

From: [Halonen, Tanner](#)
To: [Hudson, Janice](#)
Subject: FW: Following up to Submission Form
Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 11:51:45 AM

Request to rename McPherson Ave to Vandale Ave received yesterday.

Tanner Halonen | tel 306.986.3699

Planner | Development Review
City of Saskatoon | 222 3rd Avenue North | Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5
Treaty 6 Territory & Homeland of the Metis
tanner.halonen@saskatoon.ca
www.saskatoon.ca

-

*If you receive this email in error, please do not review, distribute, or copy the information.
Please contact the sender and delete the message and any attachments.*

From: Angela Schmolke [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 8:17 AM
To: Halonen, Tanner <Tanner.Halonen@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Re: Following up to Submission Form

[Warning: This email originated outside our email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.]

Hi Tanner,

I am in the process of completing a full submission to suggest that McPherson Avenue be changed to Vandale Avenue, in honour of my Metis Ancestors who lived and hunted in the area prior to 1885, and whom returned to the area to homestead in the area in the early 1900's, onward.

I am really hoping that our family name, Vandale will be given strong consideration if the City should decide to rename McPherson. I don't believe that there is a more appropriate replacement name for McPherson Avenue and my lengthier submission will detail why. But I'll summarize my request in this email and submit a full request later today or tomorrow.

McPherson's policies had a direct impact on my family as they stripped many Metis families of their lands, and their livelihoods. My 4th Great Grandfather, Pierre Vandal, was a signatory and involved in meetings to request that the Government of Canada honor their commitments to Metis people, in a letter that was sent to the Government of Canada in 1870. His son Jean Baptiste Vandal, my third great grandfather owned land in Batoche, and was with Gabriel Dumont when Gabriel Dumont was grazed by a bullet in the head. He is one of two Vandal's that were pictured, handcuffed together after the Battle of Batoche. Jean Baptiste's nephew, Pierre Vandal is also pictured. Pierre Gariepy is also pictured, another descendant (grandfather) of the Vandal's

My 3rd Great Grandfather, Jean Baptiste Vandal, lost a son, Joseph, a daughter, Ann, an Aunt, Melanie and an Uncle, Joseph in the Battle of Batoche. His Uncle Joseph's home was burnt to the ground by soldiers after being vandalized, and Joseph's wife was found by Gabriel Dumont, carrying her grown daughter who was not able to walk due to disability issues, through a field to protect her from harm.

My 2nd Great Grandfather, William Vandale, who homesteaded around McPherson Avenue was one of the first men to engage Middleton's Soldiers, holding them off while families escaped Fish Creek in the Battle of Batoche. He homesteaded in the area surrounding McPherson and lived and hunted there prior to the arrival of settlers.

My family lost several family members during the battle, their homes, their land, their livelihood, and would go on to live in poverty as "road allowance people". They would also suffer from residential school abuse, have to take scrip, and to send a remarkable number of men to serve in WW1 and WW2. Despite tremendous loss and trauma, our family continued to help and support Metis people in our community. William Vandal was one of the founding members of the Metis Society of Saskatoon and was named an honorary lifetime member of the Saskatchewan Metis Association. His sons and grandsons were also involved in initiatives related to social and economic development, Metis housing, and the celebration and preservation of Metis Culture.

I'll share more remarkable information about my family in the document I'm working on but before I send this, I also wanted to mention that one of the things that makes the Vandal family unique in their submission, is that, not only was my 2nd Great Grandfather one of the original families of Round Prairie, but his children, Harry Vandal and his wife, Alice Fyant, were one of the first families to own a home on McPherson Avenue. What's even more remarkable is that Alice Vandale (nee Fyant) parents also held property in the area, two of the very few Metis families that lived and owned land in Exhibition area were connected to Harry and Alice Vandale who would go on to become one of the first families to own a home on McPherson Avenue.

In closing, please hold space in your planning process for a full submission and rationale for renaming McPherson Avenue to Vandale Avenue. I believe that if the City were to rename McPherson to Vandale Avenue, this process would be symbolic of restoring what has been taken from Metis people and something much bigger than just the Vandale's, but the Metis community as a whole.

I hope to finish my submission today or tomorrow. I've been working hard to research our families connections and contributions to the community to provide a very full picture of my ancestors but have been waiting on information about the impact of Residential Schools on my family. I have reason to believe that one of 2nd Great Uncles, Joseph Vandale, died at the Duck Lake Residential School and have been waiting on information from the Residential School Commission.

Also, I should mention that I had previously been in touch with Cheryl Troupe, who mentioned that McPherson Avenue should be renamed after a family from the area. She supports the Vandale name and said she would be willing to speak to the committee. I've also been in touch with the group that was organizing a petition to have the street renamed after

John Arcand and they have actually changed their submission after hearing about our family's history with the area. At this time, I believe the Vandale name is the only name being considered as a renaming option for McPherson Avenue and I believe that it the most appropriate renaming option given the history and experiences of my family.

Can you give me an indication of what the timelines might be for this renaming process? Do you know if the committee has met to discuss changing the name of McPherson Avenue? I think Mairin Loewen mentioned that this would take some time but I wasn't sure what sort of time frame she was referring to.

Thanks for your time and thank you for helping me get this suggestion before the renaming/naming committee.