

Submission – Cheryl Hodgson

Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest (Item 1 - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – Notice of Motion)

Submitted: Tue, 03/25/2025 - 12:22

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development Dated March 6, 2025 Item #2

Support or oppose recommendations

I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing

I am writing to ask Council to protect Lemay Forest for memorialization and ecological preservation. The Coalition to Save Lemay Forest has been fighting to save this property for five years. Together with Indigenous leaders, the community has written to councillors, presented and submitted numerous letters to various committee meetings, tended a sacred fire, organized a town hall, and held a march, all under the threat of lawsuits by the developer and his representatives. This shows how important this property is to the community and it should be protected for its environmental and historical significance, and to honour the 3300+ children believed to be buried on the property in mass graves.

The Lemay Forest is a grade A biodiverse forest with old growth trees that provide habitat for threatened species. It can't be replaced once it is gone. There will be many new housing developments created in Winnipeg, but there will never be a new forest created in the city. The current owner's plan to create an assisted living facility on this property, when there is already a surplus of such units in Winnipeg, will do nothing to alleviate the affordable housing challenges.

Acquiring this property as a public preserve will align with the Winnipeg Parks Strategy, the Montreal Pledge, and allow all Winnipeggers to discover and enjoy the beauty and history of Lemay Forest now and in the future. I believe it could also be a valuable educational opportunity to bring cultures together. I truly hope that this motion is passed and this valuable resource can be protected.

Thank you,
Cheryl Hodgson

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.

Yes