June 28, 2024

Mayor Scott Gillingham
Mayor's Office
510 Main St.
Winnipeg, MB
R3B 1B9

Sent by email

Dear Mayor Gillingham,

RE: City of Winnipeg funding is vital for SNA to secure other funding

Thank for you continued support of the Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc. (SNA).

As the volunteer who writes grants for SNA, I am writing in support of continuing to provide Community Development funding to the Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc. (SNA).

While we receive funding from the City of Winnipeg, we also apply to other levels of government, foundations, companies and organizations. We have to do because the City of Winnipeg funding amounts have been eroded by inflation. For instance, the City of Winnipeg Community Development grant for the Liaison position at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC) is only $21,150. Obviously that amount cannot fund a full-time position as it is not even minimum wage.

When we apply for grants, matching funds are usually required. This requirement is to establish that we have community support and are a well-run organization. So while the funds granted to us by the City of Winnipeg are insufficient, they are very important. **In 2023, we were able to multiple the City funding more than 4x to deliver community programming in the Spence neighbourhood.**

I'm sure you agree with me that SNA is providing high value in providing programming out of the City's community centre at the MERC by using the City of Winnipeg funding and compounding it to access additional funding. Talk about maximizing tax dollars!!!

Sincerely,

Astrid De Bruyn

cc Michele Wikkerink, Interim Executive Director, Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc.

cc Executive Policy Committee