, so we replace that temporary parking in that fashion.

No. 9 is, we were promised when we took over this site that the two levels of government, the city and the province, would build the York-St. Mary extension by November of 1992. That has not happened.

This is one of our major entrances to the site, the York Avenue underpass, that we have asked the city and the province to improve.

Item 10. The 10th project, we have not got a slide on, but it is a proposal from the Scottish community to provide an avenue of nations where each of the ethnic and cultural groups in the province would be allowed to come in and construct their flagpole of their particular ethnic background. They would provide the capital cost and also the maintenance cost. The board supports that approach.

Item 11 is an extension of the festival area. One of the things in the festival area—this is a shot of

these activities that we talked about earlier. Taking place on the site and in the background is a magnificent view of the downtown part of Winnipeg.

In our long-range vision, we have tried to recreate an approach in building our connecting nodes that clearly is tentlike in approach and does not destroy that vista. So when you look at something like this, these are the individual nodes that we see and the individual catenary or tentlike structures and you still see the view in the background.

Item 12 is a forest at The Forks. The forestry community has come forward and felt that they would like to recreate a small forest at The Forks to interpret the forests of Manitoba.

So that is the intermediate plan.

We talk about our financial planning. In terms of changes of direction, there is no question that when you look at this, you will see that our long-term use of FRC lands, what we are proposing is that 65 percent, the light orange of the pie, would be outdoor open space, nonprofit, that would involve about 34 acres. It would cover the river park and festival park zones.

If you move up on that chart, 20 percent would be indoor open space, nonprofit, and that would be the parts of the all-weather spine that we showed you as the long-range vision. Then to the right, you see 15 percent would be devoted to transportation and commercial zone.

That does include about 200 units of residential—no, I am sorry. The 200 units of residential are both in the 5 percent and in the 15 percent. So our board felt that even though the public had not supported the residential development, there was still room for some minimal development.

In going back to that, just to put another picture on this particular development, what we are doing is the difference between Phase I and Phase II; we are effectively proposing cutting building space by 40 percent and reducing the residential from 1,200 units in Phase I to 250 units.

So what is our cash position? This chart shows what our projected net cash position is. If we go along with our current mandate, with no adjustments, then we will be in a deficit position within two years and that deficit position will grow to about \$7 million by the year 2008. Our cash position at the present time, as our auditor will tell you, we are in a positive cash flow position. Under the original mandate we did have authority to borrow \$10 million. We have not got any outstanding debt at this point in time. So if we go this way without making changes to accommodate the kind of changes the public have told us, that will be our financial position in the year 2008.

Now, what we are saying is, as a result of the public input, and as a result of recognizing the kind of changes that we are proposing, that we should not be required to pay taxes on unleased lands. In other words, lands that are used for public purposes like the boat basin and the grass festival areas which we are paying taxes on now, we should not be required to pay taxes on those areas. We are not asking for tax relief on commercially developed lands. We are only asking for tax relief on those lands that are used for public purposes. If we get that consideration, and that amounts to roughly half a million dollars a year, you will see that the net cash position changes almost equally onto the positive side and it grows, because that translates into about a \$500,000 tax relief for us. So in the year 2000 instead of being \$7 million in debt we would be \$7 million to the good.

I emphasize this because all those good things that I have shown you, all those good things that the people of Manitoba enjoy, a lot of it is public space and we feel that recognition should be given to us.

* (1050)

If you ask what the rationale for that is, when this Phase I came about, the province and the city, as part of the original agreement, were supposed to build the York-St. Mary underpass, which was a project of about \$20 million. That has not happened, and what we are saying, until such time—there is a savings to the province and the city in that they are not expending that \$20 million.

We are saying that we share in part of that saving. In other words, until such time as York-St. Mary is constructed we feel that on our public use areas we should get tax relief in order that the public can enjoy things like you see in front of you, the heritage aspect of The Forks, the river part, the festivals that take place at The Forks—and I do not know why the Ukrainian dancers are turned with their backs towards us, we have to have a frontal shot—enjoy the winter year-round use at The Forks and certainly the meetings and things that happen at The Forks. What we have tried to achieve, and I think we have succeeded, is to provide a place that people recognize is for everyone in Manitoba.

Mr. Chairperson, what I would like now is to ask Del Crewson to give you a brief review of our audited financial statements. These have been circulated, and when Del is finished I would like to say something in conclusion.

(Mr. Edward Helwer, Acting Chairperson, in the Chair)

Mr. Del Crewson (Deloitte & Touche): I am here today as a representative of Deloitte & Touche. We are the external auditors of The Forks Renewal Corporation, and the last audit we—

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Helwer): Just a minute. I wonder if you could pull your mike a little closer there.

Mr. Crewson: And start over again.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Helwer): Yes, start over again, if you would not mind, please. Thank you.

Mr. Crewson: As indicated, I am with Deloitte & Touche. We are the external auditors of The Forks Renewal Corporation, and the last audit that we have completed has been for the year ended March 31, 1993. The Corporation has just completed its 1994 fiscal year-end, but the current audit has not yet been completed, nor are the financial statements approved by the board of directors of the corporation.

If you refer, Mr. Acting Chairperson, to our audit report, it is dated June 30, 1993. You will see it is addressed to the Shareholder of The Forks

Renewal Corporation. The corporation is a subsidiary company of North Portage and that is why it is addressed to the shareholder singular. However, since inception, the corporation has always had prepared and published and had audited its own financial statements. It has not been consolidated with North Portage, but it has been treated as a free-standing corporation with its financial statements separately available.

You will note that our report, and I will not read the report, Mr. Acting Chairperson, but the concluding paragraph is that in our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Forks Renewal Corporation as at March 31, 1993 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. So that was our report and it has been tabled and has been made available to the three levels of government.

I will comment briefly on the financial statements, just highlight a couple of the things because there has already been an issue raised around the self-sufficiency. You have seen a presentation from the chief executive officer around the future of The Forks Corporation. Maybe what I could do is refer you to the statements of operations and surplus in the detailed statements. That is a fairly good summary of where The Forks derived their revenues and the level of expenditures that The Forks incurs in a given year from an operating point of view.

So if you look at the Statement of Operations and Surplus for the year ended March 31, 1993, you will see that there are basically four sources of revenue. There is The Forks Market rents, and that is the rents that are charged to the various tenants in The Forks Market. Then you go down to parking. As Mr. Diakiw has indicated, there is a significant area of parking at The Forks, and that is generating revenue for the organization.

Then the third item is interest and some miscellaneous income, and as the funds have been expended by The Forks, that interest revenue naturally drops off.

The last item being land rents, and last year was the first year that the corporation had received land rents but that in essence becomes the revenue source as future developments occur, will be land grants that various proponents will be paying.

On the expense side, the general and administration expenses are made up basically of salaries and benefits. There are fees to directors for committee and board meetings, general expense and office cost. There are professional fees and occupancy costs. You will note that the general and administration costs were just over \$708,000 for the year.

The rest of the group of costs break down between public amenities, and that is all of the costs of keeping the amenities available for the public. There is the communication and promotional activities that go on at The Forks. There is the planning and development. There are significant costs that are incurred in that area, and included in that planning and development are the costs related to that Phase II consultation and all of the material that went into developing the Phase II concept plan. They have been expensed in the year.

The Forks Market, that discloses all of the operating costs in running the Market that The Forks Corporation, as a landlord, is responsible for. The next item is provision for long-term tenant receivables. It is the estimate by management of a provision with respect to the collection of long-term tenant receivables. Then you get into parking expense for operating the parking facilities, and that includes such things as property taxes and all of the items related to the parking and, finally, the last item being depreciation and amortization.

So when you look at the outside sources of revenue and compare them to the operating costs of running the corporation and providing the public amenities and the site and everything that is available, the corporation in the 1993 year had a figure which I call in the red of just under \$1.8 million. That was to be expected. As Mr. Daikiw had talked about, in the original Phase I program, there is a view that in the longer term the

corporation was to be self-sufficient, but in the shorter term, there was a recognition by the three levels of government that the corporation would not be self-sufficient in the short term.

So as a result of it, the three levels of government agreed that there would be funding and support to cover that, and so they have entered into what has been termed an equivalency agreement. What gets drawn down to fund operations is dollars out of that equivalency agreement. So in 1993, the amount that had to be drawn down was \$1,000,798, which offset the net cost.

* (1100)

To give you an indication, Mr. Acting Chairperson, of how much and what the funding has been, I would like to now refer you if I could—I am not going to take you through all of these detailed financial statements, but I will take you to the notes, note 10. It is the second page from the end, and if you look at note 10, this is a cumulative summary of the funding. Where does the money come from, under what particular initiatives or contribution agreements, and how has it been expended? You will note that the total of funding that has been provided to the end of March 1993 is just over \$34 million, \$34,408,655.

That breaks down from a number of different initiatives and programs, starting off with the Core Area Initiative I, followed by Core Area Initiative II, and working through to funding that had been received to the end of March.

Now, where that money has been spent and how it has been accounted for, in very simple terms, without detailed breakdowns, because the detailed breakdowns are in the financial statements, basically \$24 million has gone into capital-type funding. That covers things like roads and landscaping and all of those fixed assets and capital projects that have been put in place, the Market, all of those types of costs and the amenities that you see there converting The Forks from the abandoned rail line that it was, clearing the lands, doing the consultation, sort of all of those costs. They have aggregated just over \$24 million.

To the end of March, on a cumulative basis, that cost of operations, that need for equivalency funding until the corporation is self-sufficient has drawn down some \$7.8 million.

There was \$30,000 of a particular funding that was available for expenditure that is expended in the 1993-94 fiscal year that has been deferred, and there has been \$2.5 million of funding that has been received under equivalency agreements that is still available to be applied and drawn down.

There are still funds coming in under the equivalency agreement, but that, in essence, is the summary of sort of the operating costs and where the funds have come and how they have been expended.

I would be quite happy to answer detailed questions on the financial statements, or ask the chief executive officer or the chief financial officer, if they are quite detailed.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Helwer): Thank you, Mr. Crewson.

Mr. Diakiw: Mr. Acting Chair, I would just end off by indicating that six years ago I was the chief commissioner of the City of Winnipeg, and I had spent some 15 years on the Board of Commissioners. Cam MacLean approached me at that time with his vision and a view that he felt that I should be the chief executive officer and provide the administrative leadership.

A lot of people asked me at the time why I would even consider taking the job. I considered it because of Cam MacLean and because he sat down with me and showed me the tremendous challenge that this site would be for both of us and our board and our administration. As well, I recognized that with a great challenge comes a great opportunity.

So because we as an entity will in some way be changed very shortly—there is the integration of North Portage and The Forks coming about—this will probably be some of our last opportunity to say some good things about the things we have accomplished.

I just wanted to publicly indicate that what we have accomplished here, and I sincerely mean it, is a very, very important success story in Winnipeg

and Manitoba. It has come about as a result of a lot of people's input. No project in Winnipeg has ever received the kind of reviews and intense magnifying approach to the project.

I do not say that with any regret, because I think we have ended up with a better project as a result of it. But through all that process, Cam MacLean has maintained the vision and provided the leadership at the board level, and I would like to recognize him for it.

Mr. MacLean: I think maybe I should reply to that one, if I might. I want to thank also all the board members, including one here, Jean Friesen. We had tough times in those days. They could not find us or The Forks when they put it in the newspaper. Certainly the board members had good vision, and they have all played a heavy part in making The Forks a success.

I also want to thank Nick for coming over, and his staff. He has a team there that is second to none, as far as I am concerned. A lot of them are here today. They all played their part, and when I see them out working at nights and on weekends and all the rest of it, making sure that everything goes well, I just want to publicly thank them too, the whole team that put it together.

As Nick was saying, we probably will not be around very much longer, but certainly The Forks has got a good start. I would just remind you that it belongs to the people of Winnipeg and the people of Manitoba right now.

The Acting Chairperson (Mr. Helwer): I believe we should start dealing with the report.

Mr. Schellenberg: People have been asking, when will The Forks be self-sufficient? I realize you sort of answered that. It would not be fair if I did not pose that question maybe just briefly again. Could you give a timetable? When will it be self-sufficient? I know you did speak about it here but just for the public record here.

Mr. Diakiw: Mr. Acting Chairperson, our projections show, given the kind of relief that we have requested, that we will be self-sufficient at least for the next 15 years and beyond.

Mr. Schellenberg: How much public money has already been spent on The Forks to this point?

Mr. Diakiw: Mr. Acting Chairperson, the auditor just covered—the amount up to the end of 1993 is \$34,408,655.

Mr. Schellenberg: Okay. How much public money is committed for the future, over say five, 10 years? Do you have any idea of how much you will be spending?

Mr. Diakiw: No, I do not see any—the assumptions we have made are that any projects that come to The Forks will be either funded privately or publicly. The Forks will not be funding those projects. So what we are projecting and showing you within the next five years are projects that will be funded by others.

Mr. Schellenberg: You have built the Children's Museum. What is the price tag to it?

Mr. Diakiw: Mr. Acting Chairperson, let me correct the impression first. We did not build the Children's Museum. We are the landlord. We provided the land for the Children's Museum. They built the Children's Museum. My understanding is that their cost was somewhere around \$4.2 million, of which I believe they collected privately about \$1.2 million.

Mr. Schellenberg: There is a fair number of stores and so forth, commercial centres, at The Forks. Is there a turnover of stores at The Forks?

Mr. Diakiw: Yes, but very minimal, very much less than what Granville Island with their market had. I would say probably in the four years of operation we have probably initiated a changeover of about five or six tenancies. So the bulk of the people who started with us are still there and growing.

Mr. Schellenberg: That is good news to hear, a good sign for The Forks.

You did mention the Aboriginal Centre. You did give a timetable for it, sort of, but do you not feel it is behind schedule?

Mr. Diakiw: I guess I would caution you because I made a mistake very early in my career at The Forks in trying to determine what was best for the aboriginal community, where they should be. I

found out very quickly that the aboriginal community would like to determine their own presence within their own time frame.

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

So I approached it from a totally different perspective then. I went and met with the elders, with the aboriginal community, got them to put together an Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and they are the ones who are now developing the project and spearheading it at their own pace.

Mr. Schellenberg: Is the Aboriginal Advisory Committee working today? Is it active?

Mr. Diakiw: Yes, it is.

* (1110)

Mr. Schellenberg: You mentioned that the residential development was not very welcome at The Forks. What about the arena?

Mr. Diakiw: The arena was not considered in our public reviews. The position of our board has been quite clear on an arena, that they do not want an arena on Forks lands. So we have not entered that debate or that discussion.

Mr. Schellenberg: The public has been talking about the tourist centre, the development of it at The Forks. There are questions about the design of it and so forth. Who designed it and what was the process in its development, designing and building and so forth?

Mr. Diakiw: The process was we went to a public proposal call on the Johnston Terminal building. They engaged Ralph Schilling, a Manitoba architect, for the design of the Johnston Terminal building and we then, on behalf of the province and the feds, who asked us to be the project co-ordinator, engaged Ralph Schilling to design the adjacent structure to the Johnston Terminal building. As well, in our process, there was a public proposal call for the development of that site by the architects.

Mr. Schellenberg: There was some controversy over that about blending the new and the old, and the public felt that this took from the historic features of the building and this was a concern for the people. What was the cost of building the tourist centre?

Mr. Diakiw: The cost was \$2.2 million. It came in within budget and within the time frame that was allocated for its construction.

In terms of the process, the design went through, I think, seven different levels of approval at the City of Winnipeg. We had to go through—the architect had to go through the historical advisory committee which commended the architect on the massing and on the way the structure was located in terms of the Johnston Terminal building. It went on from the historical advisory committee with that approval to the design board approval—the City of Winnipeg has a design board that approves these projects. So there was a series of reviews that we normally carry out with every project that this project went through.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I had a few questions. I wanted to go back to the slide presentation and there is talk about the survey that was done. I just had a couple of questions in that area, first of all. Could you tell me how many people were surveyed?

Mr. Diakiw: Could I just defer to Marilyn Williams behind me, who handled the public participation process, so that she could give you that answer?

Mr. Chairperson: By all means.

Ms. Marilyn Williams (Communications Manager, The Forks Renewal Corporation): There were two surveys done, both of over 500 sample size.

Ms. Gray: The other question I had in regard to that survey, there was some discussion about undeveloped green space, and there seemed to be little support or less support for undeveloped green space, but there was more support for a combination of development in green space. Does the staff here have any information on how those questions were asked? The reason I am saying that is if you have a question about undeveloped green space, there may be a lot of people who do not support that, but what about developed green space as opposed to the mixture of green space? I forget what the other one was.

Mr. Diakiw: Unless Marilyn can remember the questions that were initially put, I could get that

information to you. I cannot answer the question at the present time. Marilyn?

Ms. Williams: There were a variety of questions regarding specific types of parklike development. Overwhelmingly, the response was that the public would prefer to see developments such as existed currently at The Forks. They would like to see a continuation of that type of development, the blend of developed green space and recreational amenities.

Copies of both of those reports are here, and I can give them to you if you like.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, I would appreciate that information. That does clarify somewhat my question in that area.

It also mentioned that about 72 percent of the people surveyed did not support residential development. Yet in some of the discussions today there is still talk about looking at perhaps 250 units, and I am wondering if we could get an explanation or clarification as to why the board feels they want to proceed in that area.

Mr. Diakiw: I think everybody was quite surprised by the reaction to the residential development. The board looked at this and felt that certainly the comments that had been received warranted a reduction in the level of residential development, but the board was not convinced that in the long term that this might not be acceptable.

So in the plan that you have before you, the residential development that they propose, which was a minimal 250 units, does not begin to occur until the next five-year phase. So in the first five-year phase there is no residential development. At the end of that five-year phase there will be, if they accept our recommendation, a review again and that can be revisited, but our board felt uncomfortable cutting it out entirely.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, so the plan then would be that if The Forks Renewal Corporation was looking at some residential development that before anything was actually approved that the board would go back to the public for consultation. I guess my question would be, if in fact the public comes back and clearly says no they are not

interested in it, is the board going to accept that recommendation?

Mr. MacLean: I do not think the board would. The board has been very strong, and I think they thought there could be some residential buildings along, maybe on top of the parkade against the railway tracks that would not interfere with the part of The Forks that we are using right now. You know, it is on the other side against the railway track and there are not that many people going through that area anyway. So if we did have some residential—but we thought we should delay it because the word we got was they did not want any. So it maybe should be looked at again in another five years.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, in the five-year plan, one of the areas mentioned was the steam plant, and there was discussion about potential uses. Could Mr. MacLean or Mr. Diakiw share with us what are some of the potential ideas for use of the steam plant?

Mr. Diakiw: Mr. Chairperson, the idea that the board has pursued for a number of years is a rail heritage interpretive centre. Unfortunately, the group involved in the development of that site has not been able to put the package together. We are now looking at the possibility of including them within the site but not within that particular structure because of the cost associated with it. The area, that structured parking and commercial and residential area to the west of Pioneer will offer an opportunity and space in that area for that kind of interpretive centre.

What we propose is a plus-16 connection between our development and the Union Station, which would bring people right from the site to Union Station and Union Station to the site. So we have had indications of interest from the private sector on the steam plant. We have had indications of interest more recently with the theatre for young people who are looking for a home. All those issues are on the table right now.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Diakiw referred to the turnover in the question from Mr. Schellenberg. Do you actually have statistics on what the rate of turnover is for the commercial ventures at The Forks?

Mr. Diakiw: I indicated somewhere in the order of five or six. Randy Cameron is our Market manager. If those numbers are not correct, Randy, could you correct me?

What I should share with you as well is the fact that the Market is, again, taking on a life of its own. Between the year before we reported to the year '93, our growth in the Market in gross sales has been about 24 percent a year and in a very, very tight economy. The real encouraging part is the fresh food. The Market we envisioned here was a fresh-food market, and we felt it was very important that we retain a proper mix of use on that site.

* (1120)

I could fill up that building with fast-food places at the drop of a hat, but our board was very restrictive in the number of fast-food places and the fact that we would have to support the fresh-food area, which is growing dramatically from year to year. In the last year, it has grown close to 80 percent. Our net revenues from the Market in '92-93 to '93-94 have gone up three times, have increased close to 300 percent. So the Market is doing very well. If you try to compare it to something like Granville Island, which has been around for 25 years or so, I think at its comparable age our Market has done very, very well.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, you talk about the Market, what about the other commercial centres that are sort of non-Market? Are they faring as well as the Market part of The Forks?

Mr. Diakiw: As far as the loft area, if you are talking about the retail areas, yes, they are doing very well. The indication I have from the Market manager is that all the temporary spots are booked for all summer. So we cannot tell from the temporary people how much they are earning because we charge them a flat rate. We do not take a percentage of the profits. Whereas in all the other areas, wherever we have entered into lease agreements very early in the game we decided to share the risk and share the profit, and it is starting to work in our favour now.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, again there were comments made about asking for some relief from

the City of Winnipeg in regard to taxes on the public spaces. Where is that request at?

Mr. Diakiw: We have presented the Phase II report to the three shareholders, including the mayor, and we have also appeared in October, I believe it was October, at a meeting of Executive Policy Committee to which all members of council were invited, and we presented the Phase II proposal and requested that relief that we have suggested here as well.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, what happens if the city does not agree to your request?

Mr. Diakiw: Well, what will happen is the board will have to revisit the Phase II proposal. If, in fact, the message from the shareholders is no, we do not agree with the public, you must be self-sufficient, we can be self-sufficient. But it means more development, and we feel that in the five or six years that we have been charged with the responsibility for this project we have a very good feel of what the people are saying. So we have come up with a proposal that we think—on the one hand we have the politicians saying you have to be self-sufficient, on the other hand we have the public saying we want less commercial development.

We have taken those things into consideration and have come up with a way that we think we can satisfy both parties, and that is to recognize that you cannot have these acres and acres of public space devoted to public use that the public of Manitoba is enjoying and require us to pay taxes on it. It just does not come together somehow.

Ms. Gray: In the five-year plan where in the slides you showed the 12 areas for potential development or expansion, is there a total cost to The Forks that would be attached if all those 12 projects reached completion?

Mr. Diakiw: Not to The Forks. The bulk of those projects will be carried by others. For instance, the tourism facility is part of Phase 2. It is completed because we are one year into Phase II. The Children's Museum is funded by others. The plaza area, we will fund that by one-third; the infrastructure program will fund the other two-thirds. The area to the west of Pioneer, we

envisioned that as primarily a private-driven project in which they would develop that area.

So we do not see, other than maybe some work on the railway bridge connecting the south point and the main part of our land, I do not see many capital dollars flowing into those projects that I have outlined.

Ms. Gray: Mr. Chairperson, can you tell us where negotiations are at or if you have an update on the expansion of the St. Mary-York area in terms of entrance into The Forks?

Mr. Diakiw: The best indication we get—and that is why we came with the suggestion that the way for the province and the city to recognize that their original commitment of building York-St. Mary was not being lived up to was to give us some consideration, through tax relief. The City of Winnipeg indicated to us that they were not going to go ahead with York-St. Mary at this point in time, that in fact they were going to concentrate their efforts and their resources on the Norwood-Main bridges, which is a project that will take somewhere around \$90 million and take about six to eight years to complete.

So we see the York-St. Mary extension, if and when it comes, as being at least ten years down the pike.

Now we can live with that, with one exception, that being the York Avenue project that we suggested, just a short connection, a rehabilitation of that dilapidated rail structure between Main Street and Pioneer. We still want that done by the two levels of government as they had agreed to do.

Mrs. McIntosh: May I just add to what Mr. Diakiw has said, in that the province's commitment in the funding for that extension remains unchanged. We are awaiting the city response to our request as to a date when to proceed. The city, as you know, has a centre plan committee going now, and they are looking at a number of ideas for the downtown and transportation and so on. So we have not changed our commitment but, of course, we will not be the ones making the decision as to when the extension takes place, but our financial commitment remains in writing as it did before.

Ms. Gray: Just as a follow-up then to the minister. Does the minister and her department have any discretion to direct those dollars, I guess similar to the Charleswood Bridge project in terms of saying to the city, here is a certain amount of money and this is what it would be put towards?

Mrs. McIntosh: The mayor had written, with the Charleswood Bridge and that type of thing, those are joint approvals. We choose a project from a list of projects the city wants to proceed with. The mayor had written to us in October of last year asking that we put this particular proposal on hold, that we not proceed with the extension until she had completed a centre plan process that she was going through.

So we will accept that as a desire to ensure that they have their own plans for the centre of the city, as well as The Forks, completely put together before the extension proceeds, but in the meantime, what we have said is that our financial commitment to that remains unchanged, and when the city has determined its plans and has done its centre plan, then we are ready to go.

Ms. Gray: I thank the minister for that clarification. I just had a couple of questions on the financial statement under the operations and surplus. The interest and miscellaneous income has dropped significantly from '92 to '93. I am just wondering why those variations.

Mr. Crewson: Two factors, the most significant was in the 1992 year, I believe, the corporation had funds that were on deposit that were earning interest. In 1993 those funds were depleted, so the amount of the investment available was depleted.

Ms. Gray: Under the expenses, salaries and benefits, just to clarify, those individuals that are receiving salaries, are all of the people here? How many staff years are we talking about under salaries and benefits?

Mr. Diakiw: We are talking about nine staff members, and no, they are not all here.

Ms. Gray: Under the expenses, communication and promotional activities, again, there has been a significant decrease from '92 to '93 in that line. I am wondering if we could get an explanation as to why the variation.

Mr. Crewson: I can answer part of that. In the 1992 fiscal year, that figure—

Mr. Chairperson: Excuse me, could you pull your mike up just a wee bit?

*(1130)

Mr. Crewson: In the 1992 fiscal year, the corporation had undertaken a significant Forks promotion, that is 1991-92, and that is when the market was getting started. There is a lot of promotion around The Forks and billboards and different things, so there was a high promotion cost in that year that was not repeated in the March 1993 fiscal year.

In addition, in the very initial phases, there was a newsletter that had gone out. That newsletter I do not think went out in the '93 fiscal year, so I think it was just sort of the timing of cost, but there was a lot of promotion in the very early years.

Ms. Gray: I know we do not have the audited statement for '94, but will the figure for communication and promotional activities then for this year be more in line with the \$89,000 figure?

Mr. Diakiw: Yes, it would.

Ms. Jean Friesen (Wolseley): I wanted to perhaps start with a question for the minister, and that is dealing with the timetable for the integration of the two boards. Does the minister have some information on that for us?

Mrs. McIntosh: We have now begun the process of merger. There were several delays along the way. There was a federal election and a number of things that occurred, but we have now selected new members; each level gets to choose three. The question of the chair will be decided and announced probably by the end of the month. I think, once the new board is in place, we will wish to allow the new board to make a lot of the decisions as to the actual operations and so on, like where will they be meeting, those kinds of questions.

We have a transition team that we have asked to stay in place to help us through the changeover, to ensure that everything goes smoothly. Just while we are on the topic of the old board versus new board, I had indicated in the beginning, in my

remarks, that we owed a tremendous amount to the board and staff for what we have there now. I think that foundation that Cam and Nick and the others have laid down for us will really do something incredibly special for this city.

It is a legacy they have left for Winnipeg, and it needs to be mentioned frequently because it is so important. Nick and Cam and the North Portage people will be involved in helping that transition go smoothly so that we have continuity.

Ms. Friesen: So one would anticipate then that by the end of this month there is a new board in place with a new chair and a transition team that is beginning to make these decisions.

Mrs. McIntosh: That is the expectation at this time. There has to be a ratifying vote through City Council and so on. As you know, they only meet once a month, so I am always reluctant and cautious about giving specific dates, because as Mr. Diakiw had mentioned earlier about trying to make definite projections, we have an expectation that it would be the end of the month.

Ms. Friesen: What is the legal mechanism for the change? Since The Forks is a subsidiary of North Portage, what is the actual process of making that change?

Mrs. McIntosh: Reducing it down from six to three—the North Portage board, as you know, is the parent board, and yet they have operated those two boards as separate entities. They have distinct personalities and so on.

The merger is not a complicated thing. The six members will become members of the one board which we will hope to have a new name attached to so that you do not have one dominating over the other.

I think there is just a simple ratifying motion required. I am informed that it is basically just a simple ratifying motion that the subsidiary has become one with the parent board, and I do not know if the chair wishes to make any comment on how he sees this proceeding, but that is my understanding. It is a simple legal ratification by a resolution by the board.

Mr. MacLean: It will be strictly a legal proceeding because it is set up now under the North Portage board, so they will pass the necessary resolution and dissolve the other board and take over.

Ms. Friesen: The names of the appointees to the new board, have they been released yet or when will they be released?

Mrs. McIntosh: They have not been officially announced, although they have been selected in terms of the three parties coming out and saying, here is our new board, here is the chair, here are the members. Each level has now selected its own members, and they are in the process of being notified. I am not sure if they have all received notification at this point, but that process is underway right now. I expect that as we come closer to the end of the month, after the City Council meeting, that there should be a formal announcement going out.

Ms. Friesen: Can the minister tell us who the provincial nominees are to the board?

Mrs. McIntosh: I am not sure if the official notification has yet been received. They all know, so I do not think there would be any problem with revealing them here. They have not had the official announcement made, and I believe that although they have been notified informally they now have also received their formal notification. We are having Gary Steiman, Ted Murphy and Ashley Everett. Those are the provincial people.

I beg your pardon, I was looking at the North Portage list of the former board members when I started reading, and Jim Orzechowski is on the new merged board, so we have Ashley Everett, Jim Orzechowski and Gary Steiman.

On the previous North Portage board we had Gary Steiman, Patricia Phillips and Ted Murphy. That was the former board of North Portage.

Ms. Friesen: I wanted to ask The Forks representatives some questions about VIA Rail and/or CN, and there have been some changes there, first of all, since we last met. I think you have an idea of how the retailing, what an impact that might have had upon The Forks generally. I wonder if you could give me some idea about that.

Then I am also concerned about the proposed changes in rail transportation across the country and the impact that is going to have on the number of people at The Forks, the level of parking that will be required and what impact generally it is going to have on your revenue.

Mr. Diakiw: The impact on the retail is very difficult for us to tell because two things happened at once; we had the Johnston Terminal open and the Union Station Market. So there has been a slight impact, but nothing to be really concerned about. I am much more concerned about the latter part of your question with regard to the move of the CN from the VIA station down north Main because there will be roughly 200 or 300 employees that will be leaving that site. Now, whether they will be replaced or not, we do not know. We have had just preliminary contact with the VIA people, and we do not know much more than what we read in the newspapers.

* (1140)

In terms of the Union Station, it is a separate entity. We do meet and try and assist them in whatever way we can. We do not see them as a competition necessarily, more as something that complements what we are doing. The retail portion is a smaller portion of our operation in the Market itself, and we certainly have not seen a reduction in interest in terms of taking spaces in the Market. If anything, it is heavier than it has ever been.

So I am sorry I cannot give you a more definitive answer, but it has not had any major impact on our operation.

Ms. Friesen: I know it will not be 300 parking spaces, but it will be a substantial difference in parking revenues, or it could be. Also, the presence of that number of people on a daily basis at The Forks, I think that is a significant change. What advice would you be giving to the new board on how to deal with that?

I mean, if you have had very limited contact with VIA Rail it does not bode well for the future.

Mr. Diakiw: No. I think we have reasonable contact with them. We do not know at this point in time what VIA Rail intends to do with that space. They may have some clients that will fill that

space. In terms of parking itself, the demand for parking at The Forks is one of the challenges of success, problems of success that we have to deal with. It is a tremendous demand.

Not only that, there is a new restaurant opening up at York and Main, so there are satellite operations that are coming into play that will require parking that I see parking at The Forks being a concern for the next five years in terms of how to handle it rather than be concerned about it dropping off.

Most of the complaints that we get about parking relate to major festivals or events at The Forks, and let us face it, a Canada Day celebration or one of these major events, there just is not a site large enough to provide all of the parking that is necessary and nor would we ever want to provide that kind of parking at the site. The site was never intended to be a parking spot.

In terms of the future, we see our parking moving off of the gravel area temporary into permanent structures. As well, we will have to be looking at alternative methods of transportation for public to come to the site.

I think the idea of the Splash Dash was a wonderful idea, and I have great hopes that that will grow, because it takes us back to our roots and how people got around hundreds of years ago. That is one form of transportation.

We are also, in conjunction with the city and the province, looking at other forms of light transit that might be suitable for the site.

So I think all of those things are under reasonable control. We are finding that in terms of parking, we are having to manage it much more effectively than we did the first couple of years, and it is working. We had the Mennonite celebration at our site. They commended us very highly about how the parking was managed, and the site was jammed. It was, I can tell you.

The last three weeks at the site, I would have recommended any one of you to come down and see what this site has become, how this province and the city have taken a sense of ownership and the public just—it is incredible. I think it goes

beyond the wildest dreams we had in the early years.

I think it is manageable. I do not think we should ever try and provide the kind of parking some people want, which is to go right into the Market with their car. We have recognized that at lunch time, there is a heavy lunch time trade. We provide valet parking that is paid for by the restaurants, and people can come to the site, drive right up, drop off the car and either pay \$3 or get a credit for that through the restaurant that they frequent.

I think that the people who come in the next five years should be able to manage the site effectively. I do not see any great demand for structures or any radical change in our approach.

Ms. Friesen: Just to follow up on that, had you been able to evaluate the loss of the Dash bus?

Mr. Diakiw: No, we have not evaluated it. We made strong representations. I appeared before City Council and the committees, and our merchants did. We were not successful. The Downtown BIZ supported us. We were not successful in that, and we very shortly went to something we thought might be superior, which is Splash Dash. It has the same principle but travels on water, and we have got the private sector to provide that. We think that that is going to certainly do the job.

The City of Winnipeg have in place, have put in a couple of major routes that terminate at The Forks: the Talbot bus and one other one that I cannot recall. I think they have done a reasonable job in that regard, but I was always a very strong proponent of Dash and felt that that was an unfortunate change.

Ms. Friesen: I wanted to follow up on some questions of design in the tourism building. You mentioned the number of city evaluations and procedures that you went through, but what about The Forks' own process? I am given to understand that the architecture committee, for example, did not approve this particular design. Is that the case?

Mr. Diakiw: The site planning committee? No, the site planning committee reviewed the project, and there was a consensus in support of it.

Ms. Friesen: The architectural advisory committee.

Mr. Diakiw: We do not have an architectural advisory committee, we have a site planning committee, which engineers and architects serve on. I think we are talking about the same thing.

Ms. Friesen: Yes.

Mr. Diakiw: The historical advisory committee reviewed this. I am not sure there were not any other committees.

Ms. Friesen: I wanted to be quite precise. They reviewed it, and did they approve it?

Mr. Diakiw: The site planning committee, I believe, approved it. Al Baronas—

Mr. Al Baronas (Vice-President, The Forks Renewal Corporation): The site planning committee does not approve anything, it comments, just like other advisory committees. They analyze and they express their points of view. I would say there was unanimous support for it, but we never asked for resolutions or they do not pass resolutions in a formal way saying we approve this.

This particular building was very difficult and went through an extraordinary number of planning exercises which were presented many times to the Site Planning Advisory Committee, and, of course, ourselves internally. It was a very difficult project for the site planning committee. Ultimately, they felt that solution that Mr. Schilling came up with was satisfactory to them.

Ms. Friesen: Did it go through the heritage advisory planning group—I doubt if I have got the term right—as well, and what was the advice tendered there?

Mr. Baronas: Yes, it also went through many meetings of the Heritage Advisory Committee, which had many concerns, and ultimately it came down to the Heritage Advisory Committee advising on the exterior colour, and ultimately they supported the colour of the exterior panels that you see there right now.

I would say the Heritage Advisory Committee was not ecstatic about having a building in front of the Class 3, Johnston Terminal, but ultimately I

think they took a very responsible position and given the circumstances supported it.

Ms. Friesen: And is there still a formal site architect, is it still Etienne Gaboury or Mr. Kacki, and what was their involvement with this process?

Mr. Diakiw: We still do have them as our architects. Their main concern related to the positioning of the building, and that is where the difference—the tourism facility has always been seen to be at the location adjacent to the Johnston Terminal. Right from Day One that location was the one that most people felt was appropriate.

So the issue became one of the City of Winnipeg, their historical committee, taking a very strong position on having the building repositioned so that it moved away from the Class 3 building. Ken's position was he would like to have seen it adjacent to the building. Through the processes that Al was saying, the position of the City of Winnipeg was supported in this in terms of the location of the structure.

Ms. Friesen: The interior exhibits, could you tell me about the contract that was let for that, and who got it and was there a public process for that contract?

Mr. Diakiw: There was a public process with respect to the exhibitory and the group. The consultant and the exhibit designer were the successful bidders on that particular project, and they were chosen. We had a committee of The Forks and the province that were involved in the selection process and the review.

* (1150)

Ms. Friesen: Who was awarded the contract?

Mr. Baronas: Aldrich and Pears, and Beauchesnes was the exhibit designer.

Ms. Friesen: Is this a Manitoba company?

Mr. Baronas: No, they are not. This type of exhibitory design and this kind of tourist facility is very much on the leading edge of marketing tourism. It deals with icons, it deals with themes, and in the view of the committee that reviewed this, these people were the best people for this particular job.

Ms. Friesen: Were there Manitoba companies which bid on this?

Mr. Diakiw: Yes, there were.

Ms. Friesen: How many were there?

Mr. Diakiw: There were two more.

Ms. Friesen: I wanted to ask about the heritage plan and also about public archaeology. I understand that there is to be no public archaeology this coming year. Is that the case?

Mr. Diakiw: No, that is not my understanding. We intend to carry out public archaeology this year, unless something has changed that I am not aware of.

Ms. Friesen: This was hearing from volunteers who anticipated being called for the public dig, so perhaps there has been some change in the way that public dig is being conducted.

Mr. Diakiw: Sid Kroker, our archaeologist, whom we have engaged right from day one in this project, is here. Maybe he can add something to the answer to that question.

Mr. Sid Kroker (Archaeologist): Every year we have a problem with not knowing when funding is arriving because it does come from several different pots.

This year it is even more so. We had had a five-year funding arrangement with Parks Canada; it has terminated. There are no federal monies available. Provincial monies died two years ago in terms of direct funding from Culture, Heritage and Citizenship. We have received last year and this year small grants through the heritage grants program.

The one mainstay throughout has been direct funding from The Forks Renewal Corporation, and their funding is still firmly committed this year.

We are right now looking at a negotiation with the city on the impact area of the Norwood Bridge, the Main-Norwood Bridge, the area under the curling club. According to an 1848 map is where the MacDougall farmstead stood.

If those resources are there, the city is obligated to do mitigative procedures as part of their development, and they have, to the best of my

knowledge, agreed that that would be the locale for the Public Archaeology Program.

There are problems in land transfer, so that we really do not know yet exactly when the program could go. We are projecting August and a school program in September, but until we get actual firm dates—people are being called back in two weeks.

Last year we were not able to advise people when the program was starting until July 8. So we are no worse than last year. We were still waiting on tenterhooks last year; we are again this year.

Mr. Chairperson: I am wondering whether we could ask the technical staff to turn the mikes on in the back; then we could record the conversation there simultaneously.

Ms. Friesen: I think existing mikes are picking it up.

Well, it does seem as though you are worse off. In fact, there is no federal funding. Is it possible? The tenor of your answer suggested that you believe it is possible with direct Forks money and perhaps some city mitigation money to conduct the public archaeology dig. Is that the assumption you are making?

Mr. Kroker: Yes. The city would be required to do mitigative, whether it be professional calibre or public program under professional direction, so the resources would have to be mitigated.

The Forks Renewal Corporation money, plus registration fees, plus the board of directors of The Forks Public Archaeology Association which is making a concerted effort to obtain corporate sponsorship. Some positive responses to date; some saying, you should have asked last year. But we think there would be sufficient to keep the project going, maybe on a smaller scale than in the past.

The underlying hope is that this is going to be our worst year, and if we can keep it alive this year, then with future developments, hopefully, the archaeological interpretive centre, as well as a continuing process, then without a gap it will be easier to obtain corporate sponsorships in the future.

Mr. Diakiw: I just add to that that we are at this point in time in very intense negotiations with the city on that project of theirs, and we have taken a very strong position that the public archaeological dig should occur at that site. They have indicated that they are supportive, but they question—they have not indicated financially what they may support. We are going to press very hard.

On a \$92-million project, that the City of Winnipeg would not expend a few thousand dollars on this kind of an important and popular program at The Forks—I think it is still under negotiation.

Ms. Friesen: The heritage plan, is there some point at which we should expect to see something on paper for broader public discussion, sort of a long-range heritage plan? I know that there have been consultants hired in the past to do this and there has been discussion of heritage prospects, but is there a long-range written plan that we should expect dealt with differently?

Mr. Baronas: Well, the Heritage Interpretative Plan, as you know, was put together by the Heritage Advisory Committee, and it is an integral part of our Phase II proposal. When that is approved formally by the three levels of government, it, quote, “kicks in.” However, we are the Heritage Advisory Committee—and I happen to be the chair right now; we are working with it as if it were in place where we can.

Ms. Friesen: So it is not then a public document?

Mr. Baronas: Yes, it is a public document. It has been made public. We do charge something for it. It is a rather fancy document and has colours and so forth, so we do not hand it out willy-nilly. We have circulated it to the schools and so forth. It is available upon request.

Ms. Friesen: And have you had any feedback on it? Have you used it in that format?

Mr. Baronas: We have not had any feedback that I can recollect, Jean. I can tell you, though, that the people who work on the Heritage Advisory Committee, like Leigh Syms, with the Museum of Man and Nature, some of the others who are involved in the school division find it a very exciting resource document and research

document, and they are using it to develop curriculum and programs themselves, so from a professional perspective, it is being well received. From the community at large, we have not had any comment, good or bad, though.

Mr. Chairperson: The hour having reached twelve o'clock, I am wondering what the will of the committee is, whether we want to continue the questioning at this time or whether we want to adjourn as we normally do, at twelve o'clock. What are the wishes of the committee? You want to continue until 12:30? Can we continue?

Mr. Helwer: Mr. Chairperson, you realize we have a caucus meeting at twelve o'clock.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, I know we do.

Mr. Helwer: So we would appreciate it if we could rise.

Mr. Chairperson: It appears that Mr. Schellenberg has a few more questions to ask, and I wonder whether we could continue for a few more minutes to allow Mr. Schellenberg to continue asking some questions. The report does not need to be passed. It can remain open if need be for some future considerations.

Mr. Schellenberg: Canadian history begins with the Native people. Every course on Canada, it starts with our first people, our Native people. The first people presence is not that visible at The Forks at the present time as I was watching that.

I know you have future plans, so the Native component to me does not seem to be quite on schedule. I know you have it there. You have the walkway; I appreciate that. The archaeology lab is sort of on hold, and everything seems to be five years down the road or future plans, but yet commercial things are right up there.

I will commend you. You have many, many good things going on there, but I just feel, as a teacher of Canadian history, that the Native element is sort of missing.

* (1200)

It is very important. We do not want to lose our vision or the purpose of The Forks. Your theme is excellent, the "Meeting Place." The first people I met there were the Natives. It is a tremendous

theme you have caught onto. I just feel that is lacking, and we should not forget it. It would enhance the whole Forks, and it is very supportive of all people. They are our first people and one point I felt was missing in your presentation sort of.

Maybe the federal government has a strong relationship with Native people. They have signed these treaties and so forth. Maybe they could give it more support. Maybe funds are lacking. I am not sure what is lacking, but that is one thing that I felt was missing.

Mr. Diakiw: I think that the criticism is valid to this extent, that we would like to have seen that presence at the South Point in progress at this point in time, but as I had indicated earlier, what I found with the Native community is that they have to decide themselves what they feel is an appropriate celebration at that point. They have set up a process, and it has been a lengthy process. They are visiting with the various communities with the development that they have developed. I think it is very important that we do not try and push a development for development's sake, that the native community come forward with what they feel is appropriate, and then our board has indicated all along that they would support them 100 percent.

I do not think it is a funding problem. I think everybody recognizes that, given the right type of project, the funding would probably be available. It is for them to determine what the right mix and the right project is, and that is what they are doing at the present time.

Mr. Schellenberg: I just feel this way.

Mr. Chairperson: Mr. MacLean, I will let you respond to Mr. Schellenberg.

Mr. MacLean: I just want to add to that. I know they have been going up north and meeting with all the different areas and different reservations, or reserves at least, and the different chiefs.

They have had some major programs, they tell me, with going to certain areas now for national discussions. They are pushing it, I think; they are starting now.

Mary Richard is on that committee, I am sure. The board has always been supportive, and they know we are supportive. Certainly, Mr. Diakiw and the staff have been making them understand that we are behind them, and we would like their presence there as soon as possible.

Mr. Schellenberg: I appreciate the good relationship you have with them. They are an asset to the whole Forks complex. One more thing, self-government is coming. In some places it has already taken effect. Will that change the whole partnership? Maybe, instead of three levels of government, you will have four, I do not know.

Mr. Maclean: We are leaving it up to the native groups themselves to come back with their recommendations. They have to lead the way. It is their project. They have more or less told us that what they want they will tell us, and we cannot push them. That is all there is to it. If they want four levels of government to decide, that will be a decision that will come up from them.

Mr. Schellenberg: It is a meeting place for the first people who are the natives. Then, of course, many, many other people have come here from all over the world. The multicultural element, have you thought of a centre or a development? I would go easy on that, but are there some plans there?

Mr. Diakiw: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, there definitely are. In the proposal that we showed, the indoor spine that runs, one of the activity centres is a proposed multicultural centre. We have the multicultural community working on that. They have done Phase I of their study. There is a second phase to go. So that is definitely on the burner for probably, not the next five, but maybe towards the latter part of this five and into the next five.

Mr. MacLean: Just to add to that, Mr. Daikiw notified you before about the avenue of flags, and the Scottish people are very anxious. They are prepared to go ahead so that all the different nationalities can have their flags, and when they bring their people over, they can show it to them. So that is also part of the heritage program.

Mr. Schellenberg: Now, you know this, but I will just re-emphasize this. It may be a redundant question, but people have fears of a megaproject, a

sportsplex or arena. They feel maybe there are people approaching you, putting pressure on you to develop some big megaproject that will take from the vision, the purpose of The Forks. Just offhand, are there any?

Mr. MacLean: I will answer that, and then Nick can continue. I just would say to you this: that the board at The Forks is very strong against any one group of athletes or anything else taking over the site. I think they would all resign if somebody said, you are going to have to put it on our site, then they would not have any board left. There probably will not be any board left anyway, but we are very strong, and nobody has been putting pressure on us at all.

Mr. Diakiw: I would just add to that, that there certainly has not been any pressure. I used to watch with interest what was going on with these various proposals, but they have been going on for so long that I have lost interest already and do not react to any of them anymore.

Mr. Schellenberg: I must commend you for your good work. People are very, very supportive of the work you are doing. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you very much, committee members and the minister and your staff for the committee hearings. Hearing no further questions or comments—Madam Minister.

Mrs. McIntosh: Mr. Chairperson, I do not wish to prolong things, but I would like to make one concluding statement because I feel we have a couple of visionaries sitting at the table, and I wish I had been able to sit with them at the table earlier.

I want to make a special point of saying thank you from the bottom of my heart to Nick Diakiw and Cam MacLean for what they have done to make the heart of Winnipeg what it is today. It was done with vision and a lot of commitment and a lot of hurdles to overcome, and I just want that to go on the record. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson: Thank you very much. Hearing no further questions or comments, the committee has thereby concluded its consideration of the Annual Report for The Forks Renewal Corporation for the year ended March 31, 1993, and The Forks Renewal Corporation Financial

Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 1993,
and Auditor's Report.

Committee rise.

COMMITTEE ROSE AT: 12:07 p.m.