Manitoba
Indigenous
Tuberculosis
History Project

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

13 September 2022

Dear Members of the EPC,

I am a historian of Indigenous histories in Manitoba and the Research Director for the Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis History Project (MITHP) at the University of Winnipeg. As a member of the Committee of Community Members of Welcoming Winnipeg, I am writing to support the CCM's recommendation to change the name of the park at 100 Comanche Road to Tikina'gaan Park.

When this request was first brought to the CCM, we approved the recommendation for a name change from the former name of Papoose Park, but sought guidance from the Elders who have agreed to work with the City of Winnipeg around re-naming. The former name for the park is a derogatory/slang word that refers to an Indigenous child or baby. The name Tikina'gaan Park reflects the principles of Indigenous mothering and the innovations of Indigenous science. By speaking to larger tenets of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit cultures, the name Tikina'gaan Park not only reflects Indigenous histories and principles, but it provides opportunities to educate neighbours and school children about Indigneous parenting and Indigenous science.

Community feedback on this proposal shows that the Niakwa neighbours of this park engaged with the name change process, making their own suggestions as to what the park should be named. I commend them for thoughtfully engaging with the Welcoming Winnipeg process. However, the names suggested by the Niakwa Community Association do not reflect the long histories of the land or the educational context the Elders had in mind when they chose the name Tikina'gaan Park for this specific location.

Part of the Welcoming Winnipeg Initiative is engaging with Indigenous peoples to hear their perspectives on their own histories and the land. We asked the Elders to gift a name for this park and they have done so with thoughtfulness and intention. The name Tikina'gaan Park should be the name for the park at 100 Comanche Road.

Sincerely,



Dr. Erin Millions

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