

## Janzen, Heather

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**From:** City Council  
**Subject:** FW: Email - Communication - Susan Gingell - John A Macdonald Road Renaming - CK 6310-1

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**From:** Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 28, 2023 11:49 AM  
**To:** City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Susan Gingell - John A Macdonald Road Renaming - CK 6310-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, August 28, 2023 - 11:48

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

**I have read and understand the above statements.:** Yes

**I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.:** No

**I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.:** No

**Date:** Monday, August 28, 2023

**To:** His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

**Pronouns:** She/her/hers

**First Name:** Susan

**Last Name:** Gingell

**Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name:** Gin as in ginger, GELL as in shower gel

**Phone Number :** [REDACTED]

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Address:** [REDACTED] Elm St., Saskatoon SK [REDACTED]

**Neighbourhood:** [Exhibition](#)

**City:** Saskatoon

**Province:** Saskatchewan

**Postal Code:** [REDACTED]

**What do you wish to do ?:** Submit Comments

**What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):** Wednesday Aug. 30th public hearing meeting or any other meeting that considers the renaming of John A. Macdonald Road to miyo-wahkotowin Road

**What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?:** the renaming of John A. Macdonald Road to miyo-wahkotowin Road

**Comments:**

Neighbours, Council Members, and Mayor Clark,

Indigenous leaders and members of the Indigenous community have told us that continuing to have the name of John A. Macdonald on the Saskatoon road that presently bears his name is hurtful and damaging to Truth and Reconciliation efforts given Canada's first Prime Minister's significant role in establishing what were called the Indian Residential Schools.

The proposed renaming would see this street called miyo-wahkohtowin Road. This renaming invites those of us not Indigenous into good relationship with Indigenous people. To defeat the renaming would be a decided slap in the face to those supporting the desire to have better relationships than currently exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Saskatonians. I ask us all to consider that the wahkohtowin Public School is already located on this street, so the renaming would be in accord with this preexisting public school name.

I respectfully submit that those of us objecting that the name is hard to pronounce are overlooking the fact that non-Indigenous peoples coming to the current Treaty Six territory changed wholesale pre-existing Indigenous names to English ones. People who spoke the languages of the Cree, Metis, Saulteaux, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, or Nakota peoples, were required to get their tongues around so many renamed features of what were their homelands. Can we then reasonably object that asking Saskatoon people to learn the pronunciation and spelling of single name in Cree that they would be asked to learn to correctly name miyo-wahkohtowin Road should this name-change be approved is too much to ask?

I concede that I live in the Exhibition area and so not on this street, but it is a part of the city I am grateful to have called home since 1977. I consider myself to be living here on the terms established in Treaty Six, and acknowledge that the generous agreement that Indigenous people made to SHARE the land with the newcomers to their territory has not been fully honoured on the non-Indigenous side. Still, I think I have the responsibility under the terms of the Treaty to speak for the things that would help foster good relationship and to speak against the things that would further damage it. I therefore wish to make clear my full and unconditional support for the renaming of John A. Macdonald Road to miyo-wahkohtowin Road.

If I may also speak to this issue if it is discussed at the Wednesday, Aug. 30 public meeting of City Council, I would like to do so, please. I am out of the city Sept. 3-12, so if the public meeting falls in this period, I can only rely on this letter to make my voice heard on this matter

**Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?:** No