

My Name is Lisa Odle. I am a resident of Regina and I currently coordinate a Circle with Decolonizing Relations. We as an organization are very happy that the City of Regina is taking a first step and making progress on changing the name of Dewdney Pool. Thank you. We appreciate the pending change and acknowledge the progress. This has been one of our main goals as an organization for the past 3 years: to promote the name change for Dewdney Avenue, as well as Dewdney Park and Pool. It is a good thing to have that name change for the pool, **but** what about Dewdney Avenue?

My journey with this started over three years ago, when I learned about the atrocities of Edgar Dewdney. I was quite embarrassed that I did not know about this. Having learnt this I wondered what City would continue to name a street after a person who had **carried out Prime Minister John A. Macdonald's starvation policy, withholding food from Indigenous peoples until they moved onto reserves, thus clearing the plains for the railway and European settlement.**

Who does that?

And, after the TRC report, what city would continue to name a street after a person who oversaw the establishment of the residential school system in Saskatchewan?

The City needs to go further than the recommended change and also change the name of Dewdney Avenue.

Some say that changing the name of the Avenue will cost too much. Or they say "We have other priorities" or "Residents along the street will complain" or "Why change history?"

I think it is **high time** for the City to take a stand. **Be Bold.** And say why you are taking that stand. Indeed the province should join with you to **teach the true history. It was their negligence for too many years not to have this included in the curriculum.** Truth means standing up and making the changes.

So, please, tell the people of Regina, why you are choosing to change that name. Tell them **the truth:** that Edgar Dewdney did many bad things—things that brought havoc and destruction to Indigenous Peoples and their cultures because settler society thought its ways were better and superior. Tell them the truth: that the systems that were set up were meant to oppress Indigenous Peoples and keep them oppressed.

Say that it has been called Dewdney for far too long. Say that the City wants to embrace different values, that it wants to be **respectful** of the First Peoples of this land, of their traditions and practices, that you want a just and equitable society

Speak the truth. Tell them Edgar Dewdney used starvation policies to push Indigenous Peoples out of the way so the railway could be built, and European settlers move in.

Tell them the true impacts of residential schools, with generations still suffering from the trauma resulting from the attempted destruction of their families, traditions, languages, ways of being, ways of raising families, ways of treating the land. What for? So European settlers could take the land.

Tell me what is the cost of the (attempted) destruction of a people's culture? What is the cost of ignoring their teachings about Mother Earth? Yes, tell me what is the cost of not honouring the treaties?

The cost of reconciliation is **the truth**. Teach. Educate. But do not put all the burden of that on Indigenous Peoples.

My last question is this: What is the way to repair and build a relationship? How do you treat your brothers and sisters on whom you have imposed oppressive systems? Look at the outcomes: the #s in jails, in foster care, in child welfare, in poor health. Look at the high rate of Indigenous suicide. Please don't say these matters are the province's problem. They are all our problem. Let us all City Province Nation put our hearts, heads and money together to address this problem. Yes, you are right, it is more than changing the name of Dewdney Ave

Be COURAGEOUS, BE BOLD: This is the easy part. Changing oppressive structures and systems to ones that are more equitable—that is harder and takes time. It will require more education to change hearts and minds—not to mention more money. This is your work now to prepare for tomorrow. Please don't pass up this opportunity.

Nothing should be named after Edgar Dewdney.