

Mayor Fougere, Members of City Council, Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Lesley Farley and I believe the City is making a huge mistake in wanting to close the Maple Leaf pool.

According to the City website, the Maple Leaf Pool is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best attended pool in the City per capita based on the amount of people who can be in the pool at maximum capacity. Wascana Park Pool has a max capacity of 915 people and on average, 273 people use it a day. At Maple Leaf Pool, the capacity of the pool is 250 and 134 people use it daily on average. The most attended pool is Massey but part of the reason for this is because of the out door swimming lessons take place there every summer.

With this information alone, I question why the City would want to build a Wascana Pool Expansion when the attendance is the lowest per capita in the City. Why wouldn't the City rebuild a similar sized pool in Wascana Park. Also, why wouldn't the City conclude that Maple Leaf Pool is a popular destination hub in the Heritage and that the Maple Leaf Pool must be fixed or rebuilt.

I made calculations of the city property tax revenue that come from properties in the north part of the Heritage Area. This area includes South Railway Avenue to the end of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, from Broad Street to Winnipeg Street. This area goes three blocks north to south and 9 blocks east to west. For just this one area, \$1,377,997 dollars in property tax revenue goes to the City in 2018 alone.

Since approximately 60% of these taxes go to municipal use, that leaves \$826,798 for the City to use on projects like our pool. According to the City's Outdoor Pool's Facility Plan Update from 2014, the cost to rebuild Maple Leaf Pool is 3.65 million dollars. That means, we could pay to rebuild a pool that could last another 70 years with the property taxes from this small area in 4.5 years.

A lot of people internalize that we are a poor neighbourhood but we generate more than enough tax revenue for a new rebuild of Maple Leaf Pool. We are not looking for handouts or charity so that we can have a pool. Another thing people chronically ponder is the question of why parents in our neighbourhood could not get it together to get their kids to a new Wascana Pool. Some people get really angry that we should feel so entitled to have our pool properly fixed or rebuilt. I also hear outsiders remark, "Why aren't *those parents* looking out for their kids? Why are *those kids* alone at the pool? Why does the City have to provide *them* a lunch program?" The bitterness and the overlooking of evidence regarding what is going on for poor people and specifically poor First Nations in my neighbourhood is to me, blatant ignorance and a symptom of systemic white supremacy. The Maple Leaf Pool was not built for First Nations people but today, the pool is used mostly by First Nations and simultaneously, the City wants to close Maple Leaf Pool for good. A year or so ago, the magazine the Economist, researched and concluded that kids in low income areas often do poorly in school because of lack of activities in the summer whereas kids in more affluent neighbourhoods are able

to get more stimulating activities in summer and that directly correlates with their better academic outcomes. I wonder if City Hall can finally honour our demand to keep the Maple Leaf Pool. Listen to us and quit leaving us in the lurch. Kids here have the right to do well in life. If you close our pool, it is like an ancestral history repeating itself and that is not a good thing.

Thank you,  
Lesley Farley