

Today I stand beside these five colleagues who I believe will give my first year as mayor the leadership required to take actions quickly, make changes decisively and speed up the pace of local government. As you know from this morning's release, I present my first Executive Policy Committee, along with the new Deputy Mayor and Acting Deputy Mayor. Councillor Browaty was unable to attend this morning due to a previously scheduled family commitment.

I believe that a Mayor is made stronger by the people he or she surrounds themselves with, and I couldn't be more pleased than to have these six councillors accept my request to help by serving in key roles in the council organization.

Councillors Browaty, Orlikow, Mayes, Lukes, Rollins and Chambers understand the needs of Winnipeg and the challenges that we face. I ran for mayor on a commitment to unifying council to build a stronger Winnipeg. I thank these councillors for agreeing to take

on these leadership roles, but I look forward to working in collaboration with all councillors as we make progress on dealing with critical issues like safety, homelessness, infrastructure and improving city services.

As you all know, during City Council's debate on Council Governance last winter, even before the election began, I proposed to my council colleagues that EPC should be reduced from the mayor and six members to the mayor and five.

During my recent mayoral campaign, I enshrined this proposal into a firm commitment for Winnipeg voters to consider. I believe that reducing the number of EPC members puts more responsibility on Winnipeg's mayor to demonstrate more outreach to non-EPC councilors.

Further, this is a group who will help me with further modernization of the EPC governance model. We will ask the Provincial Government to amend the Winnipeg Charter to allow City Council the flexibility to reform or remove the EPC model.

We will also make changes that that require better documentation of reports being reviewed by Executive Policy Committee. We will limit the briefings the EPC receives to selected issues.

These are just a few of the reforms that I look forward to working with City Council to bring in. I will have Deputy Mayor Lukes constantly monitoring our progress, as many of the government reforms I proposed during the election, directly came from her prodding.

Finally, I want to thank the Acting Deputy Mayor Markus Chambers for accepting another appointment to chair the Winnipeg Police Board. While Councillor Chambers will not be a formal part of EPC, I consider this role on Police Board to be a critical one, especially after we have gone through an election where crime and safety were the highest priorities for our residents. I look forward to joining the Police Board as well, and will be there to support the new Chair however he needs in order to ensure that the Winnipeg Police Board is providing the oversight and the values on policing that the citizens of Winnipeg expect.

Thank you again to the Councillors for accepting my request to join me on EPC or as Acting Deputy Mayor. Now I will open it for some questions of me or anyone behind me.