

Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members

Meeting Summary

Date: December 8, 2020

Location: MS Teams

Attendees: 8 Members of the Committee

An opening prayer and land acknowledgment were given to start the meeting in a good way.

The Committee of Community Members (CCM) discussed it was important that some key messaging points be decided together, so when asked to do media or speaking events their positions align. Feedback included:

- There has been a long history of reclaiming of urban Indigenous space that has already happened, before the establishment of this committee, that should be acknowledged. For instance, the Thunderbird House, planting Indigenous medicine gardens in urban spaces, building of sweat lodges in Winnipeg.
- The regaining of those spaces that reflect the history of Indigenous peoples comes as a result of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Indigenous peoples should feel welcome on their own lands, but are faced with colonial representations.
- Another example of cultural reclamation/shift in creating spaces in urban environments is the legislation around the ceremonial use of tobacco; however, smudging indoors is currently unregulated.

The draft Terms of Reference was reviewed and it was determined that the committee needed more time before finalizing, as they had a number of revisions. The committee discussed and named the Chairperson (Reanna Merasty) and Co-Chairperson (Mabel Horton).

The CCM was advised of outstanding naming requests that pre-date the adoption of the Welcoming Winnipeg: *Reconciling our History* Policy that will require their review:

- The renaming of Royalwood Park to Shelly Glover Park.
 - The committee discussed, and were not prepared to come to a consensus.
- The renaming of baseball fields at Transcona Stadium to Henri Constant Field.
 - The committee discussed, and were not prepared to come to a consensus.

An update on the Welcoming Winnipeg Request Form was provided to the CCM, which included advising of an Administrative Report that was going to Executive Policy Committee (EPC) and Council this month to establish the Request Fee at \$0.

A closing prayer was given to end the meeting in a good way.