Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network

March 11, 2020

Dear Members of the Winnipeg City Council;

I am writing in response to the proposed cuts to library services. The Seven Oaks Neighbourhood Resource Network is a coalition of organizations that work with and support residents in North-West Winnipeg across age groups, incomes and citizenships. We are disappointed and concerned with the tentative decision to limit library services and see it having an immediately negative impact on community members in our area.

The library redevelopment plan included expanded services in the Seven Oaks area. This was a welcomed investment in community resources, accessible to all. Our corner of the city is growing with new developments and residents with complex needs. Libraries are community institutions that play an important role in supporting those residents through access to social and educational supports. North-West Winnipeg is the primary area that newcomers to Canada settle in Winnipeg. Libraries are vital resources for people searching for jobs, learning English, accessing affordable programming for families as well as being central in attempts to increase literacy rates for all Canadians.

Libraries are community pillars that serve a multitude of purposes. We welcome a re-evaluation of the proposed budget to ensure there is a prioritization of those most needing access to supports and resources.

Sincerely,

Tyler Blashko
Chair

C/o: WRHA/FSH Health & Social Services Centre
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