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: 2023-005

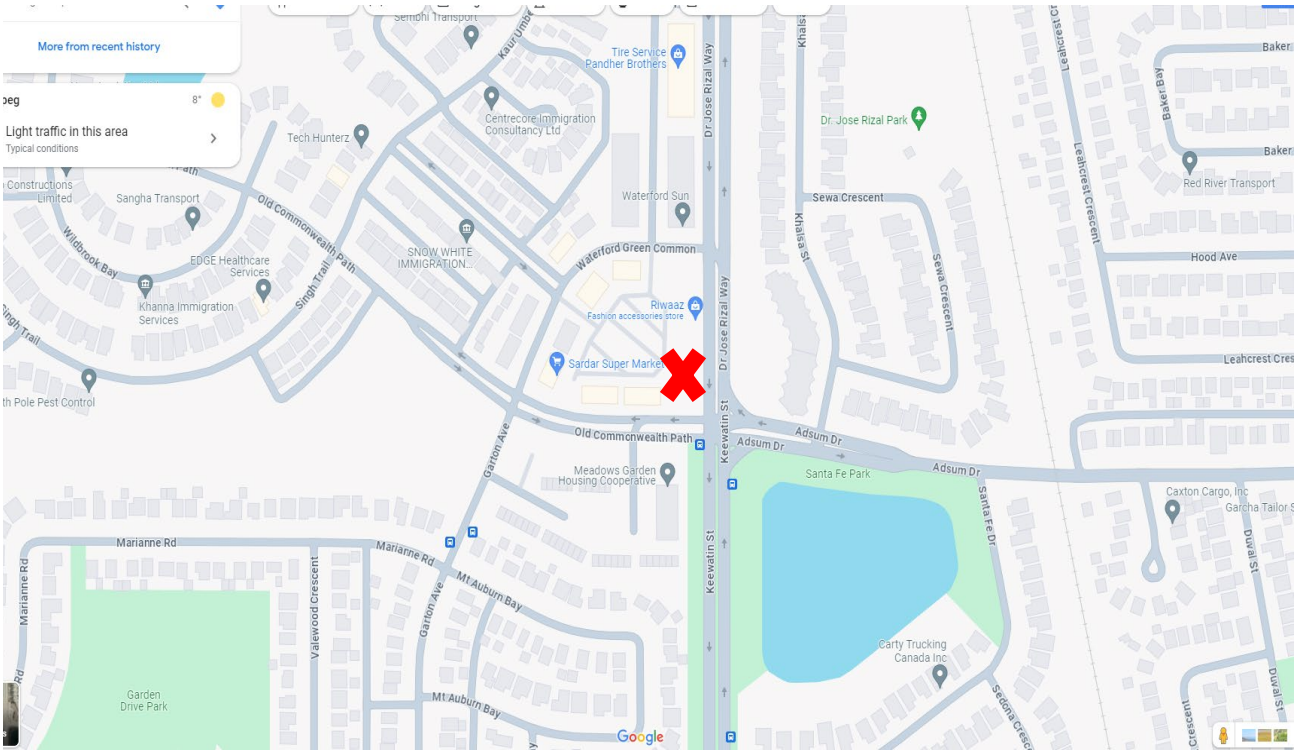
Name of Request: Adding to a Historical Marker: Dr. Jose Rizal Statue

Address: Waterford Green Common (north-west of the intersection of Old Commonwealth Path and Dr. Jose Rizal Way)

Demonstrated Community Support:

- Petition submitted: No.
- Letters of support provided: Yes, one piece of communication received.

Project Details:



The Order of the Knights of Rizal Winnipeg Chapter Inc is being gifted with a plaque from the National Historical Commission of the Philippines that recognizes the historical significance of the life, work and martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal. Dr Rizal wrote novels in the late 1800s and those novels exposed the tyranny of the Spanish rulers in the Philippines. He was eventually executed for being outspoken about his political views.

Each chapter around the world is being gifted one of these plaques to demonstrate the breadth of Dr. Jose Rizal's influence and significance to the Filipino community as they have immigrated to other countries. This is a sharing of pride and culture. The Order of the Knights of Rizal Winnipeg Chapter is thrilled to be receiving such a wonderful gift and would like to have this plaque added to the statute of Dr. Jose P. Rizal that was dedicated in the summer of 2019-2020.

This new plaque that is being donated by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines is not going to be able to be adhered to the existing statute. Instead, the Chapter would like to have permission to install a new pedestal nearby that the new plaque will be affixed to.

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

Dr. Jose Rizal was a strong advocate for representation of the Philippines in the Spanish Parliament and equal legal rights for Filipino citizens. His literary works served as a catalyst for the widespread resistance against Spanish oppression in the Philippines. Rizal's arrest and eventual execution on December 30, 1896, further fueled rebellion and intensified the Filipino struggle for liberation.

Spanish colonization of the Philippines from the 16th century onwards meant that many aspects of the country are now linked to Spain and Roman Catholicism. The U.S. possession of the Philippines in the 19th century and during the Second World War meant that the Philippines did not become an independent nation until 1946.

The people of the Philippines and Indigenous peoples of Canada share some similar experiences and generational impacts of colonization. Both groups maintain their desire to decolonize, and are on their own respective journeys. Honouring Dr. Jose Rizal with this new plaque not only calls attention to the historical impacts of colonization around the world, but also recognizes the people who speak out against colonialism.

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

It is acknowledged that this park is located on Treaty No. 1 territory, and the homeland of the Red River Métis.

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

Not applicable.

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

Below is the proposed marker:

