



WELCOMING WINNIPEG – Request Summary

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Request ID: 2023-009

Name of Request: Renaming Air Canada Park to a name that is still to be determined

Address: 345 Portage Avenue

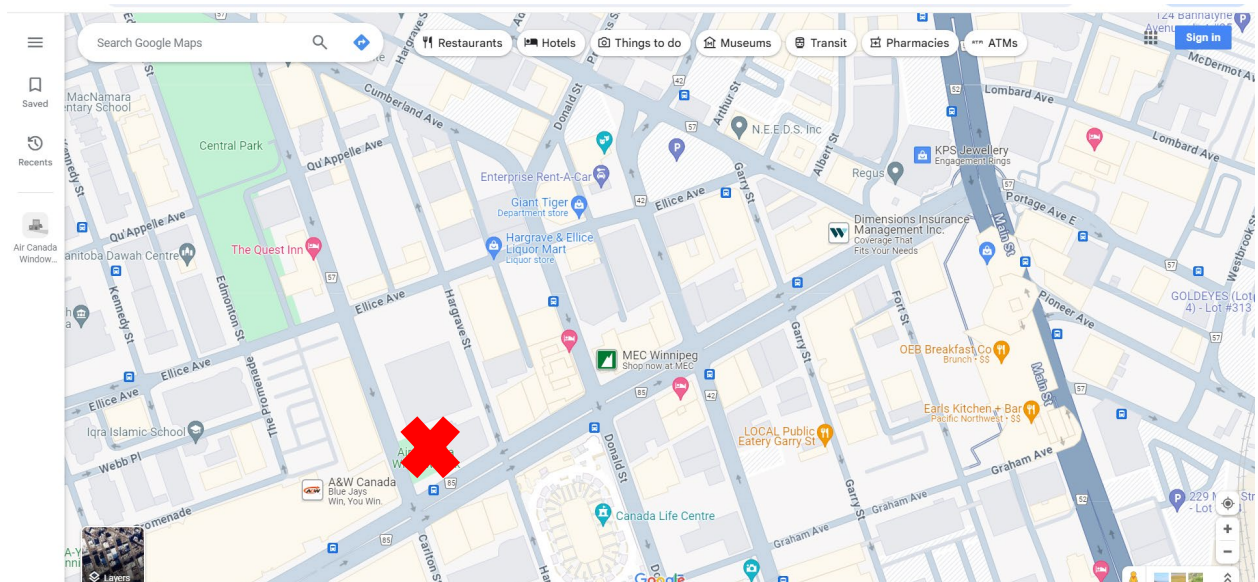
Demonstrated Community Support:

- Petition submitted: No.
- Letters of support provided: No.

A public engagement process was undertaken in the fall 2022, which included asking participants about renaming the park. Generally, participants were supportive of the renaming, with some indicating that it should be done in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, and in consultation with the Indigenous community and current park users.

Air Canada supports renaming the park.

Project Details:





Air Canada Park was originally built in 1985 and has concrete pillars and a large central fountain as key design elements. There has not been any significant investment in the park since then, except for investment in Public Art in 2018.

The City of Winnipeg announced plans to redevelop the park in 2022, as part of a strategy to help the downtown recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The strategy called for a "complete revitalization of the park as a public space while advancing truth and reconciliation objectives."

In Fall 2022, Scatliff + Miller + Murray (SMM) in collaboration with the City of Winnipeg, CentreVenture, and Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, developed and facilitated an engagement program to meaningfully gather input about the future development of the park. Through engagement with regular park users, people who work and live nearby, and identified stakeholders, the intent was to develop a set of community informed design directions for the redevelopment of the park.

How does this project contribute to a 'Welcoming Winnipeg', as defined in the policy and what kind of evidence/research can be provided to support this statement:

The park is named after the former corporation who donated the park space to the City of Winnipeg. It does no harm directly, but it does not provide the public with any benefits that a naming sponsorship usually provides.

The project team did not want to impose a name on the community. There was some engagement with users of the park and a lot of varying answers were received with no real clarity on a potential new name.

There is an opportunity to engage with the park users and nearby community and have a park name that reflects the values of Welcoming Winnipeg:

- Ultimately achieves a balanced perspective/story
- Honours Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have relationship with this land
- Promotes Indigenous reclamation of land, space and/or language
- Offers an educational opportunity
- Supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg

Does this site have historical significance to the Indigenous community?

Research Support:

Yes.



This park is located in Treaty No.1 territory and the national homeland of the Red River Métis; its proximity to the Red and Assiniboine Rivers means that this area was part of an Indigenous gathering space that formed and defined the area around the Forks, which had a much larger footprint than it does today. This space was an important place of commerce, manufacturing, ceremony, preparing, processing and preserving food, among other activities.

It continues to serve a significant role as meeting place for the community today.

For example, more recently, in 2018, the park was the centre of an art project titled THIS PLACE: on Treaty 1 Territory & the Homeland of the Métis Nation. Led by the Winnipeg Arts Council, this was “a major public art project that builds on efforts to create awareness of the rich Indigenous cultures, peoples, and heritage that are at the roots of our territory, city, and province. Indigenous artists were asked to respond to the idea of this place on Treaty No. 1 territory and the homeland of the Métis nation, and their reflections range in concept and expression. As a place of community and gathering in downtown Winnipeg, the artworks located in this park make a significant mark in the city” (<https://winnipegarts.ca/public-art/gallery/this-place>).

The artwork will be incorporated into the park redesign.

If this application is not supported, what would the negative impact on the community be? (If applicable)

Not applicable.

Any additional information the applicant would like the CCM to consider in making their recommendation.

Renaming the park could give more recognition to the community, and make it feel more like their own. Its existing corporate name gives sponsorship, with none of the monetary benefits or dedication this urban park needs.