

John A Macdonald Statement From Aaron

Heritage Regina would like to share the following statement from our Indigenous Advisor, Aaron Tootoosis. Like Aaron, we support the recent decision to remove the statue of John A MacDonald.

I congratulate Regina City Council for voting to remove the John A. Macdonald statue from Victoria Park. This is a significant turning point in history.

The ongoing legacy of genocidal policies (the Indian Act) still affecting Indigenous Nations and Peoples for over 144 years is a direct result of approvals from John A. Macdonald's tenure as Prime Minister. Many changes to the Indian Act have done nothing but damage relations between Canadians and the First Peoples that opened their arms to share the land through the Treaties. The Indian Act continues to attack the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship. Treaties, which so generously gave every Canadian Citizen permission to be present within Indigenous Lands, have not been honoured. Canadians will never know what the scars Indigenous Peoples carry through the 153-year genocide.

As we move on to reconcile our history that has left a negative impact and intended exclusivity upon Indigenous Nations and Peoples, the removal of the John A. Macdonald Statue from Victoria Park will symbolize a great first step in a commitment that is long overdue. A commitment not only in the name of Reconciliation, but a commitment that moves towards restoring the inclusive Treaty Relationship between Canadians and Indigenous Nations and Peoples who call Regina home. Regina is a place for all.