Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 9, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 8 Installation of a Marker at the International Mother Language Plaza

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee and recommended to Council:

1. That the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy be waived, and that the Public Service be directed to work with the area Councillor and the Manitoba Bangladesh Bhaban Corporation to commission and install a marker at the International Mother Language Plaza in Kirkbridge Park, as written in Schedule A.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 20, 2025, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the International Mother Language Plaza in Kirkbridge Park, an initiative supported and brought to fruition by the Manitoba Bangladesh Bhaban Corporation, invites reflection on the importance of all mother tongues, fostering respect for diverse heritages and celebrating Canada's multicultural identity;

AND WHEREAS in 1999, UNESCO proclaimed February 21 as International Mother Language Day to honour the Bangladeshi people's sacrifices in preserving their mother language, and to recognize the significance of all mother languages;

AND WHEREAS a plaza was built and unveiled in 2021 and is lacking an appropriate marker highlighting and explaining the background and significance of the plaza to park visitors;

AND WHEREAS the proposed marker will also acknowledge the loss of Indigenous languages and the importance of their revitalization;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Bangladesh Bhaban Corporation is prepared to fund the creation and installation of signage;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following be recommended to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy be waived, and that the Public Service be directed to work with the area Councillor and the Manitoba Bangladesh Bhaban Corporation to commission and install a marker at the International Mother Language Plaza in Kirkbridge Park, as written in Schedule A.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

SCHEDULE A

Language is a vital expression of cultural identity. The International Mother Language Plaza invites reflection on the importance of all mother tongues, fostering respect for diverse heritages and celebrating Canada's multicultural identity.
In 1999, UNESCO proclaimed **February 21** as International Mother Language Day to honour the Bangladeshi people's sacrifices in preserving their mother language, and to recognize the significance of all mother languages.

The sculpture, a replica of the **Shaheed Minar Monument** in Dhaka, symbolizes a mother bestowing the gift of language upon her children. The red sun behind her represents hope and freedom.

The Medicine Wheel acknowledges that this site stands on Treaty No. 1 Territory, the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew, and Dakota Peoples, and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. It also recognizes the loss of Indigenous languages and the importance of their revitalization.