Message against lack of Recreational Funding is SW Winnipeg

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I am a resident of South Winnipeg (Bridgwater Forest), and would like to speak in opposition of the budget. In particular, I am concerned with the lack of recreation infrastructure in our part of the city.

The draft 2018 City Budget has removed any funding for a recreational and community complex for South Winnipeg which will impact us up to the next 5 years and even beyond!

We currently have 60,000 residents being served by only 2 community centres. Based on the City's own per capita requirements we should have 5 more than that now, and there is ongoing building and population growth still to come.

The need for more recreation space was identified 10 years ago - before Waverley West had any houses yet. We have since added around 20,000 residents with another 20,000 on its way.

From May to October 2017, the city collected approximately $680,000 in impact (growth) fees from Waverley West. This was the most from any area in Winnipeg. The City has recently formed a working group which will determine where and how these fees are spent, but it appears none is going to recreation in the area.

Recreation is a basic service. Lack of space for programming / no sense of community / no place for community events. We as citizens expect the mayor to provide leadership. This is clearly going to be an election issue.

The Federal and Provincial governments are prepared to participate, but not if the City doesn't see it as a priority. This needs to change – it needs to be a priority for the City and its citizens.

Let's do what is right for the community.