Winnipeg | Indigenous Relations
Relations avec les Autochtones

JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION
LES CHEMINS DE LA RÉCONCILIATION

WELCOMING WINNIPEG – Request Summary

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Request ID: 2023-008

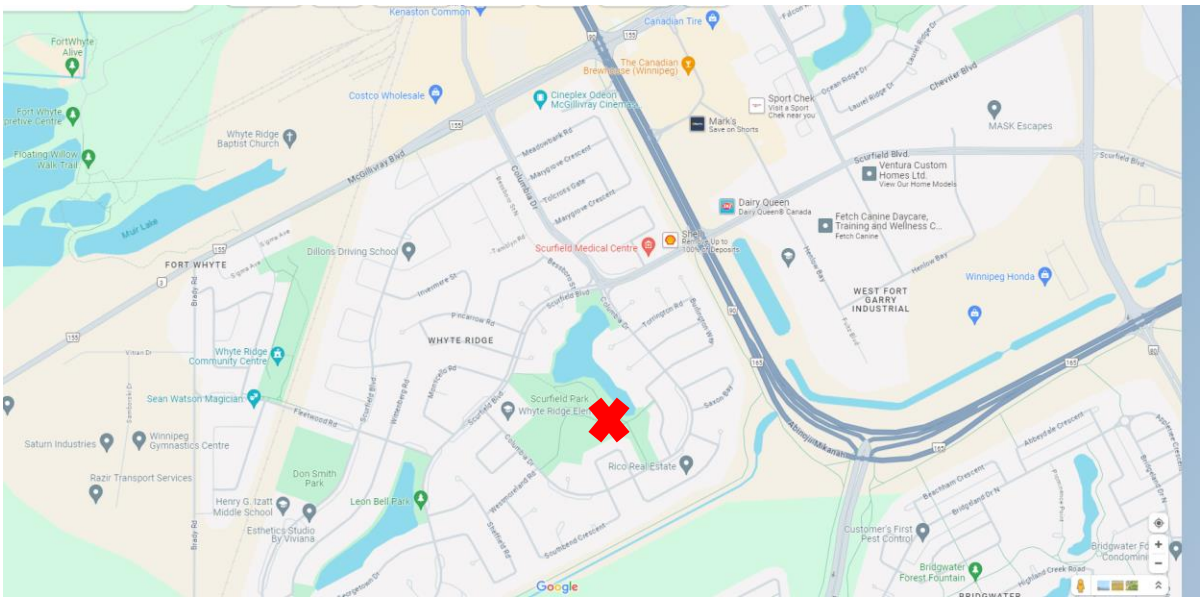
Name of Request: Creating New Marker: Flight PS752 Memorial Plaza

Address: Scurfield Park (3 Monticello Road)

Demonstrated Community Support:

- Petition submitted: No.
- Letters of support provided: 5 letters of support provided.

Project Details:



This memorial project acknowledges people's right to seek justice. The families of the Flight PS752 victims (nationals of 6 different countries, including the Iranian and Ukrainian communities here in Winnipeg) have made it their mission since January 2020 to seek the justice they deserve; however, the Freedom Forest of Life and Reflection will serve all other communities who have been suffering from injustices too.

How does this project contribute to a 'Welcoming Winnipeg', as defined in the policy and what kind of evidence/research can be provided to support this state

Reconciliation is not only about what happened in the past but how informing all Canadians of our history is critical to our future. Seeking justice is one of the most essential pillars of reconciliation, and many communities share a similar view. This plaza will serve all such communities, including the Indigenous community - and our society as a whole. This is an aspect of the reconciliation process the City of Winnipeg is committed to.

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

This park is located on Treaty No.1 territory and the national homeland of the Red River Métis.

Our preliminary research shows that the site on which the forest and plaza will be located has no historical significance to the Indigenous community.

However, as mentioned before, the justice element of the project reinforces the efforts of oppressed communities, especially Indigenous people.

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

All Manitoban communities with a history of injustices do need a gathering place to contemplate the lives lost or disrupted by tragic injustices. While the Indigenous community has suffered the sad and painful past and ongoing impacts of residential schools in Canada, our province's diverse community consists of numerous other groups that count on all three levels of our government to assist them in seeking justice and building a more democratic world. The families of Flight PS752 victims have been refused justice since January 2020 despite their nonstop efforts working with different governments and international organizations. The plaza will not only help people silently mourn but will also provide an environment for communities from countries that have challenging political, social, and human rights situations to come together, share and learn.

This project also aims to improve the quality of life for neighbouring residents and thousands using the park weekly. There are few places to sit in Scurfiled Park, and City officials expect thousands of people to use the sitting area over time. Citizens who use the park will also enjoy the shade the trees provide. The current amenities are simply insufficient.

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

Iranian diaspora, including Manitoba's active and vibrant Iranian-Canadian community, has endured countless tragedies and atrocities in the last 46 years. The crackdown in the country has intensified since September 2022, the start of the Woman, Life, Freedom Revolution. While the struggles and efforts of Iranians inside and outside of Iran are ongoing, people and activists have communicated a universal message that freedom is void of its meaning without serving justice. One of the highlights of this pathway is justice for the victims of Flight PS752, which was shot down by two IRGC missiles on January 8, 2022. The Freedom Forest will be a landmark, not solely for the Iranian-Canadian community and not only for the people of Ukraine, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and Afghanistan who lost their beloved ones on that day, but for the families of the victims of other similar tragedies, especially the Indian community. January 8 is now National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Air Disasters.

In honour of all the victims, we would like the plaque to have the following words:

An Open Wound In The Sky

This monument is dedicated to the victims of Ukrainian International Airlines Flight PS752 that was shot down by the IRGC in Iran.

On January 8, 2020, (now the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Air Disasters), Flight PS752 was tragically shot down with two missiles only three minutes after take-off from Tehran's International airport. After three days of denial and under mounting international pressure, the IRGC in Iran, finally admitted to downing the civilian aircraft, but the Islamic Republic regime in Iran continues to obfuscate the true circumstances behind this crime.

This heinous crime claimed the lives of all 177 innocent passengers and crew including an unborn child. The victim's families have been fighting for the truth and justice ever since.

Government of Manitoba
City of Winnipeg
Iranian community of Manitoba
The Association of the families of flight PS752 Victims

The names of the victims would be included at the commemorative site, on the wall, as well.