March 17, 2022

MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE
We all work together to help one another.

John Kiernan, Director
Planning, Property & Development
City of Winnipeg
3rd Floor, 65 Garry Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4K4

Letter of intent: 575 Larsen Avenue

Good day John,

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc. (Ma Mawi) is seeking to acquire a City of Winnipeg community recreation facility located at 575 Larsen Avenue in Elmwood on Treaty 1 Territory to establish a culturally appropriate holistic Family Care Centre. Elmwood is the second largest Indigenous community in Winnipeg. Ma Mawi has offered community and family programming in this neighbourhood since 2019.

We believe strongly in our collective ability to play a leading role in Winnipeg's journey towards truth and reconciliation. It is in the spirit of Reconciliation, that by securing 575 Larsen we can create a safe environment ~~to~~ for Indigenous families and children. We expect to impact more than 20,000 local children and families per year. They will take part in structured programs, food security and cultural activities in the renovated indoor and outdoor spaces. Plans include a playroom for children, family rooms, community kitchen, programming spaces, and an outdoor cultural space. Ma Mawi has existing funding agreements from the Province of Manitoba, and United Way of Winnipeg to cover the ongoing operating costs.

Since 2017, the City of Winnipeg has actively sought a path to honor the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice. Not only does this request support the above-mentioned Calls, it supports the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous people (UNDRIP), adopted by the United Nations on September 2007 and fully endorsed by Canada on May 2016. This important declaration preserves the rights that "constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity, and well-being of the indigenous people of the world" (Article 43). The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action refer to UNDRIP as "the framework for reconciliation" in Canada. Our project provides a timely opportunity for Indigenous families and children to thrive in their own culture.

The sale of 575 Larsen to Ma Mawi will further the City of Winnipeg's efforts towards Reconciliation by providing critical infrastructure to strengthen culturally appropriate programs with a full range of spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional services. The

Indigenous population is increasing continually, and it is projected Winnipeg's Indigenous population may well exceed 100,000 people in the coming years. It is in the interest of all to work in a spirit of reconciliation and ensure our families have equal opportunities to flourish.

The City of Winnipeg is an important partner in this effort. By supporting the Family Care Centre at 575 Larsen, children and families will benefit from ongoing solutions that draw from the collective wisdom, talents, skills, and experiences of our Indigenous community in building healthy neighbourhood networks and communities.

Specifically, our project addresses the Principles of Truth and Reconciliation by investments in the rebuilding of Indigenous culture and providing hope towards a better future for Indigenous people living in Winnipeg.

Principle 1: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society.

- 575 Larsen owned and operated by Ma Mawi will provide a positive environment where Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and families can learn and rebuild healthy relationship.

Principle 3: Reconciliation is a process of healing of relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.

- 575 Larsen owned and operated by Ma Mawi will be a safe space for Indigenous families and children to discuss truth and heal from the destructive legacies of colonization.

Principle 4: Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Indigenous peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, the administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.

- 575 Larsen owned and operated by Ma Mawi will address the root causes and intergenerational trauma fostering a positive environment in rebuilding our community with Indigenous learning and healing.

Principle 6: All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.

- 575 Larsen signifies a strong commitment for Indigenous people to establish an environment and infrastructure to share our Treaty responsibility and knowledge, as equal and sovereign people.

Principle 7: The perspectives and understandings of Indigenous Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.

- 575 Larsen owned and operated by Ma Mawi will be a vital place where Elders and knowledge keepers can share their rich cultural knowledge and pass it down for future generations to come.

Principle 8: Supporting Indigenous peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.

- 575 Larsen owned and operated by Ma Mawi will provide the Indigenous community opportunities to revitalize culture with a full range of spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional programs.

Principle 9: Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.

- The City of Winnipeg has an opportunity to demonstrate the political will, joint leadership, trust building and accountability required to transform our city and the land we share into an environment where Indigenous children and families can thrive.

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata translated in Ojibway means "we all work together to help one another". The Family Care Centre values will come from the words and hearts of families, children, youth, Elders and members of our community who consistently work tirelessly for the growth and development of our community.

We are a credible, experienced, committed organization with a proven track record of success in supporting Indigenous people living in Winnipeg. By working together, we are well-positioned to provide high quality programming to help bring community together in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

This is reconciliation in action. It is a journey that we can both be honoured to be a part of.

Miigwech, Ekosoni, Marsi, Wopida, Masi Cho, and Thank You.

In Friendship,

Diane Redsky, Executive Director
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Inc.

I acknowledge the ancestral traditional territory of Treaty #1 and Homeland of the Metis Nation that I have the privilege of living on. I also acknowledge Treaty #3 traditional territory of my ancestors and Shoal Lake First Nation #40 which is primary water source for Winnipeg.