

Submission supporting the expropriation of the Lemay Forest lands and rezoning to parks.

By now you have all heard of the strong reasons for expropriating the lands known as Tochal Lands aka Lemay Forest. The biodiversity, the protected bird species, the cemetery with potential burials throughout the forest, a sacred land of the indigenous people and not to forget the land is on a flood plain. I must congratulate the various committees who voted to reject the rezoning application RMF-L which is now in the hands of the Municipal Board who have held meetings to hear an appeal by the owner. Now there seems to be some hesitation on the various committees to vote on an assembly/expropriation motion waiting for the MB to come forth with their decision on the matter. Why I ask? Does it really matter what their decision is at this point? You all know the very valid reasons to expropriate and any decision should have no bearing on a your yes vote to expropriate.

Throughout this process the owners representative started with a plan for affordable housing. Well there's no money in that so then at a St. Norbert Community town hall the representative showed us a plan showing 500 units of fourplexes and duplexes which then morphed into 1350 units of apartments and condos which then morphed into a 2500 unit assisted living complex with 5000 cars which morphed into 5000 beds. At the MB meetings it was now stated to be a care home and then an age in place. It's all a game people. It's a typical bait and switch We all know if they were allowed to build on this sight it would be high end condos that benefit neither the poor nor the elderly. And just an FYI St. Norbert already has a 55+ complex and a full care home a block away.

On Jan 2, 2025 Mr. Intrater sent an email (1) to Mr. Kevin Toyne at 2:27pm with an offer to purchase for 5.25 million. An hour later that same afternoon a less than professional reply from Mr. Toyne stating "to stop playing games". No offer to sit down and discuss the conditions of the offer or the amount of the offer. I wonder who is "playing games". This indicates the owner doesn't seem to be interested in selling. (1) Email stated in File No. CT 24-01-49863 filed with The King's Bench January 3, 2025 by Memaz Inc.

It also appears to be some notion going around that certain members on council refuse to vote on any issue concerning the lands stating a conflict of interest. Looking around the chamber you are all here because you were voted in by a majority of your constituents NOT some person who doesn't even live in Winnipeg. You are voted in office to represent your constituents and when the huge majority of your constituents want you to vote for or against any issue that is **not** a conflict of interest. Just because many of you, if not all, accept many donations for your campaigns shouldn't mean you can't vote on a particular issue. That's the risk any donor to a campaign faces or is the donor expecting to treat it as a bribe? If that was the case you would all be in jail.

I can see councils hesitation reacting to the owner's representative's threats, intimidation and lies. We the community, Indigenous people, members of council, businesses who have tried to support the saving of the forest, members of the St. Norbert Community Club and even the MMF have all been subjected to these actions.

If it wasn't for the courage of our Indigenous community and a St. Norbert community member Louise May putting themselves in harms way, half that forest would be gone. The OurWinnipeg2045 document clearly states that the city must preserve these urban forests and green spaces. It's time to stop this greed and intimidation, save that sacred land and **vote for this motion to expropriate and impose an immediate cease and desist order on any tree cutting in the forest.**

Paul Thorimbert