Ottawa
Room 434, Confederation Building
229 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-0579
Fax: 613-996-7571

Winnipeg
4-213 St. Mary's Road
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 1J2
Tel.: 204-983-3183
Fax.: 204-983-4274

CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

Hon. Daniel Vandal
Member of Parliament / Député
Saint-Boniface—Saint-Vital

Ottawa
Pièce 434, Édifice de la Confédération
229, rue Wellington
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-0579
Télec. : 613-996-7571

Winnipeg
4-213, chemin St. Mary's
Winnipeg (Manitoba) R2H 1J2
Tél. : 204-983-3183
Téléc. : 204-983-4274

March 11, 2024

Mayor and Members of the City of Winnipeg Council
c/o City Clerk cityclerks@winnipeg.ca
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear Mayor Gillingham and Members of Winnipeg City Council:

It has come to my attention through press reports that the City of Winnipeg's preliminary 2024-2027 multi-year budget plans to close two outdoors pools in St. Boniface: the Happyland and Windsor Park pools, located at 510 Marion Street and 333 Speers Road, respectively.

These pools are located in neighbourhoods of modest income whose residents, young and old, rely on affordable recreational opportunities these two facilities provide. My understanding is that the Windsor Park poll has the lowest cost per visit of all outdoor pools and that Happyland has lower costs per visit compared to many other outdoor pools in the City of Winnipeg.

In the case of Happyland pool, the former Canada Packers site nearby is undergoing significant residential and commercial redevelopment, with thousands of future residents in an inner-city community. The development of this area would necessitate recreational infrastructure. It would be premature to close a recreational amenity nearby with an upcoming influx of residents in the new development who would need recreational opportunities.

Budgets are a matter of balancing competing interests and prioritizing them. They ultimately reflect the values we as governments think are important. In making difficult budget decisions, we must apply a lens that considers the impact on low-income residents, seniors and children.

I urge the City of Winnipeg to keep these facilities open in light of this information and am open to further discuss these issues with your office should you feel there is a need.

Sincerely,

Dan Vandal, PC