

Submission – Jérôme Marchildon

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

Submitted: Fri, 03/21/2025 - 10:50

Delegation information

Committee you want to address

Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)

City of Winnipeg Council Meeting of February 27, 2025 - Motion

Support or oppose recommendations

I support the recommendations

Submit comments in writing

To all City of Winnipeg Councilors and Mayor,

I support the expropriation of the Lemay Forest. It is one of the last intact river bottom forests in the City of Winnipeg with great historic, cultural and environmental significance.

Within the Lemay Forest is the abandoned Asile Cemetery of unmarked graves. There are over 3000 Children buried here.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action 71-75 emphasize the need for the protection of Indigenous burial sites, reconciliation, and preserving sacred spaces like those in Lemay Forest.

These Calls urge the government to collaborate with Indigenous communities to preserve and protect burial sites as part of the healing process.

In addition to its cultural significance, Lemay Forest's trees and ecosystems provide vital environmental benefits to our city, including air quality regulation and wildlife habitat preservation.

It is a nesting place for migratory birds, song birds, birds of prey, and the keystone species such as the protected pileated woodpecker. It is also a wildlife corridor providing habitat and safe access for many wildlife species, reptiles and amphibians.

We must ensure this sacred site and its ecosystems are safeguarded for future generations.