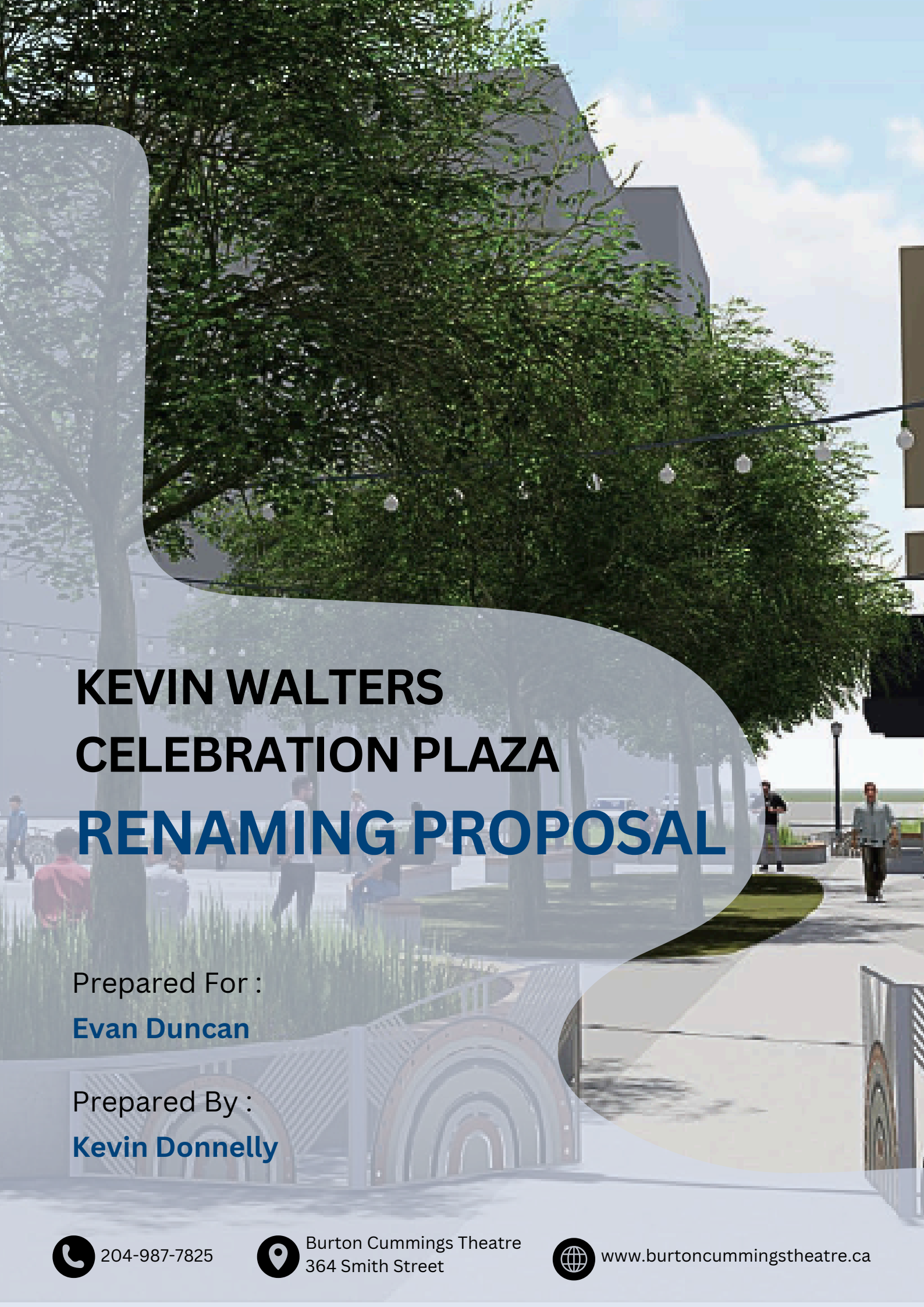




KEVIN WALTERS CELEBRATION PLAZA RENAMING PROPOSAL

Prepared For :

Evan Duncan

Prepared By :

Kevin Donnelly



204-987-7825



Burton Cummings Theatre
364 Smith Street



www.burtoncummings theatre.ca

Kevin Walters was a pivotal figure in Winnipeg's music industry, known for his decades-long career as a promoter, manager, and connector who helped launch and support countless artists and events.

Please Support the Name Change of the Odeon Park to the Kevin Walters Plaza.

Letters of Support

Kevin Donnelly

Lisa Meeches

Errol Ranville

Allan Reid

Barb Nepinak

Jack Harper

Bob Sokalski

Gilles Paquin

Jack Harper

Sharon Walters

Bob Somers

Stuart Murray

Lynne Skromeda

Sara Stasiuk

Vanessa Kuzina

Ron Sakamoto

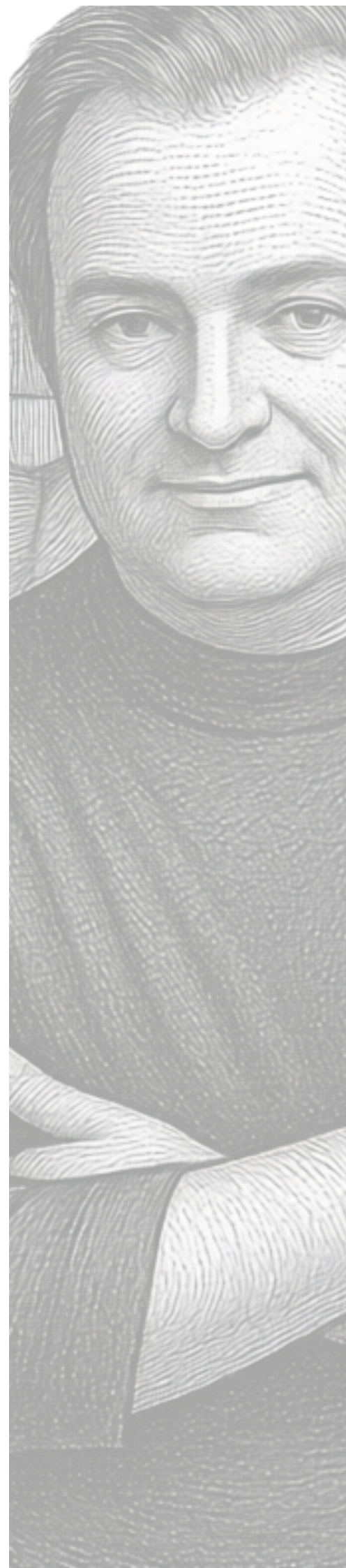
Geoff Tanizawa

Dawn Woroniuk

Patti-Anne Tartlon

Stephen Carroll

Michael Dawson



Dear Councilor Duncan;

Please find attached the various letters of support regarding the renaming of ODEON PARK to KEVIN WALTERS PLAZA.

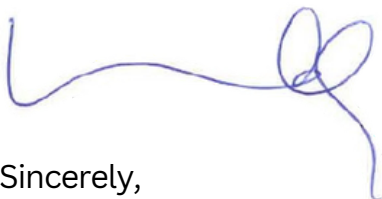
As you will see by the letters of endorsement, from a wide spectrum of individuals touched by Kevin's efforts during his career and much too short life, Kevin was a Winnipegger who made other Winnipeggers proud.

In his role as a local representative for national touring projects, or local initiatives that encouraged developing artists to meet the challenges of the national stage, Kevin saw the local music industry as being second to none, and he championed those efforts from coast to coast.

The initial idea of lobbying the City of Winnipeg – working with streets, transit, PP & D, engineering and others--to consider the realignment of the median across from the Burton Cummings Theatre--- bordered by Smith St, Notre Dame and Kings St—was germinated, it completely gained momentum and support amongst a broad group of citizens when paired with the idea of naming the newly created plaza in Kevin's memory.

This has been over five years in planning and dreaming. With the support of other programs to find funds for the plaza itself, the heartbeat of this effort was always to see it to fruition as a place of respect and honor for a champion of the arts industry, Kevin Walters.

The Burton Cummings Theatre is now one of the most vibrant locations in all of Winnipeg—hosting over 100,000 patrons annually, with local, national and international performers and productions. Having a plaza in front named in Kevin Walters' memory—where patrons, performers and productions all experience the professional and cultural standards that Kevin Walters exemplified seems truly fitting and deserved.



Sincerely,
Kevin Donnelly
Senior Vice President, Venues + Entertainment
True North Sports + Entertainment

Eagle Vision

November 26, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lisa Meeches, and as a proud member of the Long Plain First Nation on Treaty #1 Territory, this renaming holds deep meaning for me. Kevin Walters was not only a friend but a true ally who worked tirelessly to build bridges between communities. Supporting the renaming of Odeon Park to **Kevin Walters Plaza** is my way of honoring his legacy and the values he championed—reconciliation, respect, and unity.

Kevin Walters was a visionary leader and a true ally to Indigenous peoples in Manitoba. His reflected a profound and unwavering commitment to reconciliation—one that went far beyond words and into meaningful, lasting action. Kevin understood that reconciliation is not a symbolic gesture or a fleeting promise; it is a continuous journey of listening, learning, and building bridges. He approached this responsibility with humility and purpose, ensuring that Indigenous voices were not only heard but respected and empowered.

Renaming the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in honour of Kevin Walters is a powerful way to celebrate his enduring influence on Winnipeg's cultural landscape. This tribute reflects his unwavering commitment to inclusion, his passion for the arts, and his deep respect for Indigenous peoples and traditions.

I strongly urge the approval of this proposal, as naming the plaza after Kevin Walters is more than an act of recognition—it is a commitment to preserving the values he championed: reconciliation, inclusivity, and the celebration of the arts. This designation will serve as a lasting tribute to a man whose vision brought communities together and whose legacy continues to inspire progress and unity. By honouring Kevin in this way, we affirm the importance of his contributions and ensure that his spirit of collaboration and respect lives on for generations to come.

With respect,



Lisa Meeches C.M., O.M.

King Charles III Coronation Medal - April 9, 2025 & May 15, 2025

Eagle Vision Inc. - President, Founding Partner, Executive Producer

Manito Ahbee Festival Inc. - Executive Director & Advocate for Indigenous Arts & Culture



caras

The Canadian Academy
of Recording Arts
and Sciences

April 29, 2026

Winnipeg City Council
510 Main St., Winnipeg, MB
R3B 1B9

Dear Members of Winnipeg City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the proposal to name the new plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in honour of Kevin Walters.

As a recipient of the Kevin Walters Industry Builder Award at the 2018 Western Canadian Music Industry Awards, I have experienced firsthand the impact of Kevin's dedication to the arts and music community. His commitment to nurturing talent, supporting industry growth, and championing Winnipeg's cultural identity has left a lasting mark not only on individuals like myself, but on the broader creative community of the city.

Kevin was a tireless advocate for artists and cultural development in Winnipeg. His contributions have helped strengthen the local music ecosystem, providing opportunities for countless artists and industry professionals.

Naming this plaza in his honour would be a meaningful and fitting tribute. Located in front of one of Winnipeg's most iconic cultural venues, it would serve as a permanent reminder of Kevin's legacy and his profound influence on the arts community.

I respectfully urge the Council to approve this proposal and recognize Kevin Walters' enduring contributions to Winnipeg's cultural community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Allan Reid
President & CEO
CARAS, The JUNO Awards and MusiCounts



To whom this may concern:

I am writing to throw my 100% support behind re-naming the small park in front of the Burt, Kevin Walter's Memorial Park.

Kevin Walters contributed more than enough to the city and to the Arts community of the City of Winnipeg to warrant having his name forever memorialized for generations to come to learn about the many endeavors that Kevin took on to make the city a better place.

Kevin had a special understanding of the Indigenous Peoples contributions to the Mosaic of the cityscape and the Cultural values of the place where the city lies, where 2 rivers meet.

Kevin was able to ascribe the same import to the Indigenous and the Francophonie Cultures that shared the space here at the Forks and was able to make everyone feel important and counted.

Please give very careful thought into the naming of the Kevin Walters Memorial park here in the inner city.

Respectfully,

Errol Ranville

June 9, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Barb Nepinak, registered member of the Minegoziibi Aninishinaba (Pine Creek) First Nation and I fully support the renaming of Odeon Park to the **Kevin Walters Plaza**.

Kevin Walters was not only a friend, but a visionary leader and true ally to Indigenous peoples in Manitoba. During his lifetime, Kevin demonstrated a deep and sincere commitment to reconciliation not through words alone, but through meaningful action.

As the Director of Manitoba Homecoming 2010, Kevin was the one who proposed that the year of celebration begin with the lighting of a sacred fire at The Forks. That decision was not symbolic; it was foundational. Kevin understood that any true celebration of this place and its people must begin by honouring the original inhabitants of this land. That act created a space where Indigenous voices and traditions were respected, welcomed, and centered. It showed who Kevin was, a man who listened, who cared, and who acted.

Kevin's support of the arts went far beyond celebration. He championed artists of all backgrounds, including many Indigenous creators, with genuine respect and admiration. He saw the value in every story, every song, every piece of history, and he worked tirelessly to create space for them to be shared with the broader public.

More than anything, Kevin believed in people. He had a remarkable ability to bring others together, to inspire collaboration, and to help ideas take flight. He worked with kindness and humility, always recognizing the strengths and contributions of those around him.

Naming the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre after Kevin Walters would be a fitting tribute to a man whose impact on this city and on so many of us will never be forgotten. It would honour his legacy of inclusion, his dedication to the arts, and his deep respect for Indigenous peoples and cultures.

I wholeheartedly support this proposal and encourage the approval of the **Kevin Walters Plaza** designation.

With respect and sincerity,

Elder Barb Nepinak

Order of Manitoba

UNESCO Recipient

June 24, 2025

TO: Mayor Gillingham and Members of Winnipeg City Council:

I am writing to lend my unreserved support for the creation of **KEVIN WALTERS PLAZA**, a public park located directly in front of the Burt, named in honour of the late Kevin Walters, a highly respected and committed citizen and friend to countless Winnipeggers, whose heart and soul touched so many.

Having worked with Kevin on numerous committees and projects, including the 2006 Grey Cup Festival, where he was Managing Director.

I can say that his hard work, dedication and intuitive insight were instrumental in bringing events and projects to fruition.

While Kevin was well-known for his tireless support for local musical talent, he was no less committed to local charities in helping out with fundraising events as a volunteer and valued advisor. He was also a critical link to bringing musical talent into Winnipeg for countless events over the course of his incredible career that was unfortunately cut short by his battle with cancer.

His memory will be preserved in the hearts and minds of our citizens by honouring him for all that he has done for our City with the naming of the public park as **KEVIN WALTERS PLAZA** to commemorate and preserve his legacy.

A great friend to so many, and a tireless supporter of the City of Winnipeg on multiple levels, coupled with a heart of gold, Kevin's energy and talent made our City a much better place because of the things he did and the way he did them. Kevin was instrumental in ensuring that Winnipeg's place on the entertainment map was firmly emblazoned to create lasting memories. For Kevin, the glass was always half full on the way to being filled, and for that, we can show our gratitude with the commitment to the establishment of this park as a legacy for all to enjoy.

Yours truly,

HILL SOKALSKI LLP

Per: 

Bob Sokalski*

RPS/jf

** services provided by Bob Sokalski Law Corporation*



Gilles Paquin
Executive Chairman & CEO
The Paquin Entertainment Group Inc
468 Stradbrook Avenue
Winnipeg, MB, R3T 1P1
204-988-1124

May 12, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

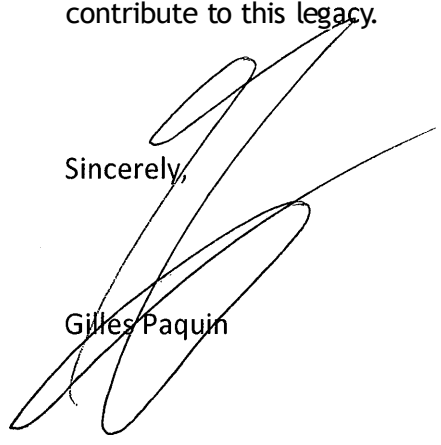
I am writing in full support of the proposal to honour the memory of Kevin Walters with the creation of a new plaza outside of the Burton Cummings Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Kevin Walters was integral in bringing all genres of music, arts and culture to the masses with his ingenuity and drive to enhance the scene. He left us too soon. I truly feel that, had lived, he would have continued to positively impact arts and culture in our community and beyond. In this memorial dedication of an outdoor plaza connected with this venue at the heart of our city, we will ensure his legacy lives on in an impactful way of continuing to elevate music, arts and culture when Winnipeg, Manitoba and Canada is in the spotlight.

Paquin Entertainment Group will continue to partner with leaders in this community to contribute to this legacy.

Sincerely,

Gilles Paquin

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over the printed name "Gilles Paquin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

His worship Mayor Scott Gillingham
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1B9

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I am writing to support the creation of a Celebration Plaza adjacent to the Burton Cummings Theatre and naming it the Kevin Walters Celebration Plaza.

As a former Chair of the Walker (Burton Cummings) Theatre Board, I am in a unique position to appreciate and confirm the many benefits that a celebration plaza would have for the city, surrounding community, theatre, artists and patrons of the theatre.

When True North Sports and Entertainment (TNSE) took over its operation in 2014, the Walker Theatre national historic site was struggling to survive. It is now a stable, successful, professionally managed operation. The proposed celebration plaza represents the next logical step in the overall improvement strategy of the theatre and the surrounding downtown community.

Currently, both TNSE and the Downtown Biz have committed funds and other forms of support to the plaza development, operation and maintenance. TNSE also seeks to expand its public/private partnership with the Downtown Biz to include the City of Winnipeg and the community. The plaza will augment the theatre programming and add to the improvement of the downtown. In addition to enhanced circulation for vehicles and pedestrians, this park like setting will bring unique programs and cultural events to the area and be available to core area residents for casual use.

I can't imagine a more appropriate way to celebrate and recognize Kevin Walters, an icon of the cultural community, than to name the celebration plaza adjacent to the Burton Cummings Theatre after him. Kevin Walters worked tirelessly on behalf of the cultural community for decades and many of the events he was responsible for used the theatre for programming. Throughout his career, he was a passionate mentor and supporter of emerging artists and provided leadership to countless cultural organizations.

I met Kevin in 1996 when Winnipeg first bid to host the Juno's and we subsequently served on numerous boards and committees together. While unsuccessful in the first JUNO bid the proposal changed the process and locations in which the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (CARAS) staged its annual awards show. Largely because of Kevin's leadership that led the way for future major events including the Juno Awards to be held in Winnipeg.

As a professional, Kevin worked in artist management and then shaped the way Manitoba Film and Music managed the music component of its portfolio to ensure an artist focussed support

service. He also planned and produced multiple major events such as the Juno Awards Show, Manitoba Homecoming (2010), Culture Days, BBQ & Blues Festival, Grey Cup Festival (2006).

As a volunteer, Kevin was always willing to assist in whatever way he could. He was a founding member of both the Prairie Music Association and the Western Canadian Music Alliance (Breakout West) and served as President of Manitoba Music, to name a few. As an example of his passionate dedication, during the initial 1999 Prairie Music Awards in Winnipeg he served on the PMA Board, PMW Host Committee and Chair of the Awards Show (filmed by CBC). Kevin served so others could succeed. That's just the way he was. Kevin passed away of cancer in June, 2014 at the age of 54.

Since his passing Kevin has been honored by Manitoba Music and the Western Canadian Music Alliance. Naming the Burton Cummings Theatre Celebration Plaza in honour of Kevin Walters would commemorate his valuable leadership and signify the high esteem in which the cultural community values his contributions.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Harper
Professor and Associate Dean (Retired)
Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Manitoba

May 5, 2025

Re: Letter of Support for the Kevin Walters Plaza

To Whom It May Concern;

On behalf of Kevin Walters' family, I am writing this letter of support in favour of renaming Odeon Park to the Kevin Walters Plaza. This renaming is not only a symbolic gesture but also a powerful way to honour a leader who has shaped our community.

Throughout his life, Kevin worked tirelessly to promote Winnipeg through music and significantly impacted Winnipeg's cultural and tourism scene. His efforts not only benefited Winnipeg financially, but also kept the city's music history alive by promoting established and rising musicians, especially homegrown talent. The Burton Cummings Theatre was where Kevin 'cut his teeth' in promoting musicians and the broader cultural sector. He had a vision whereby the venue would return to its roots as a performing arts space, and he utilized the space not only for single-event concerts but also embraced the theatre as a satellite site for larger events such as the Junos, the Grey Cup Festival, Culture Days, and Manitoba Homecoming.

Public spaces like parks are central to our shared life as a community. Naming them thoughtfully ensures that we celebrate individuals appropriately. Kevin's commitment and dedication to Winnipeg set a benchmark for us all. Honoring his legacy with the Kevin Walters' Plaza showcases the profound impact Kevin had on our city and beyond.

I strongly encourage the decision-makers to move forward with renaming the park. My family wholeheartedly supports this meaningful initiative and looks forward to witnessing the positive impact it will have in honoring Kevin's extraordinary contributions to the music fabric of Winnipeg. Thank you for considering our support, and I hope this letter serves as a testament to the significant legacy that deserves recognition.

Sincerely,
Sharon Walters

SCATLIFF + MILLER + MURRAY

visionary urban design + landscapes

Bob Somers MALA, SALA, OALA, FCSLA

Managing Principal

1120-201 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 3K6

BSomers@Scatliff.ca

204.227.1182

May 7, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in full support of the proposal to honour the memory of Kevin Walters at the new plaza created outside of the Burton Cummings Theatre for the Performing Arts — a fitting tribute to an individual whose commitment to Manitoba's arts scene was as deep as it was infectious.

As a touring musician in the 1990s, I was fortunate to experience firsthand the unwavering encouragement and generosity of Kevin Walters. He championed artists not just through his official roles, but with a level of personal investment and enthusiasm that is rare. His support extended beyond industry mechanics — it was heartfelt, sincere, and empowering. While I was beginning my career as a Landscape Architect he continued to be that champion and the energy and unbridled belief in this City and Province helped turn me into a staunch community booster and supporter for our terminally "punching above it's weight" arts scene.

Kevin's belief in Manitoba-made music helped create vital opportunities for local artists, myself included. The confidence and exposure I gained during that time shaped not only my artistic journey but also the business mindset I carry into my work today. The skills and experiences developed through music — negotiation, collaboration, resilience — are foundational to the career I've built since, and much of that momentum began with Kevin's support.

More than a promoter or advocate, Kevin was a celebrator. He reminded us that music made in Manitoba *mattered*, and he built community around that belief. I was fortunate to be the Chair of the Manitoba Music Board of Directors to usher in the renaming of annual awards for champions of the music industry. His legacy deserves a permanent place — not just in memory, but in our shared civic spaces. Naming this gathering place in his honour would celebrate his enduring impact and continue the spirit of connection he worked so hard to foster.

We have been fortunate to support the redesign of this plaza. When designing places like this it is my experience with Kevin in mind that give direction and commitment - I have no problem imagining seeing him in that space with a lanyard around his neck, with a beaming smile enjoying live music on a hot summer night and encouraging the community to discover the next talent to emerge from this place. As our efforts have far exceeded the business aspects, our commitment to this place comes from the heart - it comes from that infectious commitment to celebrating the Manitoban art scene.

Sincerely,



Bob Somers

June 12, 2025
Mayor Scott Gillingham
Members of Winnipeg City Council
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB

Re: Letter of Support for the Creation of KEVIN WALTERS PLAZA

To: Mayor Gillingham and Members of Winnipeg City Council

I am writing to express my strongest support for the creation of **KEVIN WALTERS PLAZA**, a public park located directly in front of the Burt, named in honour of the late **Kevin Walters**, a beloved and visionary leader whose cultural legacy continues to shape the heart and soul of Winnipeg.

Kevin was more than an events promoter or music industry insider—he was a passionate civic builder whose work inspired a generation of artists, community organizers, and cultural champions. From his early days as a high school DJ to serving as Chair of the 2005 Juno Awards Host Committee and Managing Director of the 2006 Grey Cup Festival, Kevin poured his energy into projects that celebrated Winnipeg's spirit and put our city on the national and international stage.

He played an instrumental role in growing Manitoba's music industry as a mentor, booking agent, producer, and longtime staff member of Manitoba Film & Music. His work at events like BreakOut West, Culture Days, and Manitoba Homecoming 2010 amplified the voices of local artists and gave countless others the confidence and infrastructure to succeed.

Perhaps even more enduring than his resume was Kevin's generosity of spirit. He believed in people. He believed in Winnipeg. And he believed in the power of music and culture to bring us together. Those who knew him remember not only his talent and drive but also his humility, humour, and kindness.

Naming a park in Kevin Walters' honour would provide a meaningful and lasting tribute to a man who gave so much to our city. It would offer a space for community gathering, reflection, and inspiration—ideals that Kevin himself embodied. Just as he transformed venues into places of joy and connection, this park could stand as a testament to the joyful, inclusive community Kevin worked so hard to build.

Thank you for considering this proposal. I am confident that the KEVIN WALTERS PLAZA would be warmly welcomed by Winnipeggers from all walks of life and would continue his work of bringing people together in celebration of this place we call home.

Sincerely,

Stuart A Murray, O.M

Founder & CEO

The City of Human Rights Education Inc.

Winnipeg, Manitoba

stuartmurray@thecohre.ca

204-806-0182

June 12, 2025

Kevin Donnelly
Senior Vice President, Venues + Entertainment
True North Sports + Entertainment
600 – 223 Carlton Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V4

Re: Letter of Support — Kevin Walters Celebration Plaza

Dear Kevin,

This letter is to confirm my full support and that of Manitoba Film & Music (MFM) of the above-mentioned project. For over three decades, MFM has been committed to supporting professional artists and music companies to help them reach their full potential and no one embodied that more than Kevin Walters.

Kevin was not only a personal friend, but an employee of this organization, a strong supporter of the Manitoba music industry and - truly - a legend in his own right. To see this project come to life and name the plaza after him is an honour not only to who he was and what he did personally, but to the legacy of music in this city and province. Despite being gone over a decade now, his memory plays on through many successful artists to this day.

Kevin had a lasting impact on countless careers in the music industry, many of whom have played in the Burton Cummings Theatre or on the proposed site when it's been the BBQ & Blues Festival or Burt Block Party. Anyone who knew Kevin knew that he cared about putting music on the map here, whether it was supporting one song or one show at a time or running the biggest music events such as the Juno Awards, the most prestigious music awards show in the country.

We need a permanent outdoor space downtown that recognizes that commitment to the history and future of the music industry in Manitoba and the symbolism of naming after Kevin Walters, who passed away way too young at 54 years old, will be so poignant for so many.

I know that True North Sports and Entertainment has been working for years to make this happen and I would love nothing more than to see this come to life. Winnipeg is a music town, nationally regarded for its thriving local music scene, and Manitoba is a province with a love for live entertainment. It wouldn't be this way if it wasn't for the commitment of Kevin Walters and those he rallied around him.

Let our community continue to rally and make this honour happen. I'm happy to support any way I can – just let me know what you need.



Lynne Skromeda
CEO, Manitoba Film & Music



Stephen Carroll
Director, Music Programs
410-93 Lombard Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3B1

May 12, 2025

I am writing in full support of the proposal to honour the memory of **Kevin Walters** at the new plaza outside the **Burton Cummings Theatre for the Performing Arts** — a location that could not be more fitting for someone who so passionately nurtured and championed the artistic spirit of Manitoba.

In my time working with or knowing Kevin, I witnessed his unwavering support for the arts and his remarkable ability to uplift those around him. Whether through his formal roles as Manager of Music Programs at Manitoba Film & Music or personal acts of generosity going above and beyond mentoring artists, Kevin left an indelible mark on our community. As an event producer, he was more than a promoter — he was a true believer in the transformative power of Manitoba-made music and culture.

His encouragement had a profound impact on many, myself included. Kevin had a way of instilling confidence and helping artists and advocates alike realize their potential. His belief in local talent didn't just open doors; it built bridges, created lasting relationships, and inspired careers that continue to flourish today.

This proposed tribute — a public space that reflects community, creativity, and celebration — captures the essence of Kevin's legacy. I can vividly imagine him there: smiling, connecting people, and sharing in the joy of live performance on a warm summer night. Naming this plaza in his honour would be a lasting symbol of the energy and heart he brought to everything he touched.

Kevin Walters deserves a permanent place in our civic landscape — not only as a reminder of his contributions, but as an invitation for future generations to feel the same encouragement and community that he so effortlessly gave.

Sincerely,

Stephen Carroll

Stephen@mbfilmmusic.ca

April 23, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Kevin Walters and to recognize the lasting impact he had on arts and culture in Winnipeg.

Kevin was, above all else, a collaborator. He had a rare ability to bring people together across genres, roles, and generations, and he did so with a clear focus on getting things done while making sure others were brought along with him. Artists, producers, venue operators, and cultural workers often speak about Kevin's generosity and the respect he showed for creative work. Because of this, the projects he was part of succeed and lasted.

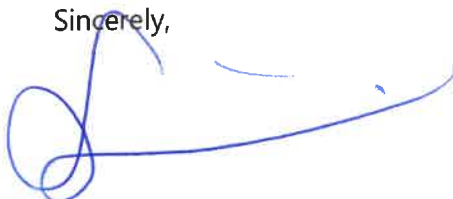
His influence extended well beyond any single initiative. Kevin played a significant role in shaping Manitoba's music industry by helping to create the conditions artists need to build real, sustainable careers here at home. He believed deeply in local talent and backed that belief with action, investing time, energy, and resources into people and places. In doing so, he showed that Manitoba could be a place artists choose to stay, grow, and thrive. His work strengthened the cultural economy while fostering a sense of pride and possibility across the province.

Just as important was his role as a mentor. Over many years, Kevin supported people at pivotal moments in their lives, offering advice, opening doors, and, often, simply believing in them when it mattered most. Many of those individuals have gone on to become leaders, creators, and builders in Winnipeg's arts and cultural community. Their work and their continued influence, reflects the depth of Kevin's impact.

Kevin Walters's legacy is not only found in what he built, but in the people he helped shape along the way. His life's work speaks to a long-standing commitment to community, care, and the understanding that culture grows strongest when people are trusted, supported, and connected.

For these reasons, Kevin deserves recognition for his enduring influence on individuals, on the music industry, and on Winnipeg as a place where creativity and meaningful careers can truly take root.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a long horizontal stroke that tapers off to the right.

Sara Stasiuk



May 4, 2026

Dear Members of City Council,

On behalf of Manitoba Music, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposal to name the reconfigured new public plaza—across from the Burton Cummings Theatre in honour of Kevin Walters.

Kevin Walters' impact on Manitoba's music community is both profound and enduring. As a passionate advocate, mentor, and champion of artists and music industry professionals, Kevin played a pivotal role in strengthening the province's music ecosystem. His leadership helped elevate Manitoba's profile nationally and internationally, while fostering opportunities for artists to grow sustainable careers here at home.

Naming this prominent downtown space in his honour would be a meaningful and lasting tribute. Situated in the heart of Winnipeg's cultural district, the plaza serves as a gathering place for audiences, artists, and the broader community—reflecting the very spirit of connection and creativity that Kevin embodied throughout his life and career.

This recognition would not only commemorate Kevin's legacy, but also signal the City of Winnipeg's ongoing commitment to celebrating the local champions who have shaped our vibrant cultural landscape. It would stand as a visible reminder of the importance of music and the arts to our community's identity, economy, and sense of place.

We wholeheartedly support this initiative and encourage City Council to approve the naming of this public space in honour of Kevin Walters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "VK", is placed over a faint, light blue circular background.

Vanessa Kuzina
Executive Director
Manitoba Music



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of the proposal to officially name the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in Winnipeg as “Kevin Walters Plaza.”

I have had the privilege of spending nearly five decades in the live music and entertainment business across Canada, working with artists, promoters, and industry leaders at every level. In that time, it becomes very clear who truly makes a lasting impact, not just on the industry, but on the cultural fabric of a community. Kevin Walters was one of those individuals.

Kevin’s contributions to Winnipeg’s arts and culture scene were both significant and far-reaching. His leadership in bringing the Juno Awards to Winnipeg helped elevate the city onto the national stage, while his work with Manitoba Music & Sound demonstrated a deep and ongoing commitment to developing and supporting local talent. He was instrumental in building platforms for artists and audiences alike, whether through festivals like the Winnipeg BBQ & Blues Festival or initiatives such as Culture Days Manitoba.

What set Kevin apart was not just what he accomplished, but how he did it. He had a genuine passion for music, film, and community, and he understood the importance of creating opportunities for others. People like Kevin are the backbone of a healthy cultural ecosystem, they connect ideas, people, and possibilities in ways that leave a lasting legacy.

From my own experience promoting artists across Canada, I can say with certainty that communities thrive when they have champions like Kevin advocating for them. His work helped shape Winnipeg into a stronger, more vibrant destination for live entertainment and the arts.

Naming the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in his honour would be a fitting and meaningful tribute. It would not only recognize his many contributions, but also serve as a lasting reminder of the role he played in enriching Winnipeg’s cultural identity.

I fully support this initiative and encourage you to give it every consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Sakamoto
President, Gold & Gold Productions Ltd.



To Whom It May Concern,

We are pleased to offer my strong support for the proposal to name the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in Winnipeg "Kevin Walters Plaza."

Over the years, working as Sakamoto Promotions and now the newly rebranded Red Boot Live, we've had the opportunity to work across many areas of the live entertainment business and alongside a number of respected promoters and organizations. Throughout that time, we also had the privilege of knowing and working with Kevin Walters. He was someone whose presence was deeply felt in Winnipeg's cultural community and whose contributions continue to resonate.

Kevin had a rare ability to bring people together, artists, industry professionals, and audiences in a way that strengthened the entire ecosystem. His work in supporting Manitoba's music and film industries, along with his involvement in major initiatives like bringing the Juno Awards to Winnipeg, demonstrated both vision and dedication. At the same time, his commitment to local festivals and community-driven events showed how much he valued grassroots cultural development.

What we remember most about Kevin was his genuine passion and the respect he showed to those around him. He understood the importance of collaboration and was always willing to lend his time and expertise to help move projects forward. That kind of leadership leaves a lasting impression, not just professionally but personally as well.

Naming the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in his honour would be a meaningful way to recognize his legacy. It would stand as a permanent acknowledgment of the role he played in shaping Winnipeg's cultural landscape and inspiring those who continue to build on that foundation.

We fully support this initiative and believe it is a well deserved tribute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Geoff Tanizawa", enclosed within a blue oval.

Geoff Tanizawa
President
RedBoot Live



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to officially name the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in Winnipeg "Kevin Walters Plaza."

During my time as President of SaskMusic, I had the opportunity to work within the broader Canadian music industry and came to know Kevin Walters through both industry initiatives and the Juno Awards. Kevin was widely respected across the country for his leadership, his collaborative spirit, and his unwavering commitment to supporting artists and building community through music and culture.

His efforts in bringing the Juno Awards to Winnipeg were instrumental in showcasing the city on a national stage, but what stood out just as much was his dedication to nurturing local talent and strengthening the infrastructure that supports the arts. Kevin understood how important it is to create opportunities, not just for established artists, but for emerging voices as well.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Kevin was someone who genuinely cared about the people he worked with. He built relationships across provinces and organizations, helping to connect the industry in meaningful ways. His influence extended well beyond Manitoba, contributing to a stronger and more unified Canadian music community.

Naming the plaza in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre in his honour would be a fitting tribute to his legacy. It would recognize not only his many achievements, but also the lasting impact he had on the people and communities he worked with.

I fully support this initiative and encourage you to give it every consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dawn Woroniuk".

Dawn Woroniuk
Past President, SaskMusic
Partner RedBoot Live



To whom it may concern,

This letter is written in strong support of the proposal to dedicate the new plaza outside the Burton Cummings Theatre for the Performing Arts in memory of Kevin Walters. His indelible impact on the Winnipeg arts scene makes this tribute exceptionally fitting.

Kevin's pioneering efforts to help position and maintain Winnipeg on the radar of the live concert touring industry began decades ago and were welcomed by the network of live concert promoters (Perryscope Concerts, Concert Productions International & Donald K. Donald Productions) I worked with in those early days. His infectious commitment and tireless advocacy over the subsequent years have undeniably elevated Winnipeg's status as a premier destination for live music, far beyond what its population might suggest.

Throughout his storied career, Kevin Walters was a vital figure in the bringing together of community in Winnipeg. Therefore, a community gathering spot adjacent to the iconic Performing Arts Centre is appropriate homage to Kevin's lifelong and tireless commitment to fostering, building, and championing the Winnipeg arts scene. Naming this plaza in his memory would not only commemorate his invaluable contributions but also serve as a lasting inspiration for future generations of artists and music enthusiasts in your city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti-Anne Tarlton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patti" and last name "Tarlton" clearly legible.

Patti-Anne Tarlton

Vice-Chair Live Nation Concerts Canada

pattiannetarlton@livenation.com

1-416-919-6899



May 7, 2026

Dear Members of City Council,

On behalf of BreakOut West and the Western Canadian Music Awards, we are pleased to offer our strong support for the proposal to name the reconfigured public plaza across from the Burton Cummings Theatre in honour of Kevin Walters.

Kevin Walters made an extraordinary contribution to Manitoba's music industry and the broader Western Canadian music community. Through his unwavering dedication, leadership, and advocacy, he helped create meaningful opportunities for artists and industry professionals while strengthening the infrastructure that supports music development across the region. His influence was felt not only within Manitoba, but throughout Canada's independent music sector.

Honouring Kevin through the naming of this important public gathering space would be a fitting and lasting recognition of his legacy. Located within Winnipeg's vibrant cultural district, the plaza represents the kind of community connection, artistic energy, and shared experience that Kevin championed throughout his career.

Recognizing Kevin Walters in this way would also reflect the City of Winnipeg's continued commitment to celebrating the individuals whose work has helped shape and sustain the city's cultural identity. His contributions to the music community continue to resonate, and this tribute would ensure his impact is remembered for years to come.

BreakOut West and the Western Canadian Music Awards fully support this proposal and respectfully encourage City Council to approve the naming of the plaza in honour of Kevin Walters.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dawson", is located below the "Respectfully," text.

Michael Dawson
Executive Director;
Breakout West & WCMA



May 13, 2026

Councillor Evan Duncan
City Hall
Council Building
510 Main St.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Dear Councillor Duncan,

I am aware of, and supportive of, undertakings to have the newly created plaza space located in front of the Burton Cummings Theatre, named in memory of KEVIN WALTERS.

Mr. Walters' efforts during his career helped establish Winnipeg as a key spot on any national tour, and his efforts to develop local talent helped continue Winnipeg's proud history of fostering and exporting world-class talent.

A public gathering spot named in his honor, on the doorstep of one of Canada's most recognized and highly regarded live music venues, the Burton Cummings Theatre, is a fitting tribute to someone who left us too early.

Please add my name to the lengthy list of proponents supporting this endeavor.

Respectfully,

Mark J. Chipman, BA, JD
Executive Chairman & Governor
Winnipeg Jets Hockey Club

May 14, 2026

Councillor Evan Duncan
City Hall, Council Building
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1B9
Email: eduncan@winnipeg.ca

Hi Evan,

RE: Kevin Walters

Kevin Walters was an old friend of our organization.

Kevin played an integral role in guiding the early stage development of our entertainment group much like he had in shaping Winnipeg's cultural landscape. Through his work as a promoter, mentor, and connector, he was instrumental in bringing public events to life and championing a generation of local musicians as they pursued national and international recognition. His passion for the arts and his belief in Winnipeg's creative community helped elevate our city's profile and strengthen its cultural identity.

At True North we were a major beneficiary and appreciated all of Kevin's efforts.

Kevin had a remarkable ability to bring people together. He built community through music and cultural experiences, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to influence artists, audiences, and the broader Winnipeg community today.

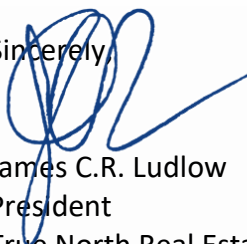
I and we are aware of and fully support the initiative to rebrand the former median known as Odeon Park to Kevin Walters Plaza in Kevin's honour.

We remain inspired by Kevin and people like him. Naming this public space in Winnipeg in his honour next to the Burton Cummings Theatre will serve as a lasting tribute to his contributions and as a reminder of the important role the arts play in enriching our city.

Thanks very much for considering.

Much appreciated Evan.

Sincerely,



James C.R. Ludlow
President
True North Real Estate Development