Winnipeg | Indigenous Relations
Relations avec les Autochtones

JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION
LES CHEMINS DE LA RÉCONCILIATION

WELCOMING WINNIPEG – Request Summary

NOTE: Request summaries are compiled by Indigenous Relations employees to ensure that identifiable, or potentially identifiable, third-party personal information or information of a sensitive nature is excluded from what is made publicly available. Indigenous Relations permits viewing of the full original submission by appointment through 311.

Request ID: 2021-004

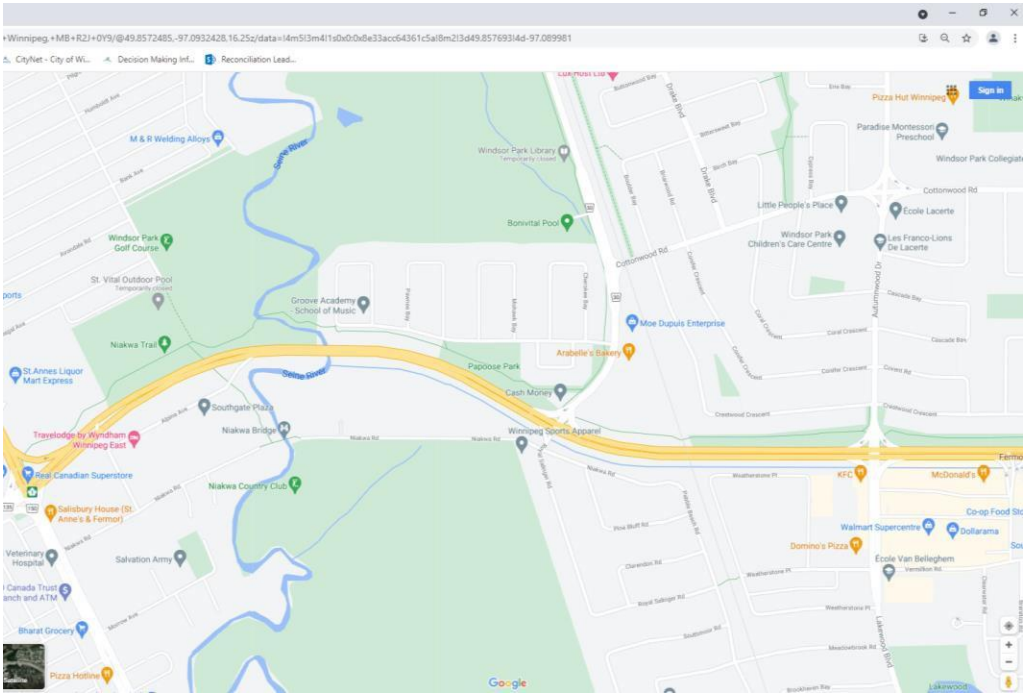
Name of Request: Renaming Papoose Park

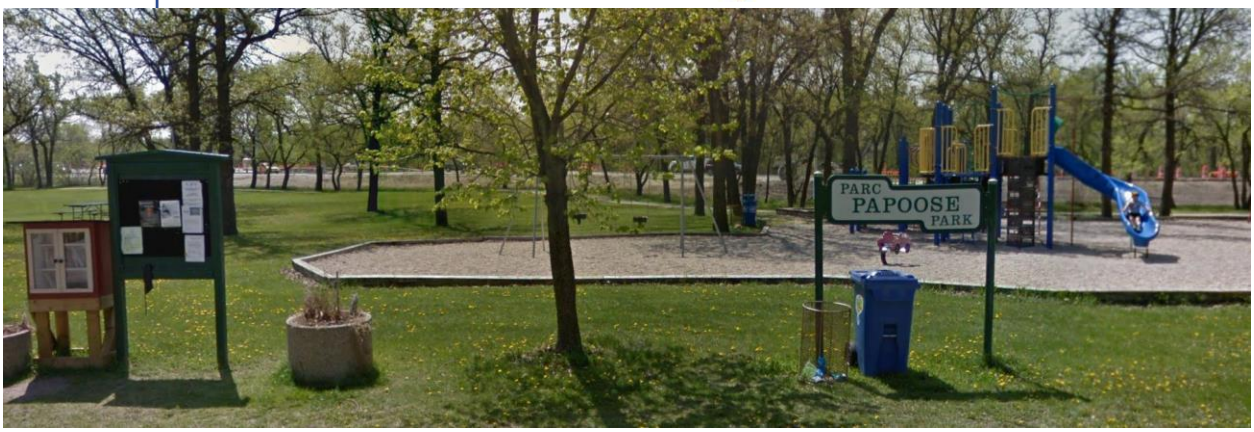
Address: 100 Comanche Road (Niakwa Park)

Demonstrated Community Support:

- Petition submitted: No. Due to COVID due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and physical distancing precautions, the City has temporarily suspended this requirement
- Letters of support provided: *2*

Project Details:





There is no proposed new name.

Our Member of Parliament (MP) has recommended a ceremony with Indigenous Elders and residents to find a respectable and honourable name for the park.

How does this renaming contribute to a 'Welcoming Winnipeg', as defined in the policy and what kind of evidence/research can be provided to support this state

The word "Papoose" is a racial slur. If you look up any accredited dictionary, it will say the word is offensive:

https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/papoose

https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/papoose

I am ashamed to live in this neighbourhood and I am ashamed of The City of Winnipeg for this disgraceful name. I have submitted letters of objections to the Manager of Indigenous Relations, all members of Council, and the Mayor over the past couple of years, and so far, I have heard no response. This is disgusting. A name change is long overdue. *Offensive statement removed in accordance with the City of Winnipeg moderation policy. It just shows our abject disregard for the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

The City of Winnipeg should be ashamed.

The word Papoose is now considered offensive. At the time of the park's naming, it was unsure but as time evolves, we must keep up with updates. This name is no longer suitable.

Merriam-Webster definition:

papoose

noun

Save Word

To save this word, you'll need to log in.

Log In

pa·poose | \ pa-ˈpüs , pə- \

Definition of *papoose*

dated, now often offensive

: a young child of American Indian parents

First Known Use of *papoose*

1634, in the meaning defined above

History and Etymology for *papoose*

Narragansett *papoòs*

Cambridge Dictionary definition:

papoose

noun [C]

UK
/pəˈpuːs/ **US**
/pæpˈuːs/

a device like a bag for carrying a baby, tied to the front or the back of an adult's body:

She had a three-year-old child by the hand, and a baby in a papoose.

old-fashioned offensive

a Native American baby or small child

Wikipedia definition:

Papoose

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see Papoose (disambiguation).

A child carrier, especially ones resembling those of Native Americans, is sometimes referred to as a papoose.

Papoose (from the Algonquian *papoose*, meaning "child") is an American English loanword whose present meaning is "a Native American child" (regardless of tribe) or, even more generally, any child, usually used as a term of endearment, often in the context of the child's mother. As a loanword, the term is considered dated and potentially offensive.[1]

The word came originally from the Narragansett tribe. In 1643, Roger Williams recorded the word in his *A Key Into the Language of America*, helping to popularize it.[2]

The Free Dictionary definition:

papoose

Also found in: **Thesaurus**, **Wikipedia**.

pa·poose

(pă-po͞os′, pə-)

n.

1. *Often Offensive* A Native American infant or very young child.

2. A cradleboard.

[Narragansett papoòs, *child*.]

American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Har court Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

Does this site have historical significance to the Indigenous community?
Research Support:

Yes. Winnipeg is located on the ancestral lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene and Dakota peoples, and is the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.

Plan of River Lots, including the Parish of St. Boniface:



https://archivesshsb.mb.ca/en/viewer/seadragon?dzi=%2Fmedia%2F0001%2FCartes%2F0001-G37-03.dzi

It has been suggested that the Seine River's name comes from "the French translation of what is thought to be the river's Indigenous name, Tchinâhâgânisipi" but further research is required.

https://www.winnipegarchitecture.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WAF_Niakwa-Park_digital.pdf

If this application is not supported, what would the negative impact on the community be? (If applicable)

The name brings disgrace to the neighbourhood and the City.

Any additional information the applicant would like the CCM to consider in making their recommendation.

I will be happy to come and give a presentation to the Committee.