



MANITOBA ECO-NETWORK

302 – 583 Ellice Avenue Winnipeg, MB R3B 1Z7
Tel: 204-947-6511 www.mbeconetwork.org

March 26, 2025

City of Winnipeg Council

**RE: Agenda– Council – March 27, 2025: Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development –
Notice of Motion Item No. 1 Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest**

Dear Winnipeg City Council:

I am writing this letter in support of the motion to expropriate and rezone the lands known as the LeMay Forest. I write this letter both as a resident of Winnipeg, but also in my capacity as Executive Director for Manitoba Eco-Network.

The LeMay Forest is a 22-acre parcel of ecologically significant lands. It is an old growth forest, inside the Perimeter (in the St. Norbert area of Winnipeg), with more than 14,000 old growth trees. Ducks Unlimited [reviewed this forest several years ago](#) and called it a high conservation value forest.

It is also the site for at least 3,383 unmarked graves of primarily Indigenous children.

It is also an area of historical and cultural significance.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Winnipeg to create a relatively low-cost legacy project that will benefit the entire City. Does Assiniboine Park only serve the West-side of Winnipeg? Or does it serve the entire province? I would suggest it is the latter.

I would suggest that LeMay even offers even more potential than Assiniboine Park. It can be a statement of Reconciliation.

If the land can be secured, there is a role for Indigenous governments, including the Manitoba Metis Federation, and First Nation organizations such as the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and Southern Chiefs Organization to manage these lands.

Expropriation and the rezoning of the lands is the only option right now. The Manitoba Habitat Conservancy offered to purchase the land for more than \$5 million dollars in January 2025, but the developer stated on CJOB that he didn't even consider the offer.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Beddome".

Executive Director, Manitoba Eco-Network