

**DEWDNEY PARK, POOL, & AVENUE
MEETING OF REGINA CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 31, 2021
FLORENCE STRATTON**

I was pleased to see the recommendation that council “approve the renaming of Dewdney Pool to Buffalo Meadows Pool.” I was, however, disappointed that the renaming did not extend to Dewdney Park and Dewdney Avenue.

Dewdney Park, Pool, and Avenue are all named to honour Edgar Dewdney. In the late 1800s, Dewdney was both Indian Commissioner and Lieutenant Governor of the North West Territories, which included what now is Saskatchewan.

In these roles, Dewdney

- Carried out Prime Minister John A. Macdonald’s policy of starving Indigenous Peoples
- Oversaw the establishment of the residential school system
- Advised PM Macdonald to have Louis Riel executed
- Enthusiastically endorsed the idea of confining Indigenous Peoples to their reserves and thus keeping them out of white settler space—an idea that materialized as the pass system: an apartheid policy that lasted for nearly 60 years, even though it had no legislative basis and was, in fact, illegal; a policy that was copied by South Africa in the 1940s when it was creating apartheid South Africa.

How can we have a park and a main roadway in Regina named after a man who supported such racist and genocidal policies?

Yes, it will cost some money to change the name of Dewdney Avenue, one of the longest roadways in Regina. But that money is nothing compared to the cost in human health, well-being, and lives of the policies Dewdney supported and administered.

So please, no half—or more accurately third measures. As part of your decolonization and reconciliation efforts, also support the renaming of Dewdney Park and Dewdney Avenue.

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