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For immediate release

**Consultant confirms drainage decision
Says city drainage well run, and should remain in hands of city**

EDMONTON – A consultant hired by the City of Edmonton to investigate allegations that Edmonton’s drainage department was not well run has given the department a passing grade.

Drazen Consulting Group was hired shortly after Edmonton City Council voted 7-6 against letting EPCOR run Edmonton’s drainage department. Mayor Stephen Mandel, who was on the losing side of that vote, accused drainage officials of being poor managers and not giving complete information to City Council.

But Drazen’s report, presented to Council today, backed up the utility and went further, saying drainage was not only well run, keeping it in city hands was the best decision Council could have made.

Alex Grimaldi, President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 30, said he hopes the report puts to rest the idea of carving off drainage from other city operations.

“Three times council has examined this issue in the last decade, and three times they have come to the conclusion that drainage belongs with the city,” said Grimaldi. “This report is just another document on an already tall pile saying the same thing – public utilities belong under public control.”

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