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: 2021-011

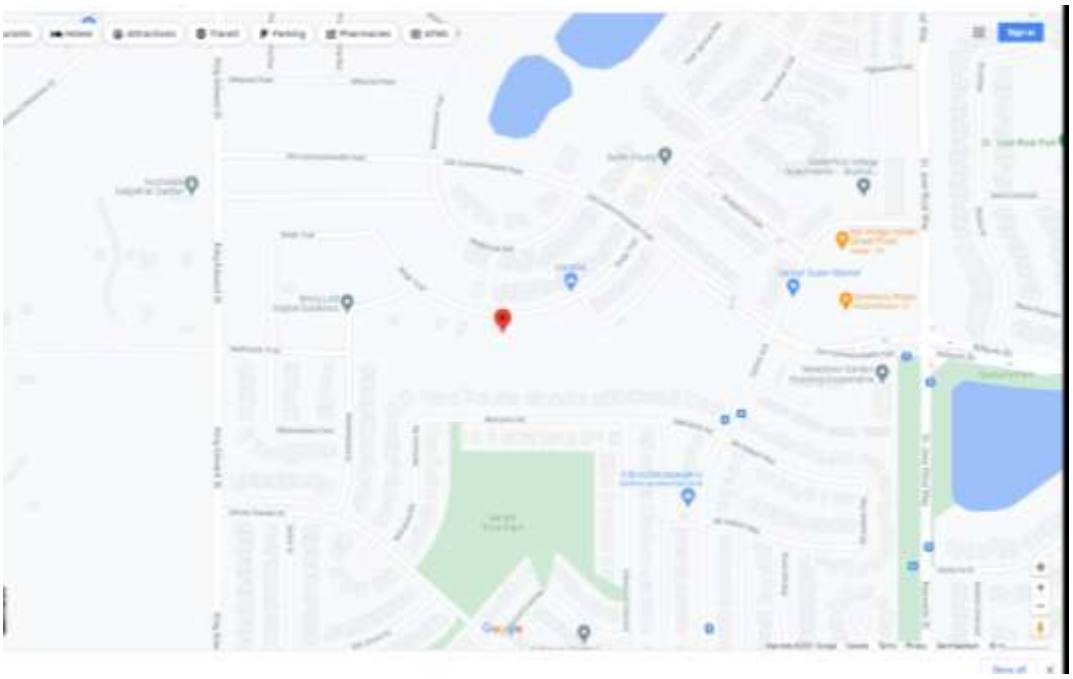
Name of Request: Renaming Singh Trail Park to Komagata Maru Park

Address: 80 Singh Trail

Demonstrated Community Support:

- Petition submitted: yes, with 37 signatures
- Letters of support provided: yes, 1 letter submitted

Project Details:



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

Name is based on Canadian Sikh history and relates to a human rights incident that happened in 1914 to which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologized in 2016 in the House of Commons. There is already a park and a library with this name in Ontario, and it is to commemorate the memory of the incident as it relates heavily to immigrants.

"The *SS Komagata Maru* was a chartered ship featured in a dramatic challenge to Canada's former practice of excluding immigrants from India. This challenge took place in the spring and summer of 1914, on the eve of the First World War. It proved to be a bitter and tragic experience for the passengers, first in an unsuccessful and eventually physical confrontation with officials, police and the military at the Port of Vancouver, and then in a deadly encounter with police and troops near Kolkata on the passengers' return to India" (Source: https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/komagata-maru).

The name of this park was announced in an event organized by the developer of the neighbourhood, and as the residents of the community we are doing what developers should have done already.

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

The City of Winnipeg, and the site of this park is in Treaty No. 1 territory (the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew and Dakota) and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

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

It already is having a very huge impact on the community in negative manner, because the developers did not fulfil their promises, and now if city would not approve the name, residents of the area will feel helpless and betrayed. This incident is very close to Sikh community and Waterford Green is comprised heavily of Sikh population, so this will impact lots of residents emotionally.

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

We have had been trying to get developers/ political leaders to have the park completed as promised, even had a petition that signed by almost all the neighbourhood (attached).