CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOODS

Centennial • West Alexander • Central Park

June 16, 2020

His Worship Mayor Bowman, Chairperson
Executive Policy Committee
City of Winnipeg

Re: Pool Liner Replacement at Freight House Outdoor Pool

Dear Mayor Bowman

Please receive this letter of support to fund the Pool Liner Replacement at Freight House Outdoor Pool.

Central Neighbourhoods is a project of community development coordination, hosted under the umbrella of the Spence Neighbourhood Association, and operating for the communities in Central Park, Centennial, and West Alexander.

As a community organization in this area, located directly across from the Freight House, we can see first hand that the Freight House is an invaluable resource for youth and families in the Centennial neighbourhood and all of Central Winnipeg. The addition of the outdoor pool a few years back was welcomed by all as an improvement that increases the opportunities for healthy recreation, socially and interculturally, for so many of our families during the summer months. As a low-income and highly underserved area, the benefits to the community from accessing the outdoor pool are countless, ranging from wellness and health, to community connecting and community building.

We were saddened to hear that there is a risk that the outdoor pool won't open this summer, due to lack of funds to complete the necessary upgrade to its liner. That would be a terrible loss for our residents and their well-being. Losing access to this pool will mean that families, already struggling to afford recreation and wellness, would have to find alternative options that are both affordable and accessible. For many, that means making hard choices about what to live without for the summer, or just go without this option all together.

We believe that, in spite of not meeting the eligibility requirements for the Community Centre Renovation Grant Program, there is an opportunity here to relocate unspent dollars from this fund towards this vital resource in Centennial. We are so grateful to our local Councillor Vivian Santos for working hard and identifying a funding option for such an important community facility, and we fully support her recommendation.

Sincerely,

Mareike Brunelli, Director
Central Neighbourhoods Winnipeg