Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Assiniboia Residential School

Feedback Summary

October 2022

Welcoming Winnipeg

The Welcoming Winnipeg initiative is just one aspect of the reconciliation process the City of Winnipeg is committed to, and will help ensure that the contributions, experiences, and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are reflected truthfully in our stories, historical markers, and place names.

To date, this has included Council passing a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated.

This new process includes posting change requests on the City of Winnipeg website for two weeks, to provide the opportunity for residents to provide feedback by:

- Completing a short online survey;
- Calling 204-986-4549 and leaving a voice message;
- Registering to appear as a delegation before the Committee of Community Members.

Background

All City requests to create new historical markers now go through the Welcoming Winnipeg process which is about ensuring a proactive lens of balance, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives is used when making changes to the City's historical markers and place names.

A request was submitted by the City's historian to create a new historical marker. This marker would be located at the former site of the Assiniboia Residential School at 621 Academy Road, in the River Heights - Fort Garry ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from August 25, 2022 to September 8, 2022.

Following the collection of feedback, input was provided to the Committee of Community Members to make a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Promotion

Opportunities to provide input on the renaming were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – posted August 25, 2022
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 200 recipients – August 25, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 31,000 followers – September 2, 2022
- City of Winnipeg Twitter post with 116,000 followers – September 2, 2022
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – September 6, 2022

What We Heard

8 responses were received through the online survey. 1 voice message was received.

In response to the question: **Do you think the Committee of Community Members should support this request?**

- 9 respondents said yes
- 0 respondents said no
- 0 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

n/a

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"This is incredibly important. As a person of Caucasian descent who grew up in River Heights, I am ashamed that I had no knowledge of the school until recent years. Future generations cannot be allowed to be so ignorant."

"…I think it's a really important opportunity to mark this physical space in our city and use it as an opportunity to teach new generations about residential schooling and Winnipeg's specific history with this institution…"

To learn more about Welcoming Winnipeg please visit winnipeg.ca/WelcomingWinnipeg

Winnipeg

How Input was Considered

Below is a summary of changes that have been made, based on input.

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
A great initiative to support reconciliation in our city.	The new markers will include Indigenous languages and provides an important meeting/healing place for all survivors of the residential school system.