

**J.R. (Jim) Miller, PhD, OC, SOM, FRSC
Professor Emeritus of History
University of Saskatchewan**

11 March 2021

Civic Naming Committee
City of Saskatoon

Re: (re)naming of McPherson Avenue

Dear Committee

I write concerning the proposal to rename McPherson Avenue, a topic which *The StarPhoenix* reports you will consider again at your next quarterly meeting. I should identify myself: I am a retired historian who lives at [REDACTED] 10th St. E., Saskatoon. I was a member of the History faculty of the University of Saskatchewan from 1970 to 2014, and I have remained active as an author and consultant since my retirement.

I write to ask you to read and consider an authoritative biography of Sir David Lewis Macpherson, for whom McPherson Avenue appears to be named, before making a decision on the request of Ms. Stephanie Danyluk to rename it because, she says, Macpherson was the author of some “egregious” policies. I should say that I do not know Ms. Danyluk personally, although I know of her from her days as a student in my former department. Her reputation was, and is, as a skilful and experienced historian. I do not wish in any way to impugn her professional reputation. I have not read her submission to your Committee.

I simply would like the Committee to consider another view of Macpherson before making a decision. To that end I attach a biography of Macpherson from volume twelve of *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, which is the best peer-reviewed source on Canadian political figures. The author of the Macpherson biography is Dr. Ken Cruikshank, a well known and respected historian of Canada.

The [attached biography](#) is rather long, for which length I apologize, but the parts that are most relevant to your mandate are found in the last few pages. I think it is worth reading despite its length because it is an in-depth account and assessment of Macpherson and the policies of the government of which he was a part that is based on detailed research. In other words, it is an account on which readers can rely.

If you wish to discuss this letter and its attachment, or the issue of the name of McPherson Avenue more generally, you can reach me at [REDACTED] or j.r.miller@usask.ca. Or, if you wish, I would be happy to meet with you.

Thank you for considering this request.

Enc.

Yours truly

J.R. (Jim) Miller, OC, SOM, FRSC
Professor Emeritus of History
University of Saskatchewan
[REDACTED] 10th St. E.
Saskatoon, SK S7H [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]