Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Flight PS752 Memorial Plaza

Feedback Summary

March 2025

Welcoming Winnipeg

The Welcoming Winnipeg initiative is just one aspect of the reconciliation process the City of Winnipeg is committed to, and will help ensure that the contributions, experiences, and perspectives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit are reflected truthfully in our stories, historical markers, and place names.

To date, this has included Council passing a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated.

This new process includes posting change requests on the City of Winnipeg website for two weeks, to provide the opportunity for residents to provide feedback by:

- Completing a short online survey;
- Calling 204-986-4549 and leaving a voice message;
- Registering to appear as a delegation before the Committee of Community Members.

Background

All City requests to create new historical markers now go through the Welcoming Winnipeg process which is about ensuring a proactive lens of balance, inclusion and Indigenous perspectives is used when making changes to the City's historical markers and place names.

A request was submitted by a community organization to create a new historical marker. This marker would be located at Scurfield Park (3 Monticello Road) in Waverley West ward. Details of the request can be found here.

Residents were invited to provide feedback from October 11, 2024 to October 25, 2024.

Following the collection of feedback, input was provided to the Committee of Community Members to make a recommendation for Council's consideration.

Promotion

Opportunities to provide input on the new marker were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – posted October 11, 2024
- Welcoming Winnipeg e-mail distribution list with over 250 recipients – October 11, 2024
- City of Winnipeg Facebook post with 41,000 followers – October 15, 2024
- City of Winnipeg X (formerly Twitter) post with 129,000 followers – October 15, 2024
- City of Winnipeg Instagram story with 9,000 followers – October 15, 2024
- Internal City of Winnipeg e-mail distribution list – October 16, 2024

What We Heard

25 responses were received through the online survey. 0 voice messages were received.

In response to the question: **Do you think the Committee of Community Members should support this request?**

- 20 respondents said yes
- 3 respondents said no
- 2 respondents said undecided

Examples of reasons identified for not supporting the change were:

"While the sentiment is laudable, but trying to link it to broader causes and the Indigenous communities is tenuous at best."

Examples of reasons identified for supporting the change were:

"…it is an important step toward recognizing and honoring the diverse histories and communities that make up our city. This initiative not only promotes inclusivity but also serves as a reminder of the contributions and struggles of Indigenous populations, newcomers, 2SLGBTQQIA communities, and individuals with disabilities. Projects like this should continue to foster understanding and unity in Winnipeg."

To learn more about Welcoming Winnipeg please visit winnipeg.ca/WelcomingWinnipeg

Winnipeg

How Input was Considered

Below is a summary of changes that have been made, based on input.

What We Heard	How It Was Considered
How does the new historical marker contribute to a Welcoming Winnipeg?	This request offers an educational opportunity – this commemoration will acknowledge the victims of Flight PS752; while this was an international event, there were deep impacts to families and communities in Winnipeg. The memorial plaza is meant to be a place that honours human rights principles, with the commemorative marker a statement of justice and solidarity.
Have Indigenous histories and perspectives been considered in this request?	All land in Winnipeg is Indigenous land; however, the preliminary research undertaken by the proponent did not show specific historical significance. The location of the park was chosen because there are many from the Iranian community who live there; one of the victims was a student at a nearby school. The Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members has recommended that a traditional land acknowledgement be installed in the plaza as part of this project.