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Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Media Advisory

City of Winnipeg Urged to Support Education Tax Relief

Lorne Weiss, a spokesperson for the Education Financing Coalition will be at city hall this morning to urge Winnipeg City Council to call on the provincial government to shift education taxes off the property tax bill.

Date: Wednesday March 21, 2007
Time: 9 a.m.
Location: Committee Chambers, Executive Policy Committee
Council Building, City of Winnipeg

“Today council is required by provincial law to accept the education tax increases and add it to the City of Winnipeg’s tax bill. It has no choice. It must go out and collect the education taxes. But the City of Winnipeg can still take a stand and call on the Province to start shifting education taxes off the property tax bill this year,” Lorne Weiss said.

Weiss will recommend that, in keeping with some of its own reports, the Winnipeg City Council should urge the provincial government to fund education from general revenues. In the meantime the City should call on the Province to remove the education tax from the City of Winnipeg’s tax bill and collect the education tax separately, Weiss said.

Last year Brandon City Council passed a motion calling on the province to fund education from general revenues and Winnipeg City Council could do the same this year.

The Education Financing Coalition, which launched the **letspayfair.com** campaign in January, believes that education is a core service and should be funded from general revenues in a way that allows everyone to support education in a more equitable way. Right now one-third of the education funding comes from property owners. The supporters of **letspayfair.com** are calling on the provincial government to begin the tax shift in the provincial budget that comes down April 4.

“No one expects the province to shift education taxes off property over night, rather we’re looking for a commitment in the upcoming provincial budget to start a process that could take four to five years,” Weiss said.

Lorne Weiss is available for advance interviews from 7:15 to 8:15 a.m.

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