

**Q1 Do you have feedback for consideration when developing the Community Services Department budget? Submit your feedback below. All feedback will be provided to elected officials on the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks during their budget discussions. Submit your feedback by Thursday, November 28.**

Answered: 280 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Budgets should not be cut and taxes should be increased. We need our services.	11/28/2019 5:04 PM
2	I started at Chief Peguis Fitness Centre in 1997. I was out of shape and out of breath. I started by walking the track. Eventually, I built up enough courage to get on a stepper. It was heart pounding hard. I have stuck with it losing weight and gaining muscle. When they are telling people to exercise more and get out more, and you're thinking of shutting down an exercise facility, that doesn't seem right. There is a great group of people at the gym. We have gotten to know one another. there is a sense of community, where we cheer on the Jets, the Bombers and each other. As we age, this is more and more important. We are the forgotten side of town. There is talk of a new facility going in at Waverly West. How do they rate something like that? We struggle to get anything at our end of town, and they get something brand new right away and you want to strip us of our gym. Fair...I don't think so. Going to the gym keeps me out of emergency Going to the gym keeps my bones strong Going to the gym keeps me agile Going to the gym keeps from being a burden on the medical system Going to the gym keeps my heart happy physically and mentally. PLEASE don't close this facility, my LIFE depends on this place! *name removed*	11/28/2019 4:57 PM
3	I was very disappointed to hear of the proposed cuts to community services, in particular the proposed closing of the Fort Garry library. In the 12 years we have lived in the East Fort Garry neighborhood, our family has been very regular users of this library. In the past my children attended the children's programming, and on a weekly basis we are at the library borrowing books, CD's, DVD's and more. Many of the librarians know my kids by name and they are welcomed there. I can't imagine our family losing this wonderful resource in our community. We live within walking/ biking distance from the library and see this as a way to reduce our driving. If this library closes, we will be forced to drive much farther to access the library services. As my kids are getting older, the Fort Garry library has been a safe place for them to venture out in independence on their own. I understand the need to reduce costs, but there must be some other alternatives so that this essential resource in our community doesn't get lost.	11/28/2019 4:28 PM
4	Hi there. Libraries are an integral part of the community and do more than just provide books. They offer a safe place where people can connect and build their skills so that they, in turn, can give back to the city which helped foster them. Please do not restrict the library and the amazing assistance it offers.	11/28/2019 4:05 PM
5	I'm very disappointed to see Fort Garry Library is scheduled to be closed. My 2 young daughters have developed a love of reading by making weekly visits to our local library with their grandma. Each time they visited, the library was busy with community members. Last night my daughter was crying because we will no longer be able to ride our bikes to the library on weekends. In a time when technology rules our youth, it was so refreshing to see my 2 daughters have such a strong connection to the library. I hope you will reconsider this closure as it serves not just my family but many families and schools in the community.	11/28/2019 3:21 PM
6	Our family has lived in East Fort Garry for 35+ years. We frequently visited the Fort Garry Library when our children were young and am now visiting with our grandchildren. The location is convenient for seniors and the young to walk either from the east and west side of Pembina, north and south Pembina. We see friends from the community on our numerous visits to The Fort Garry Library. Grandparents with their grandchildren. Our children coming back with their children to meeting up with friends who they went to high school with. This is a great place for children to come together with other children their age, in their community, in a safe and clean environment. The staff who run the children's programs are very friendly and welcome everyone. They are just like our extended family Closing The Fort Garry Library would be a great loss for our community. Thankyou *name removed*	11/28/2019 2:51 PM
7	Closure of Chief Peguis Trail Fitness Facility is unacceptable. "Streamline" services by closing. The next closest fitness facility offered by the city is Sargent Park. That is what you call streamlining? Taking away this service is acceptable if something is available. It displaces so many community members. Obesity is an epidemic within our society and closing a service facility of this size will have an impact. As mentioned, taking away a service that addresses this a large concern for me when nothing is offered to replace it - instead you are using streamlining as a term. There were no significant or astronomical concerns with keeping this facility open besides cost cutting. The trade off is far worse in the long term. You do need to reconsider this closure. For the sake of the community and for the health system - it impacts youth, adults and seniors immensely.	11/28/2019 11:40 AM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

8	I think the Fort Garry library is a vital part of Themis community. I moved into north Fort Garry in 1997 and have been a regular library patron since then. When my three children were small I brought them to weekly story time as well as the special summer programs. This was an important way to meet neighbours as well as to foster a love of books and storytelling.	11/28/2019 5:00 AM
9	The closing of Fort Garry library is unacceptable to me. My family has called this branch home for many years and is integral to the development of my children and a tremendous resource to myself personally. We walk to the library every week as a family, and we will lose something very special were that no longer the case. I cannot in good conscience vote for anyone who would let this happen on their watch.	11/28/2019 4:50 AM
10	In these days when research is stressing the importance of exercise for our bodies as well as our minds, it is unthinkable that we would be considering closing exercise facilities or reducing hours. This would definitely be counter productive. This would negatively effect our young people as well as our seniors. Closing a facility in the unique position that Chief Peguis Fitness is in, would be devastating to this Community. Chief Peguis not only serves the seniors, firefighters and others in the community, it is located in a Middle School and a very short distance from a High School. It is not fancy but a well used facility with nothing at all close to replace it. Terry Sawchuk Arena needs to remain to serve the young people in this community. Please do not harm our young and old with these irreversible decisions.	11/28/2019 4:17 AM
11	To the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks, I am writing as a community member of East Fort Garry against the proposed closure of the Fort Garry Public Library January 1, 2022. The library has been an incredible support to our family over the years. I have been fortunate to visit the Fort Garry Library throughout my life: my mom brought me frequently as a young child to Story Time; I utilized the library as a student for study throughout elementary, junior high, high school, and university; and I continue to frequent the library now with my two children (8 months old and 4 years old). The incredible staff at the library truly have the best interests for my daughters in helping them learn and foster an appreciation for reading. They know my daughters by name and we are always treated so kindly. We enjoy the Baby Rhyme Time program (we are currently in this program), Time for Twos, Family Story Time, and the other various one-day programs that are offered throughout the year. The library and its staff have been crucial in my 4 year old daughters love for reading, and I can already see the benefits in my 8 month old from attending the library frequently and utilizing its programming. The Fort Garry Library is an integral community service within the neighbourhood. In a world where screens are overwhelmingly present in daily life, and considering the known health effects linked to screen time, it makes having a place to open a book ever more important. Also not to be forgotten: the mid century modern architecture of the building. It is a beautiful example. I believe the closure of the Fort Garry Public Library would be felt deeply within the community, and I am against its closure. Thank you. *name removed*	11/28/2019 4:06 AM
12	I am writing regarding the potential closure of the Fort Garry Library. This would be a tremendous loss to our community. I visit this library with my two small children on a weekly basis. It has played a large role in my children's' love of reading. The other closest library would be the Pembina Trail library, which is really not close at all. The library underwent major renovations over the last several years. The idea of closing a building after so much money was put into it seems very fiscally irresponsible. To add to this, immediately beside the library is the old empty police station. Creating another empty abandoned building along Pembina would not be good for our community, or for our city.	11/28/2019 3:36 AM
13	Don't close our libraries!!!	11/28/2019 3:21 AM
14	Do not close Fort Gary library- it is an important and well used service in the area and would devastate the community.	11/28/2019 3:09 AM
15	I am retiring on Dec 31st 2019 and will be going to the library on a regular basis after that. I have been waiting my whole career, 50 years to have time to go to the Fort Garry library ( which I can easily walk to). I love reading and now I will be able to go and enjoy all the books there and YOU DECIDE TO CLOSE IT! That is completely unacceptable. With emphasis these days on wanting to age in place and creating walkable communities, this is a major step in the wrong direction. I may not have my drivers' license for ever and walking is an excellent way to keep physically healthy while reading new material is an excellent way to keep mentally healthy. On top of that there is the stimulation of interacting with others which is also critically important as we age. Please reconsider this decision, or if the library is closed I will have plenty of time to become an advocate for voting in people that will support libraries.	11/28/2019 3:06 AM
16	I just joined the Peguis Trail Health & Fitness Centre and would hate to see this valuable community asset close its doors. On any given day, you can find residents of all ages, all abilities and all walks of life using the facility. It's an integral piece in keeping Winnipeggers healthy and active which in the end would drive down other costs.	11/28/2019 3:04 AM

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17	Please do not close the Fort Garry Library! I go to the library with my children to spend valuable time teaching my children the love of reading. We walk from our home to the library. I can not afford to buy new books at Chapters and having our local library gives my children the opportunity to read any book they choose. We have gone to family reading nights where we connect and meet other families from the community. We attend seasonal activities and have been a part of the Summer Reading Club. My children attend Ecole Crane and the librarians come to the school and partner with us. We visit the library after we go to Lions Pool. We love our library. It has also recently been renovated. What a waste of money, resources and time to close a library that was renovated to be accessible and inclusive to everyone. I also feel that the city has already closed our local police station, right beside the library. That building has been abandoned for years, an eye sore on Pembina Highway. Now, the local library is potentially going to be closed? Another abandoned building side by side? Our community will suffer. I passionately request you keep our Fort Garry Library open. We need this place in our community. We use it, we value it, we need it.	11/28/2019 2:49 AM
18	I am a frequent user of the Fort Garry Library and consider it to be of key importance in my community. This library is a safe and welcoming place that includes resources, programs and services that contribute to lifelong learning, and encourage Fort Garry residents to connect with one another. It is one of few affordable, leisure-focused destinations within walking distance, and provides countless opportunities for people to discover topics (via the library's materials and events) that interest and inspire them. To say that this library is an asset within Fort Garry is an understatement, and I am having difficulty understanding how the presentation for the 2020 Operating and Capital Budget for the Community Services Department can refer to libraries as "the centre for information access" or "hub of the community" when they are also advocating to remove this vital element from my own neighbourhood. I strongly encourage the City to reconsider their decision to close this branch in 2022, and to acknowledge the needs and rights of all citizens who call Fort Garry home. Thank you.	11/28/2019 2:38 AM
19	Please don't close the Fort Garry Library. It provides a valuable resource to our community. Many community members walk or cycle to the library. We need our library! Let's not reward urban sprawl by saving libraries in out-lying neighbourhoods!	11/28/2019 2:22 AM
20	I do not support closing the Fort Garry Library as it's well used, and it promotes literacy as well as a sense of community.	11/28/2019 2:17 AM
21	You can say that city should look after community first while providing support morally as well financially instead of being spending more on creating events like grey cup recently for gathering and show off, winnipeggers awares already so they know how winnipeg doing and what they needs?	11/28/2019 2:02 AM
22	I am opposed to the closure of the Chief Peguis gym. It is the only gym in the city with a rubber matted track!	11/28/2019 1:52 AM
23	I am a frequent user of the Chief Peguis Fitness Centre. I have been going there for many years. I like that it is close to home. I can get a workout in before work. This facility is so important to the neighbourhood. Many seniors walk there all winter. We are all trying to stay healthy and mobile as we age so please don't take this away. Sincerely yours in health and fitness, Mariann Wagner	11/28/2019 1:11 AM
24	Whiteout parties are less important than our community services. libraries, arenas and pools are important for every community for easy accessibility.	11/28/2019 12:45 AM
25	I am unsure how much money would be saved, but looking at how the library distributes books could be improved. When I request a book to pick up at my local branch, it often gets shipped in from another location even if my branch has a copy. If you multiply that by hundreds of people requesting books, I would think that would waste time and costs money for delivery. Community libraries and recreation centres are important. I think adjusting hours, staffing levels, and looking at each location as independent might help with saving money. The smart lockers that are in some libraries might also help lessen the sting of reducing hours at libraries.	11/28/2019 12:41 AM
26	Attention J.Browaty, I have been a paying member of Chief Peguis Fitness Centre for at least 25 years. As the years have gone by people have become increasingly aware of the importance of getting moving and staying fit. I live in East Kildonan. This is the only City of Wpg. Facility in North, East Kildonan and Elmwood. Why would it even be considered to close when there is no other place for us to take classes and use the gym? It infuriates me that with the crime escalating we are closing places where all ages can engage in positive activities. We are a growing city where police, fire, wading pools, arenas, gyms should be increasing not being shrunk. Compared to other cities we spend very little money on these facilities we need to find ways to keep current facilities and build more. One suggestion is stop drop in things such as walking for seniors etc and charge a small fee. People will continue to come and monies will be raised. Have a shorter number of hours per day but keep it open.	11/28/2019 12:20 AM
27	Chef Peguis Trail Fitness. I do not think they should close Chef Peguis Trail Fitness centre. Both Chef Peguis and River East schools use this fitness centre for students. The cost to run this centre is low because it is in the basement on Chef Peguis school. They also use the schools parking lot which save costs. There is a lot of seniors that use this centre to keep in shape. I think the members fees should more than cover the cost of running this centre.	11/28/2019 12:15 AM
28	Don't close Fort Garry Library!	11/27/2019 11:43 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

29	I do hope that the city keeps the Pembina Library in Fort Garry. Many of the university community live in Fort Garry and use the Public Library as a Supplementary Resource Library to the University Library both for material supplements and for study purposes. The young children of the university staff also use this library as their neighbourhood library. It is very unfortunate that when cuts come, it's always about cutting back on the libraries. I would like to see a change in this procedure. Sincerely, *name removed*	11/27/2019 11:40 PM
30	It does not make sense to close neighborhood library branches. Though consolidated services are cheaper to offer, neighborhood library branches are more accessible to those in greatest need. People who cannot drive, young people, homeless people and those who have newly arrived to Canada, would lose critical access to resources and help. Libraries offer important programming and support to all of these groups. They are also a source of community and support to new parents. Their value to education should not be underestimated. Children whose parents read to them fare much better in school. Is this opportunity for success to be reserved to those who have money to buy books or own a car? Closing libraries open would increase the strain on an already overburdened education system. To me this is a pay now or pay much more later question. The role of government is to ensure that vulnerable populations get their needs met and that justice is done. Please keep this in mind as you make your decisions.	11/27/2019 11:30 PM
31	I am requesting a reconsideration of your plans to close the Fort Garry Library. As a multi-decade resident in Fort Garry and a supporter of literacy as a key factor in a healthy society, there is importance in the library remaining open. This is also a centre for community families and newcomers to meet. The library is a vital pillar of our community and the importance cannot be measured in dollars. Please reconsider your plans.	11/27/2019 11:24 PM
32	Hello, I live in Fort Garry, I have a 6 year old and 4 year old and another baby on the way. My children and I visit the Fort Garry Library often and they would be very disappointed if this library were to be shut down. The library offers fantastic programs for families with young children and my family has utilized these services many times. The Library fosters a love for reading and learning and both of my children love to read. We often come home with bundles of books from the library to read and my children look forward to these times. Please keep this important service available to the community of Fort Garry. I would like for my children to continue having fulfilling experiences through this service. Thank you, *name removed*	11/27/2019 11:15 PM
33	I am shocked to see you have the closing of the Fort Garry Library in your cut backs document. This is a very sad day to see this being proposed when this library was just nicely upgraded and renovated in the past few years. I used that library as a quiet place to study when I grew up in the 60's and 70's. It was a favourite outing for my children to go to for reading workshops and to pick out fresh books every week. My daughter became a librarian because she loved that library so much. It's just heart breaking to me to read this library is being considered. I'd rather pay more taxes to keep it open. Do not close the Fort Garry Library. It is an institution on Pembina Hwy and the Fort Garry families. *name removed*	11/27/2019 11:14 PM
34	Please don't close Fort Garry library I have 2 kids and a baby on the way I use this place regularly Education, and learning is vital in this community. All that happens daily at this library	11/27/2019 11:09 PM
35	Closing libraries is not a solution. Cutting programs is not a solution. These programs and services are essential to people. When it is hot or cold, the city advises people to seek shelter in libraries and other community services buildings. But cutting hours and closing buildings will just cause more problems. Also, notably the city just hosted a Grey Cup parade. It is unknown how much this cost. While I think it is great that the Bombers won, this money could have been saved to be spent in other ways knowing the budget issues that were coming.	11/27/2019 10:35 PM
36	Hi, the fort Gary Library is an important part of our community. My family of four uses it weekly for books. It is an important tool as my daughters learn to read. They are constantly encouraged to read books and the more variety they read from the library the more they learn. We are getting to the age when riding bikes and walking to the library is also an option. Community facilities are so important to a child's understanding of life and learning. We have also enjoyed the evening reading and rhyme for kids most recently which was a social way to read a book and it being so close to home we could be home in time for a healthy bedtime. Having a local library also helps older kids and adults with community resources, a place to study etc. If the city is looking at cutting to balance budgets maybe they can look at how inefficiently roads are rebuilt (# of people on the job standing around), and do a true rebalance of books rather than just blowing left over money in budgets in order to get the same amount the following year. Balance books like a citizen would balance their books not like the city and province has done in the past. Fix the system don't cut the system for the next generation. It's time to make smart choices not easy ones.	11/27/2019 10:31 PM
37	To Whom it may concern, I have real concerns over the closure of the Fort Garry Library. I am an educator and a parent that uses these facilities and see it as a mistake to close this facility. It supports the community and has partnerships with local (like Ecole Crane where my kids attend). We enjoy the summer programs and visiting the library. Literacy is integral for our communities and the benefits of libraries cannot be understated. How will you replace these benefits and at what cost for the future? Sincerely, *name removed*	11/27/2019 10:28 PM
38	The Fort Garry Library has been a important part of my neighbours and my families lives. After a recent renovation of the library in 2018-19 it's difficult to understand what criteria was used in the selection of potential closures. I ask you reconsider your options and keep the Fort Garry Library open now and into the future.	11/27/2019 10:16 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

39	Chief Peguis needs to be closed because it's unhealthy. Radon testing results were hidden from the public because they're at dangerous levels. However absolute *removed* to take the only city gym in the north part of the city and build an insane gym in the new south rich area.	11/27/2019 10:16 PM
40	This is a sad and under-served city the mayor has planned. Many of these service cuts can't be reversed. This is a failure of the current mayor and council to make strategic decisions that will ensure sustainability of a quality city.	11/27/2019 10:02 PM
41	This draft budget is hugely indicative of a council that knows the cost of everything and the value of nothing. In a city in the middle of a meth and opioid epidemic, the last thing we can afford to be doing is closing libraries, pools, arenas, and leisure activities. Proposing to cut these services is short sighted and ill-informed, targeting communities that need these subsidized facilities the most. I know why you selected the places you did. I've smelled the smell in Terry Sawchuk arena. I've checked out books in the dreary Westwood Library. But we shouldn't be closing these important community places! We should have the foresight to be planning to upgrade and update them. These are essential community services in these neighbourhoods. I can afford a tax increase. But I can't afford to buy all the books my family reads, or to build an arena, or to build a pool. I understand you're in a budget crunch and have to make tough decisions. But increase my taxes, don't take away the things that I can't afford on my own.	11/27/2019 9:59 PM
42	Please do not close Penguins Trail Fitness Facility. It is used by a lot of people-young&older. It is the only larger fitness center on the east side of the Red river. It has a track as well as a fully equipped gym. The leisure guide programs are very well attended esp. the evening classes. Many seniors use the facility keeping us in a healthy & fit lifestyle. It is also used by many for pre/post rehab of injuries & surgery. It would not be in the best interest of the community if this facility is closed. WE need PEGUIS TRAIL FITNESS FACILITY to remain OPEN. Thank you	11/27/2019 9:55 PM
43	The closure of the Fort Garry library would be a tremendous loss for the community. The library is not only a great resource for families but also works closely with schools in the area. To close libraries and public facilities in inner city or lower income neighborhoods while approving expensive recreation centers in Waverley West is an absolute injustice to so many Winnipeg residents. It is a message to the poor, the disenfranchised, and the new to Canada who cannot afford to live in those areas that we do not care about them and will not care about them unless they are wealthy. Public Facilities like the Fort Garry library are relied on by children and adults alike for a multitude of reasons and many will not have access to anything similar if these places are closed. In order to create a successful society we need to take care of one another. This does not happen when we take things away from those who already started with less and put them in areas that are inaccessible to them. Winnipeg has been my home for a long time. I love this city and I want to continue to see it grow and prosper. Let's try to achieve that by keeping public facilities accessible to those who really need them and by not abandoning our communities that need us most.	11/27/2019 9:49 PM
44	Please do not close the Fort Garry Library. It is a vital part of not only our community as a whole, but also to the surrounding schools. I have children who love being able to walk as a family to this wonderful community space and have access to the great collection of book. To see it closed would be heartbreaking. *name removed*	11/27/2019 9:49 PM
45	Please do NOT close the fort Garry library on Pembina. That library is VITAL to our neighborhoods and we need it and it's services to help families and student in our area. As a parent who accesses that library it would be detrimental to have it closed for our little family!!!! Please!!	11/27/2019 9:42 PM
46	Please do not close the Fort Garry Library. It is a busy branch that is of tremendous benefit to the community. Other libraries that might be near the area are also busy and would not be able to handle the increased traffic. Please do not take away such a valuable resource.	11/27/2019 9:40 PM
47	I'm sad to hear of the possibility of the closures of a few of our Public Library's. The Fort Garry library offers many wonderful services to the neighbourhood as do the other library's to their respective neighbourhoods. My children love going to get new books that we otherwise would not have access too. Our local schools also depend on the library services and to lose the library would be a great loss to our entire neighbourhood. Please reconsider investing in such a valuable neighbourhood resource.	11/27/2019 9:26 PM
48	Re: Closing Fort Garry Library... This is astonishing. It's always used. It's always busy. Schools are always utilizing its services. Do NOT shut this library down!!!	11/27/2019 9:03 PM
49	I am shocked that the plan is to close the Fort Garry Public Library by 2022. It is always full, I use it often for study and I rarely find a spot to sit (which is a great thing it's being used). I see countless people checking out books. The community rooms are always booked. This is completely ridiculous to cut such a vital part of the Fort Garry community. My kids go to Ecole Crane and Viscount Alexander. I once attended Vincent Massey. All three of those schools utilize that public library. This can not move forward, it is an unacceptable step in the wrong direction by the city.	11/27/2019 9:00 PM
50	As residents of East Fort Garry, we wish to register our strong disfavour with the proposal to close the Fort Garry Public Library in 2022. All communities need local access to a minimum level of library services. Being adjacent to Vincent Massey high school, it is a particularly useful service. Please reconsider. We have already lost the local police station and fire department years ago, which remain vacant and unused to this day. *name removed*	11/27/2019 8:59 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

51	The Fort Garry library is an important space for me and my children to study in a fun way and bond with other members of our community. Please we encourage you to reconsider its closure. We need this space.	11/27/2019 8:53 PM
52	Fort Garry Library (any library in the city really) should not be closed. Every person I talk to in our community uses that library. It is within walking distance of many peoples houses. It allows children the opportunity to read so many books and decreases a financial burden on parents to not have to purchase a bunch of books. Allows children to continue reading growth in summer when school library not available. Reducing hours isnt a way to solve problem either since working parents will go with children in evening or on Saturday. We often go on days off school and my kids love looking through all the books. They take out movies and video games as well. I love living in the city and having a library close to where we live and can not imagine what it would be like without Fort Garry Library	11/27/2019 8:43 PM
53	Good Afternoon, I would like to submit comments on the closing of the Fort Garry Library Branch in 2022. This is my main library branch and the only one within walking distance to my house. Without this branch the closest one would be St. Vital Library which is on the other side of the Red River. This library is in an area with many young families. We use this library for books, fun educational programming, games and movie rentals, and just a fun outing on a Saturday morning. Beyond my personal family's use of this resource is the services it provides in our community to the local schools and daycares close by. These young children can be introduced to books and reading at a young age. With no other libraries in the area it would be very difficult to bring the children on field trips or tours to the library. Early childhood introduction to books and reading can improve children's chances to succeed later in life and can reduce the disparity between rich and poor. This library was recently renovated and has a beautiful meeting space and children's area as well as a useful study space for teens and adults. There is a lack of city resources within this area and this is one of the best ones. Please take our neighbourhood library off your list of closures in this budget. The future impacts of keeping this library for our young people will far outweigh the temporary savings of closing it.	11/27/2019 8:38 PM
54	Members of the Standing Policy Committee: The decision to shut down the Fort Garry Library is short-sighted and unfortunate. The library plays a vital role in the community. Every time I go to the library (approx every 3 weeks) it is busy with a wide-range of people - high school students, little kids with parents, and seniors. I bike to the library with my kids and we always see other families from the neighbourhood. We're unlikely to travel to other neighbourhoods to get to the library. Please do not close a place where low income neighbourhood residents can access resources. These types of decisions won't lead to any longterm financial advantage to the city; the indirect benefit to the city in investing in communities and providing these types of resources should not be underestimated. Thank you, *name removed*	11/27/2019 8:26 PM
55	As residents of East Fort Garry, my wife, two young children and myself strongly oppose the idea of closing the Fort Garry Library as a way to control future costs. The Fort Garry Library is an important contributor to the neighbourhoods of East and West Fort Garry. Our children have taken part in numerous events at the library that promote a love of reading, learning and social interaction that helps them grow to be good citizens of their community. Going to the local Library is an event in our household and running into neighbours there only strengthens the idea of community. We strongly urge the City to reject this idea and continue to fund an important part of Fort Garry. Sincerely, *name removed*	11/27/2019 8:19 PM
56	The Fort Garry Library is vital, and very important part of our community. I have been frequenting this library since I was a child. As a parent now, my own children visit weekly. The library serves so many in this community. It would be a huge loss to our family, and certainly to many others. Furthermore this library was recently renovated. What a waste of funds ,if it is to be shut down now. Please reconsider closing our beloved library. We need it!!!	11/27/2019 8:13 PM
57	The Fort Garry Library is a busy and important part of our community. Closing it so that the city can build a super community center in the new South End developments would be a huge mistake. New communities should not be able to steal resources from old ones. The Fort Garry Library is always busy, and provides important programming to the neighborhood, as well as working with nearby schools to promote literature and a love of reading. Please leave our library alone.	11/27/2019 7:59 PM
58	It seems you are willing to sacrifice the residents in the Northeast quadrant by closing facilities such as Chief Peguis Trail because the residents of Waverley West need facilities. Perhaps you should scale down the South Winnipeg Recreation Campus by removing multiple gyms, athletic fields and twin arenas thus leaving some money in the budget for well used facilities in other areas of the city. Why? to combat drug use? I doubt this will have any impact on the illicit use of drugs in the entire City of Winnipeg. So let me see if I got this straight: you're going to close 5 pools, 3 libraries, 5 arenas, cut funding to all community centres, and cancel improvements to all athletic fields. Because we don't have enough money. But THEN, you're going to turn around and build another community centre, complete with 2 pools, a library, athletic fields, multiple gymnasiums and a double arena. Why? Because Waverley West deserves it but residents in other areas of the city, ie Spence, Westwood, St. Boniface, North Kildonan don't? I'm shaking my head right now.	11/27/2019 7:35 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

59	I think it is wrong for the city to close three libraries and four pools in existing neighborhoods while borrowing money to build a fancy new complex in the wealthy new neighborhood of Waverley West. It takes from the poor and middle-class and gives to the well-off. So many Winnipeggers depend on these local public services and they should be prioritized. We also pay some of the lowest municipal taxes of any major Canadian city, and I for one would be willing to pay more to sustain our services.	11/27/2019 7:16 PM
60	With regards to the community service budget meeting in November 2019 (j. Close Peguis Trail Health and Fitness Centre effective July 1, 2021), this is a terrible/ horrendous decision towards cost cutting. As seniors & on a limited budget, we depend on this facility as a means of maintaining our fitness. All research has proven that people that are physically fit are less likely to develop disease/ poor health and, thus, not rely heavily on the health care system. This gym services, not only seniors but also includes junior/high school students as well as the general public. The cost to the city is negligible, paying for lighting & the wages of part-time staff and a manager. If the city decides to close this facility, the basement of the building, which houses the junior high school, would still require heating. Really, how great is the savings????? The affordability of this facility is the only option for many of us. There may be other gyms nearby, but the cost makes them unaccessible to us.	11/27/2019 7:13 PM
61	Please do not close the North Fort Garry Library. This is a valuable resource for the neighbourhood. Any time I attend this location, it is a beehive of activity involving a wide and diverse population. It supports local groups and promotes literacy for the community.	11/27/2019 7:00 PM
62	Please don't close the West Kildonan library. I love getting books from there, and have been for over 10 years!	11/27/2019 6:55 PM
63	Do not close chief peguis fitness center. It is the only civic centre feeding the east. Recreation opportunities are important for people's everyday health and help the health care system in the long run.	11/27/2019 6:44 PM
64	please stop closing libraries, pools and other inner-city services that are provided to low-income individuals and families	11/27/2019 6:38 PM
65	I would like to provide feedback regarding the possible closure of the Transcona Kinmen Centennial pool. I currently use the pool at least three times a week. The pools location allows me to walk to it most days. I can and have ridden my bike to this pool. The closure of this pool would mean that the Transcona community would not have a pool in their area. The pool serves a vital part of the community from allowing seniors (such as myself) a place to exercise and socialize as well as younger members of the community to partake in swimming lessons and a place to have fun. If the pool is closed, it will increase the money people have to spend to get to a pool or the time to get to the pool as it will be further away from their homes. Instead of being able to walk or ride a bike to the pool, some people will have to take the bus or drive a car( if they have one). Please take into consideration to effect the possible closure of this community pool would have of the residents of Transcona. Thank for reviewing and taking my feedback into consideration prior to making your decision.	11/27/2019 6:36 PM
66	I do not want to see cutbacks at libraries. Lots of students use the library for study and research. Seniors also use the libraries for reading materials and social aspects.	11/27/2019 6:00 PM
67	While I could have imagined the proposed cuts being problematic in the past, now that I have 3 children 6 and under some of these proposed cuts would be devastating. To further reduce our library access which already has pretty awful hours, and potentially lose our local wading pool would seriously affect the growth, development, and independence of my children. I'm coming from a middle class family. I just know these cuts would impact the entire community, and particularly those that are worse off than ourselves. I'm very concerned for the future health of our community.	11/27/2019 5:49 PM
68	It would be a travesty to close the Fort Garry Library. It is an institution in the community and serves a huge swath of the City. It is a busy branch and a necessary service for keeping our community literate and well informed and giving people a public place in which they can just relax and be in the company of others. And what about our children, who we need to install a love of reading into? We cannot allow our society to descend into the pit of fake news and 140 character limits on thought. Libraries protect against these issues and must be protected for the coming generations. The value of libraries is tremendous. Also, I see that the proposed library for Southwest Winnipeg is essentially cancelled which puts further strain on Pembina Trails and Fort Garry Libraries. Closing one of the branches that serves the southern part of the City, which is growing at an extremely rapid rate, is unwise. If Fort Garry Library is closed, any alternative library must be driven to by anyone in the community (at a minimum 10-15 minute drive), and is either smaller (St Vital, Osborne), has worse hours (Osborne, Pembina Trails), or is extremely over capacity (Pembina Trails). Fort Garry library is not the right branch to close. I could understand reducing hours to afternoons and evenings, or reducing staffing to a skeleton crew and automating many functions (such as only allowing self checkout) and limiting programming, but I will be extremely disappointed in the City, our elected leaders, and this process if Fort Garry Library is closed. Many other options should be explored and trialed before we even consider closing this library.	11/27/2019 5:45 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

69	One of the bullet points in the strategic objectives is to "Enrich the lives of all Winnipeg citizens and their communities by providing high quality, responsive and innovative library services ." Closing locations seems to go against this as this would limit access by taking libraries out of neighbourhoods. I understand that the logic is to have more money to spend on other libraries and their resources, but having more resources in other libraries doesn't mean much to those who would have more limited access and in some cases no access due to their local library's closure.	11/27/2019 5:18 PM
70	I strongly object to the closing of the Fort Garry Library. The closes library then becomes too far away for seniors or others who don't drive to access the library. Reduce hours open if necessary but it is short sighted to close entirely. Jane Markesteyn	11/27/2019 4:17 PM
71	*comment removed*	11/27/2019 4:03 PM
72	I am strongly opposed to the closing of the Peguis Trail Fitness Centre. This facility is one of the few in the city that has a walking/running track and the only one in the northeast part of the city. The track is used by many seniors for walking. The facility is used by many members and students from River East high school next door. I have an annual membership and if the facility is closed I will no longer purchase a membership because I use the facility and the track almost daily.	11/27/2019 4:00 PM
73	I support literacy. Keep the Fort Garry library open. Thank you.	11/27/2019 3:37 PM
74	Please do not close the Fort Garry Library. I am a member of the Fort Garry Palette Club and yearly hang our art work on the display wall. Every time I go into the library it's full of people of all diversity, age and who love reading and discovering information. It's close to schools and the neighbourhood.	11/27/2019 2:58 PM
75	Closing a library is such a blow to a community. They are such a great place for families to go without spending any money. Getting a new book/video is a way of opening up the imagination and enter into a different world. They also offer a place for community members to gather and talk, to allow new families to become part of that community. The services offered by the library help people get jobs, offer families time to come together and they allow English Language learners a chance to be surrounded by a new language. Closing the library means closing the door on a community pillar. I urge you to think of the ramifications this would cause.	11/27/2019 2:14 PM
76	As a resident of Fort Garry I remember the feeling of dislocation when the Fort Garry Library was closed for renovations. My neighbours and I talked about the inconvenience and the crowds at the Pembina Trails library during that time. I wondered though about the high school kids for whom the library was a safe haven, the refuge families without cars that walk to the library with their strollers, the seniors who have lost their ability to drive and now walk to the library with their backpacks. We are going through a crisis in this city. The veneer of civility is being stripped away. For me the library represents one of the most powerful ways of countering this slide into lawlessness. It is one of the equalizers in our society. My parents were immigrants in the 50's. My brother and I walked to the public library every two weeks to get our fresh supply of English books. Our mother learnt English as we learned to read. I would PLEAD with you that as you look at the many line items and have to make hard decisions you ask yourself not only what the fiscal implications of the decision might be but also what are the implications to the failing social fabric of our city! *name removed*	11/27/2019 2:07 PM
77	I am told that there is a possibility of the City closing Peguis Trail Fitness Centre. If I may, I will add my thoughts on why this should not happen. I am a 76 year old male who has been a member of the facility since April 2003. I attend most mornings in the week and it has helped me to maintain good health. The majority of the users in the morning are retirees, shift workers and high school students. Many of the retirees are in their 60's and 70's with about 6 or 7 in their 80's. Their commitment to fitness helps to keep them in good health whereas without the facility some of these folks may be utilizing and draining our health care system. The city does not have another comparable facility in proximity. Many of us morning people have been together for a number of years and there is a family feel to our sessions. A change of venue would constitute quite an upheaval in our lives. The high school students that I mentioned come from River East - about a 5 minute walk - because their gymnasium is not of sufficient size to accommodate their classes and Peguis has a full range of equipment for their use. These youngsters and their teachers are as committed to the gym as we older ones are. Thank you for your attention and I hope you will, after due consideration, abandon any plans to close this worthwhile facility. Yours truly, *name removed*	11/27/2019 1:32 PM
78	Our family has lived in three provinces, and in each, we have been avid library users. We even had our books hydro-planed in by the Vancouver Island Regional Library system when we lived on a remote island. When I heard that our local library, West Kildonan, was possibly going to be closed due to budget shortfalls I was shocked. It is hard to imagine a city that would cut libraries to save money. The library is one of the last level playing fields- regardless of your income, your job, your race, or your sexual orientation, whether you have a home or are without a home, the library is a welcoming place. It is obvious when I am at the West Kildonan library that it is a community hub: Seniors gather on a regular basis, providing much needed social inclusion which leads to a better quality of life and increased mental health; preschoolers come with their caregivers where their early literacy, and school readiness is nurtured; people either at risk of homelessness, or without a home, find a welcoming place to destress, get warm, and feel included. It would be such a tragic loss to the healthy sustainability of the West Kildonan community to have the library close its doors. I would ask that the SPC consider other ways to balance the budget that would not be at the cost of the health of the community. *name removed*	11/27/2019 5:04 AM



## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

79	You cannot close the Fort Garry Library!! There is not another library close by for many neighbourhoods including Fort Garry, Lindenwoods and Whyte Ridge! Many people that live in the area do not have transportation or money for family activities and the library offers not only free books to read but also children's activities. The high school students at Vincent Massey also use the library (as the school library is quite small for such a huge population). The Fort Garry Library was just renovated and it would be a terrible thing for our area to lose it!!	11/27/2019 4:23 AM
80	I do not wish Ft.Garry library to be closed down. It is an excellent resource for the community and a very useful, especially for the young people. The library offers a number of excellent programs and the premises are adequate for study, research and education of young children.	11/27/2019 3:37 AM
81	I'm totally against closing the Fort Garry Library. I grew up with this library and use it even more now that I'm retired. It is important as a community resource and to promote literacy. I have facilitated conversation groups in this library. The renovations have made it an attractive study space for the students at Vincent Massey next door. Save our library please!	11/27/2019 2:02 AM
82	I am a Winnipegger living in East Kildonan who uses the Peguis Trail Health and Fitness Centre daily. I am submitting feedback to encourage the committee to keep the Peguis Trail Health & Fitness Centre open. This fitness centre has allowed me to be physically active within my community. This centre is always busy, even in the evening hours, and allows members of the community of all ages (from high school students to senior citizens) access to an affordable fitness centre. Without this centre, community members would not have access to an affordable fitness facility. This fitness centre provides specifically provides significant benefits to students and seniors in the community. Being located underneath the school is advantageous for two primary reasons: it is in an accessible location for the local community, and it is adjacent to River East Collegiate, allowing for easy student access and coordination with the high school for fitness opportunities that would not otherwise be accessible. Personally, I first used the fitness centre as a student, and now as an adult member of the community, I use the centre daily with a close friend. While I understand the concern that the fitness centre is located in a non-City owned facility, the current location is advantageous to the community, and the closing of the centre would leave a significant portion of the local community without access to a nearby fitness centre. I greatly value the opportunity that this fitness centre has provided, and I am sure that the hundreds of regular participants who regularly use the facility would agree with my sentiment.	11/27/2019 1:27 AM
83	I would like express my sadness at hearing of the Sherbrook Pool closure, and would like to express to you why you should not close Sherbrooks Pool. I attended an aqualite fitness class on Monday November 25th, it was a full class with 27 people participating. I have been attending this class for just over a year now and the number of people participating are always in the 20's. Durring the past year and a half of attending aqualite twice a week my overall health has improved, I have dropped 2 sizes and make better health choices. I attribute this to the welcoming and friendly atmosphere at Sherbrook Pool. In the past I have also suffered from deperssion and anxiety, so I know when a space is not welcoming in the first 10 minutes of arriving. The location of the pool is ideal for me, if another location was as convenient to attend I would be attending there. Closeure of Sherbrooke Pool will inpose an additional cost of busfare to meet my recreational needs. An additional cost that I cannot afford. I hope that you will keep these things in mind when making your decision whether or not to close Sherbrooke Pool. Thank you.	11/26/2019 11:47 PM
84	It would be a shame to close our neighborhood library in Fort Garry. This library services a large residential area that includes 5 schools K to 12. It is a library that is used often and provides programs to children that encourages reading. In this age of technology it is important for our children to have access to .books and reading programs. I took my children to the reading programs during the week and summer programs and to this day they are strong readers. I now take my 2 year old grandson once a week to choose books. Even at a young age he enjoys this outing. This library us an important part of our neighborhood and should not be closed. I hope you will reconsider this decision.	11/26/2019 11:05 PM
85	I understand that difficult decisions need to be made but proposing closing libraries during hard economic times is akin to closing hospitals during an outbreak. Libraries are a vital part of our communities and provide resources and services that many people in our communities would not be able to access otherwise. When we are having a discussion about closing libraries and limiting community services as a whole for all Winnipeggers to use, what was the cost of the Bombers parade today? I am not a sports fan but I support the Whiteout parties and would normally support the Bombers parade because I think these provide a lot of civic pride which is certainly important BUT NOT when we are talking about how the City's financial situation is so dire.	11/26/2019 10:48 PM
86	I am very concerned about the closure of some library branches in our city. As a teacher at a school in Fort Garry, I know the value of the library in the lives of our students and their families. Many of our students speak of WALKING to their neighbourhood library. Closing the Fort Garry branch and leaving our families to visit other branches would place an unnecessary burden on some families who do not have vehicles. The time required to use public transportation for library visits would most likely decrease their use of the library. We know that children learn to read by reading and that choice of reading material is a huge contributing factor in the likelihood that they will be drawn to books and reading. At the school where I work, we have partnered with the Fort Garry library staff in encouraging our students to read and in promoting various reading events and programs at the library. We care deeply about the literacy of our students an I hope that you will strongly reconsider any plans to close these valuable community services.	11/26/2019 10:19 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

87	<p>From *name removed*: The women and families we support depend on City services such as community centres, pools, and libraries to provide affordable recreation. Kinsmen Sherbrook Pool in our neighbourhood is an essential service that even offers women-only nights to be inclusive of women from cultures that do not allow co-ed swimming. These cuts are very disappointing and will place more burden on centres like ours to fill in gaps.</p>	11/26/2019 9:37 PM
88	<p>Janice Lukes blog indicated on October 1 that a Multi-use/multi-generational recreation campus would be built in south Winnipeg and that the city had set aside \$30 million dollars to fund this. <a href="https://janicelukes.ca/blog/south-winnipeg-regional-recreation-campus-update-next-steps/">https://janicelukes.ca/blog/south-winnipeg-regional-recreation-campus-update-next-steps/</a> There is no indication of any money set aside for this recreation campus in this budget. Has that money been allocated elsewhere? Will it be used to reduce the number of closures of libraries, pools, arenas and community centers? Or will this money magically re-appear for south Winnipeg after this consultation is closed and all these other facilities have been slated to close?</p>	11/26/2019 9:13 PM
89	<p>Regarding Community Services Department - Operating Budget 2020 and Item in the report: Close Peguis Trail Health and Fitness Centre effective July 1, 2021. It is with regret that I hear that the City of Winnipeg, in it's proposed budget for the 2020 year going forward, is considering the closure of the Peguis Trail Fitness Centre (one of the city's leisure/fitness centres, located at 1400 Rothesay Street in North Kildonan). The proposed closure of this facility has me concerned for multiple reasons. First, it is a staple of the community and encourages a wide age group to maintain an active lifestyle. In reading your budget, I assume you want people to maintain an active lifestyle too. It also gives many a sense of community, since a lot of members live in the area. Though "Peguis Trail" is not fancy by any means (we do not have the latest and greatest equipment but the staples are there), it is affordable for many people who otherwise would not be able to afford a fitness membership. There are even students from Chief Peguis Junior High who visit the centre as part of their Phys-Ed activities. In this day and age where our youth are easily misguided into a harmful lifestyle (drugs, gang activity, crime) it is nice to see younger people using the facility whether it be lifting weights, running on the track or treadmill, even playing badminton, all while meeting friends and encouraging each other to a healthy lifestyle. It is ironic that some areas of the city would love to have a centre such as this one in their neighborhood for their youth and community to use, but the city, in it's shortsightedness, is pondering closing ours. North Kildonan does not have much in the way of city run fitness facilities. The closure of the Peguis Trail Fitness Centre will leave a gap for the community. In this day and age where health/wellness are in discussion, and obesity is at an all time high, I feel the fitness centre offers a chance to teach everyone, regardless of age, of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. It also teaches our youth respect, since the people who use the facility are multiple age groups and often interact with each other, wipe down the machines after use, etc. Please reconsider and keep Peguis Trail Fitness Centre running, for the benefit of the people of North Kildonan and Area. Yes the facility is not ultra modern, but then it probably costs less to run so it's all relative. Regards,*name removed*</p>	11/26/2019 7:29 PM
90	<p>To whom it may Concern, My name is *name removed*, and I would like to submit a comment concerning the recent budget cuts to certain libraries around the City, with focus on the West Kildonan Library. Libraries are important facets of our City's cultural, spiritual, mental, and physical lives, offering services to the public that otherwise might not be available. The reason why I think these Libraries should be saved is that they: 1. Have Indigenous resources, for both youth and adults. 2. Provide programming for youth, adults, and the elderly. 3. Have periodical sections with updated and back-issue publications of some of the most pertinent magazines. 4. Have Children's Areas where children may go to read, do homework, and experience various Children's programs that the Library provides. 5. The Digital Media sections, which include film, television, music, and video games which continue to provide enlightenment, education, and entertainment to the youth and adults of these parts of the City. Thank you for your time. Please take the time to reconsider your plans to cut funding from these public services, so that they may continue to serve as shining examples of knowledge, wisdom, and life for the citizens of the City of Winnipeg. Sincerely yours in Christ, *name removed*.</p>	11/26/2019 7:19 PM
91	<p>I am a senior and use the Penguins Trail fitness center regularly. The rate for seniors for one year is affordable for those on a fixed income. With the government's mentality regarding keeping fit for all age groups, it is in the best interest of the people of the city to keep open and maintain facilities that promote a healthy lifestyle.</p>	11/26/2019 6:57 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

92	<p>Please keep Peguis Trail and Fitness Center open. I did this report quickly and could comment further if asked. *name removed* I scanned the Community Services operating &amp; capital budget. Many service reductions are proposed to keep within the City of Winnipeg budget. Recreation services was part of this review. I feel fitness is a high priority to keep citizens health. I am most concerned with the change j) Close Peguis Trail and Fitness Center effective July 1, 2021.) I agree with the report that this closure would impact students, seniors and program participants that regularly use the facility. This keeps members active and reduces the overall health care costs in the city. The report shows a saving of (0.004.) \$4,000 a year. This is a very small and one of the lowest on the list. Fees are charged that cover variable operating costs. There would-be one-time costs to close the facility. Peguis is in the basement of a junior high school and is non-City owned. There would be no proceeds from the sale if closed. A few reasons to keep Peguis open: • It is the only city owned facility in the area with fitness equipment and walking/running track. Many of the younger or older members could not get to the other facilities. It is an older inexpensive facility that does not even have showers. • River East High School and Peguis Junior High have classes at Peguis during the day. Students get some exercise and see adults maintain fitness. It might inspire many youths to stay away from drug or criminal activities. • The exercise equipment and the running track are old. However, it is used by many and meet the purpose. This community comes to stay healthy. • Many fitness classes where members can exercise together in a fun way. • A senior walk run program every weekday morning. They play oldies music, and is a low-cost activity. • Many seniors use Peguis regularly. Some are over 70 and staying active keeps them healthy and away from the medical system. . • Many runners train in the winter. Several of them use this training to enter running events including the Manitoba and Boston Marathon. • Many City of Winnipeg employees maintain fitness at Peguis. • Local business get sales before and after exercising at Peguis. I would go elsewhere or stay home on a treadmill if Peguis closes. Many other might do other things and get out of shape.</p>	11/26/2019 6:29 PM
93	<p>These facilities are essential for our kids in the community. All winter long these arenas are full of kids practicing hockey &amp; skating with their families. Where do our kids go if you close all these facilities? No where, its less active time for these kids. Along with the pools in the summer, they are used by families and daycares to promote active living. Losing access to these resources will create greater issues in the future (mental health, obesity among others). We need more facilities like this, not less to better our city.</p>	11/26/2019 5:20 PM
94	<p>Please find a way to keep Peguis fitness centre open. As a senior I use the facility several times a week.It has been a major reason for my remaining healthy. The facility is well used by REC students as part of their phy. ed. program. I would prefer to pay more taxes in order not to lose city services.</p>	11/26/2019 5:08 PM
95	<p>You can't close Chief Peguis Trail fitness centre, because it's the only one in north east area. People in that area will have nowhere else to go. It's a very valuable gym for that area.</p>	11/26/2019 4:52 PM
96	<p>Closing libraries permanently is not acceptable. The Fort Garry branch was just renovated. There is a huge divide between the haves and have nots in this city. Libraries provide an equalizing factor. Libraries promote literacy and therefore democracy. No library closures please. Reducing Sunday hours is also unfair. This is a time when people who work during the week can access the space.</p>	11/26/2019 3:06 PM
97	<p>I support literacy would like to see the library remain open in North Fort Garry.</p>	11/26/2019 3:03 PM
98	<p>I am deeply concerned that the closure Sherbrook Pool is being discussed. This pool is such an important part of a community in desperate need of a safe public space to play, learn to swim and meet other folks. I personally use the Sherbrook pool with my 7 year old and I whenever I go I see many youth and adults from the neighbourhood safely and constructively spending their time. I know so many people who would miss it and I can't stress enough how important it is to so many of us from the West End.</p>	11/26/2019 1:47 PM
99	<p>Closing library branches (Fort Garry, Westwood, West Kildonan) is the wrong way to go about balancing the budget. Libraries are one of the last places in our communities that we can go and use the services and facilities without having to pay and we need more of them, not less of them. I live in Fort Garry, and part of why I chose to live in this neighbourhood is because I can walk - to work, to shop, to the library, to the community centre &amp; rinks. If the Fort Garry branch closes people in my community will have to go 4-6km further to visit another branch which will most likely require driving out of our way. I have used Fort Garry library for study space, computer &amp; printing, programs &amp; events, washroom facilities, and of course borrowing materials. Every time I go to the Fort Garry branch it is packed with people. We need this library branch here in the community where it is a vibrant part of peoples lives. Please don't close these three branch libraries.</p>	11/26/2019 1:12 PM
100	<p>Dear Councillors My name is *name removed*, I'm a resident of West Kildonan. This feedback is in regards to the proposal of closing the West Kildonan Library that was made by the Community Services Department. Libraries are part of our educational system, they are also important because they give us a sense of community. The West Kildonan Library is a place where families and individuals, both young and old, can go and feel safe and it gives young people a healthy alternative; for many like myself it was and is, an interesting and educational refuge, as opposed to some of the more negative aspects of street life. The West Kildonan Library is of special importance to our community and should remain so. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely; *name removed*</p>	11/26/2019 6:16 AM
101	<p>Please consider the future of the children in the area</p>	11/26/2019 4:27 AM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

102	Please think twice before closing the north Fort Garry library branch. This would be a blow to literacy, especially to low income families who rely upon this library for important programming and the means to helping their children learn to read and to love books.	11/26/2019 3:59 AM
103	I support literacy in the community and strongly recommend keeping the FG Library open!	11/26/2019 3:09 AM
104	My family and I use the rink for free skate and have such a great time doing it. There is always a shortage of rinks around the city for ice time for hockey as well. This will add to the shortage and take away from the kids that need it.	11/26/2019 2:56 AM
105	I have very grave concerns about the possible closure of Fort Garry Library. It is a vital service in an area that reflects a very diverse socio-economic background which includes many newcomers to our country and struggling with poverty. I have been using this library for the last 25 years and it appears busier than ever before with individuals from all walks of life. I cannot imagine our neighbourhood without this vital public service. I know many families and teenagers that see this local library as their safe haven in the city. We need to work together to figure out how to keep these library doors open! A large library, farther away, will not meet the immediate needs of those who cannot afford to own a car or pay bus fare to get to a farther location. Libraries in diverse Winnipeg communities need to remain open to ensure that all have access to information, resources, and technology. Fort Garry Library has been fabulous at supporting the community and the schools in the area. It needs to continue to provide phenomenal services to those in North Fort Garry and Whyte Ridge/Linden Woods. We need to think creatively about how to ensure that this public facility remains available for all. Perhaps the space can be shared or cost-saving measures can be put in place to fundraise or generate income. The Community Classroom at McNally is in high demand - perhaps similar options can bring in revenue to support the continued operations of this essential public facility. We need to work together to keep the doors open rather than simply announcing that branches will be closed. I would be happy to be part of a committee working to save the Fort Garry Library. I am including my e-mail address. Please tell me how I can help. *name removed*	11/26/2019 2:51 AM
106	Keeping the pools of Winnipeg open, particularly ones that serve underserved communities like the Sherbrook Pool, should remain open. They serve a vital place in core areas and provide a warm and welcoming place for people to exercise and maintain physical and mental health. Closing such a facility would be tragic for Winnipeg.	11/26/2019 2:49 AM
107	Cut the *removed* police budget instead of public libraries and fire halls *removed*	11/26/2019 2:31 AM
108	Please DO NOT close the Chief Peguis Fitness Facility... It is used year round by many residents in and around the North Kildonsn area. Thank you for your consideration in this area. *name removed*	11/26/2019 2:13 AM
109	It's difficult to believe that anyone would consider closing any libraries in Winnipeg. Libraries need to be within walking distance so that all can use them not just those with cars and money. Libraries are the great equalizer. They provide services, information, access to technology and healthy leisure activities for all ages. Access to information is a fundamental right of all, not just those who can get themselves to a library that might be a great distance from home. Libraries are the hub of any community. In our world today, we need more educated people not fewer.	11/26/2019 12:58 AM
110	I would like to request that Peguis Trail Fitness center remain open. As a low cost gym, it services a vulnerable sector of the population, and its location allows for easy use by students, which allows them to build healthy habits. Finally, it's the gym I go to, and I don't want to have to find another	11/25/2019 10:35 PM
111	Libraries are a social equalizer. Closing libraries and reducing operating hours of the remaining libraries will cripple Winnipeg in the future. When you go into a library, you can see people using computers - to which they do not have access in their own homes. This library access lets them advance their studies, apply for jobs and increase their capacity to contribute to society. There must be ways to re-adjust the staffing and programming in order to keep the buildings open and materials accessible to the general public. For many communities, these are the last, remaining open public spaces. Closing libraries will increase some funding availability in the short term but this is a very short-sighted decision that will have far-reaching negative impact in the future.	11/25/2019 4:37 PM
112	The proposed plan to reduce library services is very poorly thought-out. In the presentation, it is noted that there is "limited" which I believe will be inadequate resource to absorb the need for library services at other branches once the three targeted ones are closed. There are other options for reducing the cost of library services. It is small but the approx. \$80K for the library board could be used more effectively to staff branches. Cutting back closing time to 8 pm will not be too significant (although does that mean that staff will shut off the lights at 7:30 as they already turn them off at 8 for an 8:30 closure?) but eliminating all Sunday service is a horrible dis-service to Winnipeg. Can they look at how staff is reallocated for the rotating closures that occur? It seems like there must be something that can be done to allow libraries to stay open. We have more self-service which is supposed to free up staff for other functions so align staffing with that.	11/25/2019 4:16 PM
113	keep west kildonan library open	11/25/2019 4:15 PM
114	Closure of the Westwood library (amongst other closures listed) would have a detrimental impact on access to services in our area. The next nearest library is 6.5km away - a distance easily covered by vehicle transportation, but there is a large demographic of citizens who access the library as an essential service who do not have access to a vehicle. This would be especially harmful to the members of our community with disabilities, children and the elderly who access these services regularly.	11/25/2019 3:40 PM
115	I am against the proposed closing of the Westwood Library	11/25/2019 1:35 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

116	The Westwood Library is a busy, vibrant operation that provides much-needed services to people of all ages and abilities. In addition to the obvious concerns about Library closures that are mentioned in the Free Press article about the Westwood Library on November 24th, I have concerns regarding the criteria that was used to choose which Libraries will potentially close. It has been common knowledge in the Westwood neighborhood for a few years that a developer expressed interest in purchasing three adjoining City of Winnipeg properties on Allard Avenue - those of the vacated Police Academy, the Allard hockey rink, and the Westwood Library. The initial development suggested was residential and the most recent development suggested is a hockey complex similar to the one that already exists at Assiniboia Downs. It has also been rumored that the Library property has already been sold. Many citizens of Westwood are not prepared to accept the usual tired reason of financial constraints for cutting services. They deserve to know if they are potentially losing the valuable asset of a neighborhood Library for the benefit of a private developer. The report also mentions cancelling identified projects in the St James community which might include the renovation and expansion of the Civic Centre that has been promised for almost 10 years, and was indicated to be a certainty upon receipt of federal infrastructure funding. City Hall seems to be letting West Winnipeg decay while boosting development in South Winnipeg (including a new Library). I'd like the City to provide the statistics they use to support this trend.	11/25/2019 4:34 AM
117	As a long time tax payer and a senior who uses the W.K. Library often feel it should stay open.It has better access for people who take the transit than some of the other Libraries.	11/25/2019 2:00 AM
118	Closing public recreation and educational facilities at a time when we face increasing crime and alienation in our city seems very backwards. How much does having Sherbrook Pool open 67 hours a week save the city by keeping kids off the streets? How much does one hour of pool time cost vs. arresting and incarcerating a young offender? Give your heads a shake.	11/25/2019 1:09 AM
119	Please don't close Maginot or Bertrand rinks	11/24/2019 11:56 PM
120	our west kildonan library branch is a hugh part of our community.The staff welcomes us by name & it feels like coming home.It would be criminal to close it!	11/24/2019 10:22 PM
121	Regarding the possible closure of Fort Garry Library: Funds were expended to renovate/ upgrade this Library only very recently. The Library is used very frequently by community members of all ages--seniors, young mothers with preschool children, many students from Vincent Massey Collegiate which is in close proximity. In particular, Fort Garry is now home to a large New Canadian population and the location of this library affords them the opportunity to use computers as well as resource materials. Many reside in housing located on or near this area of Pembina Hwy making this library easily accessible for them. Members of the library staff have been active members of community organizations such as Fort Garry Network & Fort Garry/ St.Norbert Healthy Child Coalition participating in community events that highlight the services & supports available to community members & families. They actively reach out to promote the importance of literacy. It is imperative that this branch remain open as a vital service to the Fort Garry community.	11/24/2019 10:08 PM
122	DO NOT CLOSE PEGUIS TRAIL FITNESS CENTER. I've been going there for years and do not agree with closing it. The City better figure out another way to save money and stop taking services away the citizens of Winnipeg.	11/24/2019 8:01 PM
123	The neighbourhood children who are now able to walk to a pool or arena will no longer be able to do that. Arena ice time is tightly scheduled, closing arenas will make this worse. How is cutting back on leisure guide activities saving money? These are not free classes!	11/24/2019 2:18 PM
124	Please do not close the community swimming pools.	11/24/2019 2:13 AM
125	Chief Peguis gym is a great gym. There is a remarkable mix of members supporting the gym. Students, retirees and neighborhood people enjoy the social and community interaction. Please don't close our gym!!	11/24/2019 12:51 AM
126	Targeting the community of Windsor Park recreational facilities with both Maginot arena and the Windsor Park Pool, which listed over 6,800 average visits, for closure is incredibly short sighted in consideration of the recent community concerns about vandalism and escalating violence in the community. In addition, limiting and reducing free and drop in programming will further reduce recreational activities for the most vulnerable youth. They are unable to afford fee for programming or transportation to more distant venues. In addition, Happyland and Bertrand are all within walking/cycling for these youth and these will also be targeted. These decisions may result in reduced cost in the short term but increased need for policing and the court system will greatly outweigh any savings realized and in the long term will negatively impact mental health, physical health and juvenile violence and criminal activity. Once again Winnipeg is confusing the difference between COST and VALUE. Here we are, cutting our nose to spite our face in the areas which need these services the most. In a letter to the editor recently in the Wpg Free Press, Edmund Burke's advice in the 18th century still holds true today, "Mere parsimony is not economy. Expense and sometimes very great expense, is necessary to true economy. Economy is a distributive virtue and consists not in saving but in selection. Parsimony requires no providence, no sagacity, no powers of combination, no comparison, no judgement." Please consider these words and rethink the proposed budget to better serve those who have no other options. Community works better when we support services and support those that need it most.	11/23/2019 11:20 PM
127	Please try to work with community organizations in the inner city to keep Sherbrook Pool open. The community is effective at fundraising and could bring in external funders/donors. I go to the Sherbrook Pool almost every week and usually more than once per week. It's great that I can walk there and don't have to take a bus. It helps me stay healthy and it makes me really happy everytime I go there.	11/23/2019 11:12 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

128	<p>Cutting Leisure Guide Programs by 50% is absolutely not acceptable. The rich will still be able to afford their passes to centres, private sports programs, private swimming lessons, etc, but not the rest of us. Please reconsider this cut.</p>	11/23/2019 11:08 PM
129	<p>Please add my name to the many people who are alarmed at the proposal to close the West Kildonan, Westwood and Fort Garry libraries. The City of Winnipeg should be doing its utmost to expand social and intellectual services, the libraries being an essential component of a forward-looking society. The library is the most important institution in society - it is the font of information - even today, it is free to all - the great equalizer and place where everyone is equal and can pursue opportunity. The local libraries are community sources, community meeting places, community sanctuaries. There are innumerable number of stories of people being educated through the public library, being saved psychologically and socially by the public library - it's shocking to imagine that the city does not understand the role libraries play in individual citizens' lives, and how they benefit society on the wider scale. I have patronized the West Kildonan library all my life. If any change is need to that facility, it should be renovated or another built north in the Riverbend area to serve the young population there. But the community needs a library. I worked there as a teenager and saw the families and young children in the community who needed that library to study, research and commune. Then, people without means used the library to become educated - my family among them. It gave us opportunity, the possibility to hope. The same situation exists today. It is well-used and valued. The role of the library in my life is one reason I pursued a career as a teacher-librarian, because libraries foster lifelong literacy and learning, intellectual engagement and engagement in society. City funds need to be directed to the benefit of citizens. The poverty of so many people is leading to terrible social problems, for which we will pay for generations as we are paying for past mistakes. We need a big rethink of priorities. Treat poverty and crime as symptoms of disease and treat the symptoms. One of the cures is the library - vigorous programming - along with other crucial social programs - to get people involved with and caring about society. *name removed*</p>	11/23/2019 11:03 PM
130	<p>I can understand how the City of Winnipeg can think to close Peguis Trail Health &amp; Fitness there is so many people that enjoy the gym and the fitness classes that go on there. I recently bought a pass for over 400 dollars both my husband and I and many of our friends that join in on classes that are on Tuesday Thursday and Saturday. the amount of people that come now have doubled and the instructor has to group us into two classes so that everyone can work out. I would say that *comment removed*</p>	11/23/2019 10:36 PM
131	<p>I know. Let's close the pools and recreation opportunities for our kids. Then they can get their exercise by shoplifting Give your heads a shake city of Wpg</p>	11/23/2019 9:44 PM
132	<p>Targetting the community of Windsor Park recreational facilities with both Maginot arena and the Windsor Park Pool, which listed over 6,800 average visits, for closure is incredibly short sighted in consideration of the recent community concerns about vandalism and escalating violence in the community. In addition, limiting and reducing free and drop in programming will further reduce recreational activities for the most vulnerable youth. They are unable to afford fee for programming or transportation to more distant venues. In addition, Happyland and Bertrand are all within walking/cycling for these youth and these will also be targeted. These decisions may result in reduced cost in the short term but increased need for policing and the court system will greatly outweigh any savings realized and in the long term will negatively impact mental health, physical health and juvenile violence and criminal activity. Once again Winnipeg is confusing the difference between COST and VALUE. Here we are cutting our nose to spite our face in the areas which need these services the most. In a letter to the editor recently in the Wpg Free Press, Edmund Burke's advice in the 18th century still holds true today, "Mere parsimony is not economy. Expense and sometimes very great expense, is necessary to true economy. Economy is a distributive virtue and consists not in saving but in selection. Parsimony requires no providence, no sagacity, no powers of combination, no comparison, no judgement." Please consider these words and rethink the proposed budget to better serve those who have no other options. Sincerely, *name removed*</p>	11/23/2019 9:12 PM
133	<p>I have heard that the Maginot Arena is on a list of proposed arenas in the city to close. It's unfortunate that a meeting place in the community that is so important for today's youth as a safe place to meet and play and BE KIDS is at risk for closure. When all we hear about in the news is the rise in crime and the at risk youth in the city WHY ON EARTH would you consider taking away such a positive place for growth and athleticism?!! My family lives in Windsor Park and we are easily at Maginot rink 4 times a week between September and June. We are lucky enough to be able to walk. You take this away and all the sudden we are driving and it's not as convenient to go to and we simply won't use the facility as much. Shame on the City for this proposal.</p>	11/23/2019 8:24 PM
134	<p>As the *name removed*, we are one of 5 early years schools in the immediate vicinity of the Fort Garry Public Library. Our students walk to the library regularly for field trips and we have new students fill in library cards to utilize the library. Many of our students are new Canadian families with limited access and knowledge to local community resources. We also connect regularly with the library for community events we offer in our school as we teach our clientele about the many free resources offered in Fort Garry. A closure of this Library branch would certainly be a hardship for us as we would not bus to an alternate site, but more than that, many of our new families do not have their own transportation so rely on walking to the local library. I would strongly recommend the city reconsider this library closure.</p>	11/23/2019 8:04 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

135	I have been working in the Pembina Trails School Division (Ralph Maybank, Ecole Viscount Alexander, Ecole Crane, + Oakenwald Schools) for the past 31 yrs. Demographics have changed - we have a huge # of immigrant students at RM. The EAL teachers teach the students AND families about the library and our classes attend the Fort Garry Library yearly. Most of our students are bus students so their access to a library is through the school or walking from their apartments (ie: Fort Garry Library). Some of our student's families do not have computers so the library provides access to their new world. Closing the Fort Gary location will result in a generation that won't have access + may never use a library as habits begin early in life. Our students need more, not less access to print, their language books, computers, etc.	11/23/2019 4:21 PM
136	I believe the closing of the Fort Garry Library is ill advised and a disservice to area residents and the near by Vincent Massey High School students. The high school is steps away and provides a valuable resource for these young minds.	11/23/2019 3:58 PM
137	I am not a parent but it seems to me we should keep community centres open. As I see it, we would have less children out doing bad things if they had more community centres to go to, Not less!	11/23/2019 3:25 PM
138	Bertrand and Maginot arenas are essential to St. Boniface minor hockey. Our 3 boys use these rinks for the Leisure Guide programs, free skate evenings, as well as hockey games and practices. They have learned to skate there. The values to our community is huge. Get some better instructors or programs in there and charge more. Turn free skate into Twoonie skate. Find a way to run the arenas that is more cost effective, but don't close them. Our children need places to go instead of sitting on the couch in front of a device, keeping kids off the streets and out of trouble. Closing libraries, arenas and pools doesn't help our city's current problem.	11/23/2019 3:04 PM
139	The small community of Windsor Park benefits from having the Windsor Park, Happyland pools and the Bertrand and Maginot arenas open! They are always packed! Don't take away this healthy fun from our children! Our family alone spends 4-6 hours year round at these facilities. The daycare son Windsor park use the pool twice a week all summer! Ice already costs \$205/hr but why not make booking more accessible and involve schools for daytime bookings at discounted rates? As a hockey parent, it's hard to find ice I'm baffled by this decision!	11/23/2019 2:44 PM
140	Seriously, don't axe the Windsor Park Pool, by Winakwa. That is so heavily utilized. To save money, quit mowing all of that green space that is hardly utilized in parks. We just need pathways, picnic tables mowed and actual soccer, football and other sports fields. And put wildflowers in the boulevards. They are no maintenance. We will save money and help the Earth.	11/23/2019 5:24 AM
141	Cutting funding for things that keep people busy and connected (Grants for art programming, pools, community centers) in their communities is the worst idea you can have in a mental health and opioid crisis. It's clear the city does not actually care about its citizens, and I am deeply disappointed.	11/23/2019 4:56 AM
142	Libraries are vital to the wellness of the city, they serve the underserved and cutting these resources is detrimental. Money should be put into the libraries we have (thinking specifically of my local Westwood Library) and not closed.	11/23/2019 4:46 AM
143	Windsor park pool is so important to the community please dont close	11/23/2019 3:34 AM
144	Taking away recreational activities and facilities for children is last resort, not first resort. Quit holding children hostage in your process.	11/23/2019 3:29 AM
145	There is enough negative influences in everyone's lives these days but especially teens.....I truly believe getting back to the basics for them is extremely important... ..kids need places to excel and be kids.... .please think about this!!!	11/23/2019 3:26 AM
146	This is in regard to the proposed closure of Maginot and Bertrand Arenas. I am at a loss to understand this. I also heard today that there is talk about closing Happyland Pool and Windsor Park Pool. What exactly is going on here? Are we just going to close everything? In regards to the rinks So where exactly are kids in this area to go? There already isn't enough ice time. What about all the hockey games, ice time for practices, open public skate? Where will this happen? The hard working families in this area rely of these facilities for the above mentioned. They are apart of our community. I sure hope if you are planning to close these two facilities that a new one is planned that houses two rinks. I just saw on the news this evening that the city wants to spend 1.8 million on studying compost pick up/pilot project. Are you kidding me.	11/23/2019 3:23 AM
147	Please do not take away our pools and arenas. Our kids need these to help them stay out of trouble. Especially in our long winters where there isn't much to do.	11/23/2019 3:09 AM
148	Please do not close more libraries in our city. We (family of 4 with 2 young children) use visit our local library (West Kildonan) regularly. Our children love reading new books. We love the free activity that gets us out of the house. We usually walk and enjoy the outdoors on our way. Library services are vital to our community!!	11/23/2019 1:27 AM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

149	I am opposed to any consideration of the closure of the Peguis Trail Health and Fitness Centre. This facility provides a valuable, affordable recreation resource to adults, seniors and students. It is affordable and without it many seniors who use it regularly would have no where else in the area to exercise. The only other city gym in the area is co-located at the Elmwood pool and is a completely inadequate small room with limited fitness equipment. PTHFC has a running track which encourages and allows for walking, run and jogging lanes allowing a wide cross section of the population to engage in active movement. During the week it supplements student lead fitness time. Early engagement in fitness leads to a higher likelihood of life long fitness, reducing health issues and costs for health care. The gym not only provides fitness opportunities in an area underserved by them but supports a social aspect for residents of the area who can visit and be less isolated while they exercise. The hours of the centre allow for people to exercise throughout the day allowing for fitness to occur as people's schedules permit. I have personally worked out in the centre at early, morning mid day and evenings and have always found the facility seeing significant use at all times of the year. Rather than a consideration of closing more efforts should be made to highlight and support this valuable resource.	11/22/2019 8:43 PM
150	Closing community libraries would be a terrible loss for the city. I live in Fort Garry, and walk to the library on a regular basis. My children love the library. It's a crucial part of promoting literacy, providing community resources, and strengthening community bonds. If we had to drive to the library we would use it far less, and that would be sad. Libraries are one of the few places left with no financial barrier to use it, and that is critical for many families, particularly low-income ones. Please reconsider this proposal to close Westwood, West Kildonan, and Fort Garry libraries. It will make Winnipeg weaker.	11/22/2019 5:03 PM
151	Hello...my feedback is in respect to the possible closure of the West Kildonen Library. This particular library is dear to many hearts in the surrounding neighbourhood...as I suspect can be said for many of the city libraries. It is an older person area based on historical establishment as apposed to the newer and upcoming areas south winnipeg. West K is used by so many of our elderly and low income people...computers...books...resources..networking. I believe that the salter library, although it has just recieved an upgrade is of lesser value to the community. It could be better served to that area an adapted to another organization particularly geared to that area of the north end. So many things in life are no longer free to those who need it...libraries are free and valued resource please reconsider this option for savings at budget discussions. Thank you*name removed*	11/22/2019 4:35 PM
152	Don't close libraries.	11/22/2019 1:54 PM
153	The cuts proposed are absolutely outrageous. I would rather raise property taxes significantly than lose any of these crucial services.	11/22/2019 5:36 AM
154	I am writing to argue the closing of the Fort Garry Library. As a life long resident of Fort Garry with a family who all use the library, I think it would be a great loss to the community. Whenever we have gone into the library it has been full of children, students, adults; all making use of the library as a community space. I am wondering if the decision was the number of books put into circulation or the number of patrons who use the facilities. I think the loss of this space would negatively impact the area and remove a safe and inclusive space where people are able to work, study, relax and be in an environment that embodies the community. I would urge a reconsideration of the closure of the Fort Garry Library.	11/22/2019 5:03 AM
155	I hope this is a joke. As a mother of two kids under the age of five living in fort Gary I would be devastated if you closed our library. I pay a good amount of tax and rely on the library to walk my kids to almost weekly. Also the proposal to reduce leisure guide activities by 50% is shocking.	11/22/2019 4:54 AM
156	Yes, the proposed closure of the Westwood library is unacceptable. Healthy libraries are critical for so many people. Please reconsider this proposal	11/22/2019 4:00 AM
157	-This area should be prioritized for increased funding, not cuts. Cuts in this area will disproportionately impact lower-income families not able to pay for alternate recreation options. The city budget should reflect equity for its most vulnerable citizens. -No library branches or community recreation facilities should be closed or hours cut. -Maintain existing funding for free/drop-in recreation programming. -Provide funding for multilingual collections at WPL to be properly indexed. -If funding must be cut in this area of the budget, here are some alternate ideas: reduce purchasing of pseudoscientific 'wellness' literature at WPL; get rid of the security screening at Millennium; partner with universities/colleges to help provide some recreation programming at lower cost (eg. student-led)	11/22/2019 3:55 AM
158	The non considerations of seniors and their ability to get to a certain place eg. library one of the most important pillars of democracy or spray parks for grandchildren or just a park for a dog to run. Is of utmost importance to us as seniors. We use all of them all the time. Take it away from seniors and you will have a fight on your hands.	11/22/2019 2:10 AM
159	Hi, I believe that you should not close the Westwood Library. It is a great spot for those living in the Assiniboine community to connect with others in the community. It is too far to drive to the Charleswood library or the St.James library. Also the library offers great childrens programs to those in the community as well as programs for adults. I love the library; if you have to rebuild do so, but do not leave our community without a library.	11/22/2019 12:34 AM
160	Please don't close the Westwood public library. I have so many memories there and love it. It is one of my favourite places and would very sad if it got shut down	11/21/2019 9:26 PM



## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

161	Please do not close the Westwood library. It is the closest library to me and the only one I can walk to. I also have fond memories at this place. I would love to keep going there and having some more memorable moments. Please keep the library so that other people can have memories and learn.	11/21/2019 8:49 PM
162	Hello my name is *name removed* and I say keep the library	11/21/2019 8:48 PM
163	*comment removed*	11/21/2019 8:45 PM
164	Hi I am a student from Westwood Collegiate. Do not close the Westwood Public Library. I made my best friend there, and it is the only public library that I can walk to.	11/21/2019 8:44 PM
165	I don't think that we should be closing our public libraries because we need the knowledge. I know your probably thinking that we can use our phones, but not everyone owns a phone, or a computer, or a laptop. For some people the library is their only source of information.	11/21/2019 8:43 PM
166	Personally I don't think that closing certain public libraries is a good idea, because so many people rely on our libraries for access to the internet, books, research, knowledge, and more.	11/21/2019 8:43 PM
167	hello i am child and i dont use library so i say let it go	11/21/2019 8:43 PM
168	hello, I am *name removed* from Westwood colligate. Do not close the librarsy its very resourceful if you cant get any electronics anywhere and the library is your only option its very important that it stays opened	11/21/2019 8:43 PM
169	Please don't close the Westwood Library. I will be very sad if you do. :/	11/21/2019 8:41 PM
170	i neeb boks to lern ho to reed fur my scol proget	11/21/2019 8:39 PM
171	DONT CLOSE IT!!!! -*name removed*	11/21/2019 8:39 PM
172	don't close it	11/21/2019 8:39 PM
173	As a 14 year old I have gone to the library once I don't care if it closes	11/21/2019 8:39 PM
174	Protect libraries. Do not close a single one. They are the backbone of communities. Every elected official involved in the closure of a single library needs to seriously consider why they got into office and to protect their communities from losing what makes them communities. Be the heroes to libraries that the electorate will remember next election cycle.	11/21/2019 7:05 PM
175	I found this budget very concerning. It would be nice if the city would acknowledge the big part that community services play in making our city safer, friendlier and happier. My family goes to the library every single week. We take our kids to encourage a love of reading and learning. We have seen the library evolve and change with the times, and they are doing amazing things with very limited resources. Cutting those resources further would be devastating to some areas. The same can be said for city pool and leisure guide activities. I know many people who rely on the leisure guide for affordable activities for their children. Enrolling them in private dance or sports is too expensive and not an option. Please, please consider this when finalizing the community services budget.	11/21/2019 6:54 PM
176	Please do not shut down any libraries in the city. You have no idea how important they are for neighborhoods in allowing safe spaces for people to come and read, or hang out, or generally be in a place not causing a problem but wanting a safe space to be. By closing down libraries you further will cause economic harm to people, including families, who will have to go farther for resources they may need including internet access, faxing/copying, or literally even providing access to LITERACY for children and adults.	11/21/2019 4:54 PM
177	Do not close the Westwood Library. Stop the transit cuts.	11/21/2019 4:43 PM
178	Don't close Westwood library, libraries are essential hubs for communities.	11/21/2019 4:04 PM
179	My sister and her husband live in the vicinity of Westwood library. They bring their children to the library on a weekly basis because my little nephew loves to read books. If the city closes the library, my nephew won't have a place nearby to read his favorite books. Please reconsider closing the library as a budget cut item. Libraries provide more services than can ever be replaced. Cut funding elsewhere	11/21/2019 4:04 PM
180	I read the proposal that the Westwood library was to be shut down in the fall of next year. Whatever you can do to save this library would be really appreciated. I've been taking my two kids there every week for the past seven years, and it's been an incredible resource for our family. Every time we go, there's always lots of people in there, and the kids section is incredible. My boys love picking out new books to help them learn to read, and the fact that it's within walking distance to our house makes it even better since the kids get exercise too. The next closest library is in Charleswood, and that's a 12 minute drive away. Loosing this library would be tragic for our community.	11/21/2019 3:52 PM
181	Please rethink all of these cuts to libraries as well as other city services. Libraries are such an important part of our community. I would rather have an increase in property tax than lose all of these services that are being proposed. Please think twice about all of these cuts.	11/21/2019 3:34 PM
182	It is very disappointing to hear about the potential closures of community libraries. As a new parent, I have enjoyed bringing my child to story times and sing-alongs. As a teacher, I think it's very important for families to have equitable access to community libraries, ideally within walking distance.	11/21/2019 2:38 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

183	I do not feel library services should be reduced and libraries should not be closed. Widening Kenaston Blvd is a very expensive luxury. Libraries, transit, community centers, and other similar services are an essential and a basic requirement for many citizens.	11/21/2019 1:55 PM
184	These cuts are dire and are will only hurt communities and those that depend on the library's services. The branches that are slated to be closed are well used in their communities and the one branch just underwent extensive renovations. If the city is actually concerned about saving money they should not be closing a library that they just spend money on renovating. A city budget is so much more than just numbers in a ledger. There are real people that will be affected by these cuts and for whom the city will become much less livable. That is the debt that the mayor and council must put first.	11/21/2019 1:17 PM
185	I do not agree with the suggestions to close libraries to balance the budget. The value of having libraries in these communities should be taken into consideration. For example, Westwood Library is the only library in that area with the next closest being St.James. Libraries provide services besides book lending; being a third space for the community is an important role.	11/21/2019 12:35 PM
186	Keep public libraries open	11/21/2019 8:05 AM
187	In regards to cuts being proposed, especially addressing the closing of Westwood library, as well as cutting leisure guide programs by 50%. This is not sound planning. Here we sit, in a city surrounded by criminal activity and drug crisis in the rise, and we are planning to TAKE AWAY affordable programs and places for our youth to go and do other things than getting into trouble? My family and I use the Westwood library all the time. It is always a busy library, supported by the community, and providing the community with great programs and interesting things to do. The nearby pre-school takes regular field trips there, and the community centers and schools attached make for a wonderful area for youth to spend their time. Please do NOT take our library! As for leisure guide programs, I honestly don't know what I would have done without it's programming when my kids were small, and to this day! It is an affordable, local way to try programming to see what you like, especially when money is tight, with a small time commitment. These programs benefit everyone-they build confidence, support local community centers, pools, (they also expose patrons to venues and activities they might not otherwise venture in to), and people. Taking away the programming is counter-productive to what the city is trying to encourage in our youth-become involved, give back to our community! Please don't do this! The city is in enough trouble-don't take away our good and positive things! *name removed*	11/21/2019 5:56 AM
188	Please consider the social value of libraries before cutting funding resources for them! It is one of the few remaining spaces people can go to exist without having to purchase anything - and is a wonderful space for everyone in Winnipeg! Libraries are an invaluable resource and I would be loathe to see them cut in Winnipeg.	11/21/2019 5:49 AM
189	These are brutal cuts being proposed in this presentation. It is simply unacceptable to close and defund so many libraries and community recreation services. On the contrary, we should be expanding them. Thriving libraries and community centres are the sign of a healthy city with a strong commitment to democracy and equality.	11/21/2019 4:51 AM
190	Hello, As a future Library Technician, I am concerned by the shortening of library hours to 8:00 pm and service hours on Sundays. This shortage further prevents patrons from accessing the library. Also, the cancellation of development projects for West Kildonan Library, including the GoLibrary-Old Kildonan Ward, Westwood library and St. James Library. Libraries need development projects to enhance services to our communities. Thirdly, the possibility of closures to the following libraries: Fort Garry, Westwood and West Kildonan public libraries would be a mistake. According to the Manitoba Library Association, 2,862,602 patrons visited the Winnipeg Public Library in 2018. Libraries are vital for our communities because they provide material for free such as books, periodicals, and movies. Lastly, libraries host educational workshops, programs, makerspaces and literary events. Patrons also use libraries for necessities, such as using the internet and printing documents. Closing these libraries would be a mistake. Members of our communities need libraries to enrich their lives, and they need saving. Thank you, *name removed*	11/21/2019 4:16 AM
191	Instead of closing the libraries, why not rotate the days they are open? West Kildonan library services over 19 schools, as well as seniors and preschool programs. Not everyone has the ability or the money to travel to other libraries further away. Unusual as it may be, students still use public libraries for things like internet for homework. Many families do not have computers and Internet as they can not afford them. If you close the libraries, you are going to find an increase in youth crime and a drop in school attendance, as well as an increase in senior health issues. Social places like libraries do more than just provide books.	11/21/2019 3:51 AM
192	Keep west k library open and in the same location. It is essential to the community	11/21/2019 3:51 AM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

193	The thought of closure of the Westwood library is absolutely frustrating. It is always busy, bustling and a welcoming resource for many in the community. There are several people at my school (John Taylor collegiate) who don't have access to Internet and rely on this site for making resumes, doing research, or simply having a place to escape. The staff at this site know people by name. I would be incredibly disappointed to see a community seeing more theft and crime lose and important public resource and establishment. Shame on our city for even thinking of cutting out access to resources as basic as a library. If you're going to cut garbage pick up for apartments you're only going to aggravate the poverty situation. It's those in larges homes spread far apart that can afford more taxes and whose services probably cost our city the most, How dare you gouge the poor and think you're righteous for balancing a budget. You need to help the poor. They require more social assistance, healthcare and policing if you can't provide them basic services. Policing, social assistance and healthcare expenses can be saved when you treat the poor with more dignity.	11/21/2019 3:28 AM
194	Please do not close the Westwood library. My family of four goes there at least twice a week to encourage them to read more. Every time we visit it is packed with kids and adults. Loosing this facility would be a horrible decision for the community.	11/21/2019 3:19 AM
195	I use the west Kildonan library all the time, it's close and convenient and I would hate to lose it. That is all.	11/21/2019 3:07 AM
196	NO CLOSURES. Raise taxes!	11/21/2019 2:59 AM
197	Yeah, uh, West K library is very active and an extremely helpful source of information, stop cutting the budget of programs that improve the city.	11/21/2019 2:53 AM
198	We need you to support the community that supports you and ensure that our library does not close. This library is a hub. From here, the students from Vincent Massey not only study but come into contact with vital community services, including mental health outreach, job opportunities, further education, etc. There are always newcomers here, getting to know their new country and being connected to the community. The library employs our neighbors and friends; fellow parents at our children's school. Fort Garry Library is a vital resource for the children and parents in the area, especially the lower-income areas. The parents have access to free reading and play programs that teach the children and parents skills that they otherwise would not be able to do, and prepare this underserved community's children for kindergarten. We personally go there every week, and it's a cornerstone of our family life. Our children know the librarians by name, and the librarians have watched our children grow from infancy. Our kids learned to sound out their first words, snuggled with me on the couch in the children's section. It's incredible to see the librarians now recommend new chapter books for them, or help them find new genres to explore. The fact that there was a library in walking distance was a deciding factor for us in purchasing a house here. Please fight for this vital community resource. Libraries are the backbone of a community and this is a campaign worth your time and energy to invest in. If you have millions for True North, you have the money for libraries. My and the votes in our neighborhood that elected Sherri Rollins and John Orlikow will be affected by their stance on this. Regards, *name removed*.	11/21/2019 2:53 AM
199	I have been to the Westwood Library many times these past few months and I'm sad to hear that it will close in the future. Our young families need to bring their children to a local library. They enjoy the various programs offered. Reading is very important in their development. Keep this Library open.	11/21/2019 2:44 AM
200	Do not close westwood library. There's nothing else like it in the area! It's a great resource for the community	11/21/2019 2:34 AM
201	I would like to express my deepest concern and adamant opposition to the proposed library cuts and closures. City council should be advocating for libraries and their services. The proposed cuts to evening and sunday hours further reduce access to library space and programming for many people namely those who hold jobs within business hour sectors (Mon-Fri 9-5). Furthermore closing library locations is not the answer to providing access across our city. Libraries are free public spaces (a rarity in this day and age) and need to be there for citizens whenever they may need it.	11/21/2019 2:29 AM
202	We are in the middle of a meth crisis with high crime rates and poverty. Community Services is one area of the city that is KEY to prevention and support. Especially for youth. Don't cut the budget. Cut out the damn police copter and invest in the future of our city and our youth for once.	11/21/2019 2:18 AM
203	The libraries are a asset that's been used by many in the community and they should not be closed down.	11/21/2019 2:16 AM
204	I support improving the efficiency of delivered City services. The consolidation of the Corydon + Ft Garry Libraries into a new Grant Park Library seems a good solution given the age of the older library Facilities.	11/21/2019 1:50 AM
205	I thought you were supposed to be opening more of the libraries instead of having them all closed on Wednesdays. And now you're going to close them on even more days, and close whole libraries? *comment removed*. And how would you even save money anyway if the people who work at those libraries get sent to other libraries? The water fountain can't cost that much.	11/21/2019 1:50 AM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

206	Please do NOT close the Westwood Library! we enjoy all its many programs for kids and how convenient it is to have a library in our neighbourhood. The staff are always very friendly (my son won't stop talking about David and how he can't wait to go to the library and do a program with David!). As a teacher, I value the education received from reading a variety of books you can hold in your hands. I would like to continue to bring my children to the neighbourhood library in Westwood. Please do not remove that opportunity from my children. Please do not close the Westwood Library.	11/21/2019 1:45 AM
207	Libraries are one of the only places where people of all ages and backgrounds can exist without the expectation of spending money. Libraries are a wealth of resources for education, professional development, a place for school kids to stay if their parents are late picking them up, as well as serving numerous other important functions in our communities. Closing these important places will have consequences on the health of our community. Please reconsider the proposed closures and service cuts.	11/21/2019 1:42 AM
208	Please do NOT shut down West Kildonan library. The library provides a lot of value to the people of West Kildonan and nearby communities, in a very accessible location near major schools. It would be a tremendous loss to lose it.	11/21/2019 1:38 AM
209	More library services, not less library services.	11/21/2019 1:26 AM
210	If you close the Fort Garry library you will lose a valuable resource for the community. We visit the library weekly and utilize its programs. When we go there we usually run into classmates and community members. It is usually full of students, families, seniors, and adults. There are 7 schools (St. Maurice, Ralph Maybank, General Byng, Vincent Massey, Viscount Alexander, Crane and Oakenwald), k-12, all within walking distance of this library. There is a lot of people who use the computers in this library. We use the library because it is in the neighbourhood. Where is the environmental benefit to have to drive to a library when there is one close enough to walk or bike ride too? My children are just getting to the age when they can visit the library on their own. If you need to balance the budget cut things at the Millennium library. It is expensive to get to and is usually a once a year trip, not a weekly one. Closing the Fort Garry Library will not increase use of other programs in other locations. I won't be using the library if it is not conveniently close.	11/21/2019 12:54 AM
211	Don't close the Westwood Library or the Fort Garry Library! They are still heavily relied on and used by many, please don't cut these vibrant pillars of our city and our communities.	11/21/2019 12:49 AM
212	TO THOSE WHO MATTER AND BRIAN BOWMAN, As a Winnipeg citizen that has lived here for 27 years, my voice matters. Closing community centres and libraries is not the way to go. It will create more empty buildings/lots that we have already and most importantly, our communities will become less and less. These libraries served the people in all of their communities and yet you're trying to force us to conform to your ways and going downtown in order to go a library? I THINK NOT! You want money? Use the money from the many traffic lights we have and parking meters. There's a lot out there. Why don't you cut City of Winnipeg employees, who drive around in their City of Winnipeg trucks with a group of them standing and contributing to nothing but a easy paycheck? *comment removed*	11/21/2019 12:00 AM
213	please do not close libraries, what kind of city do we want here?	11/20/2019 11:56 PM
214	Please do not shut our library down! Living in West K, the library is the one true gathering place our community has! The nearby schools use it all the time as well as families like mine! Our library helped develop my children's love of reading and if given a choice to go further into the North End to take books out, we would not be going due to safety concerns. Leave West K Library alone!!!!	11/20/2019 11:51 PM
215	I can't believe you are considering closing west Kildonan library and other community libraries. What determination was used to select these libraries? Millennium library should be closed and sold. What is the dollar value of savings there? Oh but we don't want to downgrade the downtown area any more than it already is. How do you compare that to closing a community library? Do you know how many times I've taken my kids to millennium library? Zero. Why? Because I don't feel safe taking them downtown, it's a 20 minute drive, and I Can't afford the parking costs. Libraries are one of the only free meeting places for community members. For students. For anyone that needs a safe place to go. Please, please, do not close our libraries.	11/20/2019 11:51 PM
216	West Kildonan Library is very important to our community. The closing of this library would be detrimental to the people who live here! Please do not close our library.	11/20/2019 11:16 PM
217	Please don't close West Kildonan Library, I'm constantly going there to study because it's the only place nearby, and it has a convenient bus stop!	11/20/2019 11:08 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

218	<p>Closing libraries harms communities. Making the accessibility of learning materials more difficult thereby restricts access to knowledge, after-school programming for youth, and a place to connect with others. "For millennia libraries have acquired resources, organized them, preserved them and made them accessible (or not) to patrons. But the forms of those resources have changed — from scrolls and codices; to LPs and LaserDiscs; to e-books, electronic databases and open data sets. Libraries have had at least to comprehend, if not become a key node within, evolving systems of media production and distribution. Consider the medieval scriptoria where manuscripts were produced; the evolution of the publishing industry and book trade after Gutenberg; the rise of information technology and its webs of wires, protocols and regulations. 2 At every stage, the contexts — spatial, political, economic, cultural — in which libraries function have shifted; so they are continuously reinventing themselves and the means by which they provide those vital information services." "Public libraries are often seen as "opportunity institutions," opening doors to, and for, the disenfranchised. 6 People turn to libraries to access the internet, take a GED class, get help with a resumé or job search, and seek referrals to other community resources. A recent report by the Center for an Urban Future highlighted the benefits to immigrants, seniors, individuals searching for work, public school students and aspiring entrepreneurs: "No other institution, public or private, does a better job of reaching people who have been left behind in today's economy, have failed to reach their potential in the city's public school system or who simply need help navigating an increasingly complex world."" "Partly because of their skill in reaching populations that others miss, libraries have recently reported record circulation and visitation, despite severe budget cuts, decreased hours and the threatened closure or sale of "underperforming" branches. 9 Meanwhile the Pew Research Center has released a series of studies about the materials and services Americans want their libraries to provide. Among the findings: 90 percent of respondents say the closure of their local public library would have an impact on their community, and 63 percent describe that impact as "major."" Libraries also bring communities together in times of calamity or disaster. Toyo Ito, architect of the acclaimed Sendai Mediatheque, recalled that after the 2011 earthquake in Japan, local officials reopened the library quickly even though it had sustained minor damage, "because it functions as a kind of cultural refuge in the city." He continued, "Most people who use the building are not going there just to read a book or watch a film; many of them probably do not have any definite purpose at all. They go just to be part of the community in the building."" - Library as Infrastructure, Shannon Mattern Please reconsider these proposed cuts.</p>	11/20/2019 10:44 PM
219	<p>I think closing the Westwood Library is an irresponsible, horrible plan. The programs for the kids there have helped me as a kid, my son and my nephew and now my grandson. I watched my parents, aunts and neighbours go there as a kid and continue to use today. Westwood Library is in a safe location and easily accessible for someone like me who is disabled. With all the violence, crime and decay in this city it seems so foolish to eliminate the very few positive safe places we have for seniors, adults and kids.</p>	11/20/2019 10:41 PM
220	<p>The fort garry library is one of the most convenient places to study along pembina especially with the amount of schools near the area. It is a bike ride away for many people opposed to the distance from the library opening in grant park.</p>	11/20/2019 10:33 PM
221	<p>Stop cutting essential services that make this place liveable. *comment removed*</p>	11/20/2019 10:25 PM
222	<p>The proposed closure of the Western Kildonan would be detrimental to the area. It is highly useful to the demographic of the area, and also very well used and always busy.</p>	11/20/2019 10:22 PM
223	<p>Stop the library cuts!</p>	11/20/2019 10:05 PM
224	<p>Please keep the fort garry library branch open</p>	11/20/2019 9:56 PM
225	<p>Closing libraries is foolish. Close Bell MTS Place!!</p>	11/20/2019 9:44 PM
226	<p>Please do not cut funding and/or close library branches. West Kildonan Library has been a part of my life since I moved here 15 years ago, and is now a big part of my kids' lives. Cut bloated executive salaries instead of literacy programs for our future generations.</p>	11/20/2019 9:42 PM
227	<p>Keep fort Garry library open</p>	11/20/2019 9:41 PM
228	<p>Hello, I am extremely angry about the City of Winnipeg's ridiculous decision to slash library services in the city. Winnipeg Public Library receives nearly 3 million visits per year (based on 2018 numbers), and provides services to citizens of all ages and all socioeconomic backgrounds. Libraries are basically the ONLY space left where everyone is welcome. Cutting off access to library collections, services and spaces will especially have a negative effect on marginalized groups who rely on the library for important services like employment assistance, ESL learning, and getting connected to social services. It is ridiculous that the province's capital is so short sighted as to decrease library services when other, clearly more forward thinking cities like Halifax, Calgary and Edmonton have been increasing library services, and building spectacular new libraries. I used to be proud to call Winnipeg home, but this (as well as other decisions made by our City) really makes me wish I lived somewhere like Calgary. I sincerely hope that the City will reverse their decision. Regards,*name removed*</p>	11/20/2019 9:36 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

229	Hello Community Services Department, I am writing to voice my disagreement with the proposed changes to City of Winnipeg library services and open hours. As a member of a large non-profit organization, I would like the Department to know that we, in addition to a multitude of other committees and groups, utilize Winnipeg libraries on Sundays to conduct meetings. The amount of libraries open on Sundays already is not enough to meet this need of the many organizations, committees and groups in the City as we often have trouble booking space. As the library budget has not increased greatly since 2013 (0.56%), I am respectfully requesting that the Department reconsider the cutback or closure of vital library services and operating hours. Sincerely, *name removed*	11/20/2019 9:34 PM
230	I would like to see a consolidation of service locations so that we can more efficiently deliver existing services.	11/20/2019 9:27 PM
231	Libraries should be some of the last services cut. Run-away police budgets, city employees wasting time and those *removed* Jets parties should be targeted first and hard. Public libraries provide vital opportunities for the citizens of our city, offering learning, many free services and good, clean spaces for people to visit. *comment removed*	11/20/2019 9:22 PM
232	Please keep the libraries open with the most hours as possible. I use the library with my kids. Sometimes we can only get there on evenings or weekends. Libraries are so important to this community.	11/20/2019 9:19 PM
233	Don't close West Kildonan Library. It is a vital part of our community. Many seniors (like me) can walk to this library; young people have a place to go instead of hanging around the local corner store. This end of town needs all the recreational opportunities possible. Your nickel and dime budget will have a huge impact on hundreds of families. Stop building new housing developments on the outskirts that require huge infrastructure \$ to maintain once the developers have made their fortunes and gone on to the next project. This makes me so mad. This is not just recreation, this is education and in today's world, we especially need our young people to become educated and to enjoy seeking knowledge in their local, community library.	11/20/2019 9:15 PM
234	I cannot stress how much I personally disagree with cutting any library services or closing any branches. My daughter is 8, and has a love of reading that has grown from visiting libraries her whole life. Imagine depriving future generations a love and appreciation of community spaces and the written word. Please reconsider any cuts to the libraries.	11/20/2019 9:13 PM
235	Growing up, the City of Winnipeg libraries proved to be invaluable in developing my love for reading, learning and becoming a part of my local community. Sunday afternoons in my house always meant time at the local library to get lost in a book or take part in a program to learn a new skill. The services that our libraries provide give communities in Winnipeg the opportunities they need to succeed. There's a child living in poverty in Garden City who relies on the West Kildonan branch for a quiet place to do their homework if things are too chaotic at home. There's a senior in St. Charles who goes to the Westwood branch to take computer classes and learn how to stay connected to their family. There's a university student in Fort Garry who needs access to a computer to complete assignments and succeed in school. There's a single mom in St. Boniface who work long hours and can only visit the library on a Sunday, but still needs a place to take her kids. There's a minimum wage worker in Fort Rouge who works irregular hours until 8pm, and needs that extra bit of time at the end of the day to pick up their books. There's a person living with a disability in Westwood who doesn't have access to reliable transportation, and needs a branch close to home. These are the people who rely on their city to provide the public services they deserve, and the people who get hurt most when the city decides to slash our public services. The most marginalized communities are those who are hurt most by cuts. The 2.8 million Winnipeggers who rely on our public libraries annually deserve better than the proposed cuts to library services. Cuts and closures are not the solution and I urge the city to reconsider their decision to slash this public service we all depend on.	11/20/2019 9:05 PM
236	Please do not close any library branches	11/20/2019 9:04 PM
237	Please don't cut library services. Our family uses the library every week, even more during the summer months, and we love all of the resources and programming available. It would be such a loss for our community if library services were cut. Please, please reconsider this!	11/20/2019 9:03 PM
238	Please do not close the Westwood library!! Reading and community is what we want for our kids- this library is VITAL to our community. We as families use it, our schools use it, our daycares use it. We purchase houses because of community amenities like libraries. Please do not close our Westwood library!	11/20/2019 9:03 PM
239	I think shutting down the West Kildonan Library (as well as the other libraries) is a quite frankly a *removed* choice. Its one of the very few libraries in Winnipeg that feels safe to actually go to and has a very intimate atmosphere. Its close to a school, is easily accessible by bus and in my experience I've never had to worry about anything bad happening to me by going there (looking at you Millennium Library). Speaking of the Millennium Library why not look for ways to save money by cutting the budget at that library since it probably gets the biggest budget, but no instead you choose to close the little libraries that people actually enjoy & feel safe at.	11/20/2019 8:49 PM
240	Westwood Library. You can't close this library. It is a safe space for ALL ages. A meeting place, a community staple. It is beneficial to our community please reconsider this decision. For my children, for the people of the community, for myself.*name removed*	11/20/2019 8:48 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

241	<p>Cutting library services is so short sighted and harmful for our community. Libraries provide many types of services beyond just book lending. They provide support workers for people who need them, internet for those who don't have internet. Computer services for people who need them and sometimes just a warm place to exist without needing to buy something. Please do not cut library services in the name of austerity. Winnipeggers deserve better than this!</p>	11/20/2019 8:41 PM
242	<p>Please do not close our local Fort Garry library. It is located right by the high school and provides a safe place for students to study. I use the programs with my grandchildren and go there weekly. Closure would be a big loss to our community.</p>	11/20/2019 8:39 PM
243	<p>Don't cut library programs.</p>	11/20/2019 8:37 PM
244	<p>You must keep all current library branches open. My local library, West Kildonan, is so important to the community. It is surrounded by schools, daycares and family homes. We rely on the services this library and its caring staff provide. Progressive cities support, not slash libraries. Raise taxes if necessary. Our libraries need to stay!</p>	11/20/2019 8:33 PM
245	<p>Please do not reduce the budget allocated to the Winnipeg Public Libraries. They offer community spaces where people can gather, resources to improve our lives, social supports, and are one of the few remaining spaces where people can spend time without having to spend money. This is especially crucial to have during the winter months, but is also important year-round. We need more free community spaces where people can come together and meet their neighbours, not fewer.</p>	11/20/2019 8:10 PM
246	<p>I am against the budget cuts to community Services. After reading the proposals I think that doing any kind of budget cuts with Community Services would only amount to a drop in the bucket when it comes to money saved. These services are meant to give back to the tax payer in ways that they might use that aren't necessarily monetary in value. With the suggested closures and budget cuts you are taking away places and things that are free or very cost effective which will have far reaching negative results to the wider community of Winnipeg. I personally use Fort Gary Library and know that it is very heavily used. To close it would either force people to travel farther to go to the library or stop people from going to the library entirely. Closing down pools and arenas or even increasing the price to use those facilities will impact the health of the people of Winnipeg. These places are a cheap place to go to get exercise which is vitally important for everyone. The changes suggested to the budget will have a negative impact on the community at large. The ones most impacted by these suggested cuts are the elderly, young families, and school aged people. Libraries are a place for elderly people to go, get out of their house, socialize, and take part in their community. Pools are a place where elderly people can get a form of exercise that is low-impact which is vitally important. Libraries and pools provide activities and events that help young families spend time together and give them the tools to help raise their children. Finally, closing down or reducing the hours to libraries will eliminate a place for school-aged children to spend time after school. Libraries are a safe space where parents do not have to worry about what their child might be getting up to or if they might be in danger. In closing, I feel that doing any kind of significant budget cut to the Community Services at large will have minimal monetary advantages and far too many disadvantages to be worthwhile.</p>	11/20/2019 8:09 PM
247	<p>Please do not close Fort Garry Library. I am happy to pay taxes to keep this library open.</p>	11/20/2019 8:06 PM
248	<p>I cannot think of a sadder thing to happen to the children of Winnipeg than to restrict their access to books and all the activities that encourage learning and community that are provided by their local library. Please reconsider, future generations will admire your vision.</p>	11/20/2019 8:00 PM
249	<p>Good work, too many service available. Please cut more</p>	11/20/2019 7:59 PM
250	<p>Do not close libraries or reduce their hours.</p>	11/20/2019 7:58 PM
251	<p>Library closures are ridiculous. They're an essential resource in the community.</p>	11/20/2019 7:53 PM
252	<p>Please do not close the libraries</p>	11/20/2019 7:46 PM
253	<p>Are you going to close the West Kildonan Library *comment removed*? The councillor for Old Kildonan who wants a strip mall paradise branch way out in Amber Trails can *comment removed*.</p>	11/20/2019 7:44 PM
254	<p>Libraries are essential to thriving communities. Please do not close libraries or reduce hours.</p>	11/20/2019 7:42 PM
255	<p>I hear that the West Kildonan library is set to be closed due to budget cuts. That doesn't make much sense to me as I have been a heavy user of the library for the past two years and the place always seems rife with people and life.</p>	11/20/2019 7:41 PM
256	<p>Access to local libraries was vital to my education. They are necessary in every community and should not be closed.</p>	11/20/2019 7:39 PM
257	<p>I am strongly opposed to closing libraries, particularly in Westwood. The next closest library would be the Charleswood library or St. James library which are not easy for people to get to if they do not have access to vehicles. It makes absolutely no sense to break ground on the Bill and Helen Norrie Library and spend money on that capital project while closing down libraries that are already in use. Libraries and community services are what makes living in a city worthwhile. We need to be more strategic with our funds. We focus so much on expanding our blueprint with new buildings and residential areas when we have opportunities to infill and build up what we already have.</p>	11/20/2019 7:38 PM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

258	You can't close the Westwood Library! This library means so much to so many young families , including mine . This library is our escape , from technology , video games , etc. we take out at least 30 books a month here. Sure cut back the hours , but to close it would scar the community . Better rethink this one . Thank you	11/20/2019 7:25 PM
259	We need these libraries! They are pivotal in keeping kids busy and off the streets! They are spaces for the community! There are great programs here! I have been to all 3 of the libraries you want to close, and have lived in all three of the neighbourhoods. Please find a way to cut something else! Our children need these spaces!!! Now more than ever!	11/20/2019 7:02 PM
260	With regard to point S in the Community Services presentation, the closure the the Fort Garry library, I feel this would be a tremendous loss to our community. I am at the library on a weekly basis and it is always busy and full of people utilizing the books, programming, and computers. It is walking distance from my home, encouraging me to use green transportation to access these services, whereas I would have to drive to any other branch. I am grateful everyday for the wealth of resources available via this important local institution. Please do not close it.	11/20/2019 6:37 PM
261	Instead of closing some of the public libraries, why don't you find some alternative options on cutting the wages and work of the staff? All librarians can do the sorting and shelving of books, processing the books in a day. Make it a part of their job description to do the task so that no need to hire another staff to do the shelving and processing of books. Please look on the website regarding the Public Libraries in Singapore, maybe you can find some tips on how to manage a public libraries so that the citizen can really benefit from it. Public libraries consider one of the most important part in preserving the legacy of the nation, educating its citizen by allowing them to borrow and read books also the different programs that the library offers for everyone. Thank you.	11/20/2019 6:24 PM
262	Closing public library branches and cutting hours will continue to force those needing the spaces for warmth to the streets, and push those in need of the resources, from computers and printers, to books and research, farther away from the supports and space the library gives. For example, youth in care and lower income families often do not have computers accessible. They are able to get school work done in these free, open to all spaces, while potentially getting help from those who can access the books and media needed for such work. Giving this support to youth keeps them off the street, out of crime, and increases their chance of success longterm.	11/20/2019 5:14 PM
263	Please do not close the libraries. Libraries are an integral part of a community. They provide free services to many people who might not otherwise be able to access these services. I love my local library (West K) and have been using it multiple times a month. It would break my heart to lose my library, please do not take it away from me.	11/20/2019 4:44 PM
264	Why is the city not investing properly in important city services like like libraries? I urge the city to find money to properly support libraries and other services. People in Winnipeg are struggling with poverty and related issues - austerity budgets and decreased services are only going to make this problem worse.	11/20/2019 3:52 PM
265	The long term effects of losing these community services will affect the communities of Winnipeg in a long term way. The current addictions crisis that we are facing now will continue to worsen if we remove access to these programs and facilities. People in the City of Winnipeg need low cost and barrier free access to come together in their communities. The people who will feel this the most are the families of low income homes, the already vulnerable sector of our city. I oppose these proposed budget cuts.	11/20/2019 3:41 PM
266	Closing libraries, not cool. Some libraries have less traffic than others? Maybe it's because we build our city out instead of infilling it. Let's stop it now, instead of cutting public services, how about cutting the 28 percent increase to roads that shows in the roads capital projects budget?	11/20/2019 9:57 AM
267	Libraries are one of the most important resources a city has, and any amount of closure is unacceptable. People already have so few locations they can go without the expectation of paying money, especially so in the winter.	11/20/2019 5:31 AM
268	We are facing a social crisis in the city. Poverty, homelessness, trauma, addiction, violence and fear are all interconnected. The way to combat this is by building community and social services. Cuts to our community infrastructure like libraries, pools, and community centers erode our social fabric. Without low-barrier, accessible public places to go, the most vulnerable become more marginalized, and are more likely to resort to crime or other behaviour that negatively impacts others in our communities. Closing community infrastructure like the Sherbrook Pool, which the city very recently invested a lot of money in is wasteful and it will be much harder to build new pools, community centres, and libraries when our population increases than to keep the existing ones open. Millennium library and other libraries and community centres in poor communities absolutely need social workers, youth programming, newcomer programming, crisis training, etc. This is perhaps the most crucial department that the city should be investing in right now, not making cuts. I fully support property tax increases and cuts to the police budget to allow this.	11/20/2019 3:50 AM
269	Closing libraries does not align with this priority: Provide library services that uniquely serve our community as the centre for information access; the hub of community connections; the heart of discovery and creativity; and the place for literacy and lifelong learning Could a mobile service be put into place to serve communities where closures are proposed? Perhaps provided at city run recreation facilities?	11/20/2019 3:30 AM



## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

270	It is extremely disappointing that so many cuts and closures would be suggested in this proposal. In particular, libraries are essential places in our community that support literacy and help educate our citizens. They also are essential resources for our more vulnerable populations, provide free internet and computer access and can help people find jobs. In general, strong community services and programming are assets that help build healthy networks in our community. Please reconsider these cuts.	11/20/2019 1:38 AM
271	I strenuously object to the closing of the Kinsmen Sherbrook Pool (by Jan. 1, 2022). This is a unique community resource that is needed for the neighbourhood and the people with disabilities that it serves. *name removed*	11/20/2019 12:45 AM
272	Library services are a core city service that enables youth and adult learning and helps us grow as a community. Having just moved to Winnipeg, I see library services as a chance to keep us connected. Strong programming and ease of access can give our youth a voice and a place to safely learn and grow. I'm afraid cutting so many of these services will inevitably lead to an increase in mischief and perhaps reckless behavior from some who may otherwise be captivated and engaged with our library services. Please reconsider these drastic measures in the city's budget	11/20/2019 12:32 AM
273	I hope the Community Services Department reconsiders closing the Peguis Trail Health & Fitness Centre. This facility is well used by people in the northeast part of Winnipeg. In addition to providing a venue for well-being for all, the service it provides for seniors to socialized while walking to maintain a healthy lifestyle is especially valuable in our community. This is area does not have any other amenities that would serve as a replacement. Thank you for your consideration.	11/19/2019 8:08 PM
274	What are the options? What am I providing feedback on? You should send the topics in an easy reader fashion.	11/19/2019 4:49 PM
275	Attention: Winnipeg City Council C/O: Sherri Rollins East Fort Garry Ward Esteemed councilors and Mayor Bowman, I understand you have the difficult job of balancing the budget in the city of Winnipeg. I cannot pretend to understand all the complexities of deciding what to cut and what to continue in this matter, I can only speak from the heart about something that I consider nearly an essential service, the continued operating hours of the Fort Garry Public Library. Before I had kids, I had only occasionally visited the library to get a novel or read the newest issue of a magazine as an escape from work life in the quiet and amazingly renovated space. During my maternity leave however, it became a hub for me as a human. Having newborn twins was something nobody can prepare for, but the programming and community built at the Fort Garry Public Library helped me remain connected to other adults during a time that can overwhelm even the most stoic person – early motherhood. Through “Baby Rhyme Time” and other events under the amazing direction of the staff there I began to thrive, make connections and meet other people going through what I was going through. Our library is a hub of activity for people of all ages and it is FREE! There is so much need for a free space that is welcoming where community can be build and literacy can be inspired. Our community needs more time available in a space like this NOT LESS! Now that I am back to being a working parent, the evening hours and Sunday hours are a lifeline for helping build literacy and community with my kids. We make new friends over reading “Calliou” and “Mister Mister” books. We enjoy getting a new book recommendation from our favourite librarians. We look at the calendar for the next library event. We get our book backpack ready to return our weekly books on Sunday as a special family trip that we can do walking from our house. There are not many places that we can do that to on a Sunday and we view it as sacred time together as a family. I am hoping that you can be the voice for the constituents of our ward in offering alternative solutions to this proposed budget cut to our Fort Garry Library. In our city we need to nurture community building spaces to help heal and build community and humanity not cut their hours. I would sooner see Leisure Guide Programming be cut or the Leisure Guide go fully online rather than printing paper copies to save money for our budget than to have cuts in our library. As per my phone call to Councilor Rollins, I feel passionately that there are other options for cost saving measures in our great city and have suggested a few in the paragraph above. I hope that enough voices are heard in this matter to encourage council to look at alternative cost saving measures and allow the Fort Garry Library to do what they do best – have open doors and open hearts to everybody and every body in our community to help it stay literate and safe! Sincerely,*name removed*	11/19/2019 3:28 PM
276	Hello. I am a resident of Fort Garry and feel very strongly that extended hours into the evening and on Saturday at the Fort Garry library need to be maintained. As a parent, bringing my children to the library is a vital part of our week and instilling a love of literacy. When they are in school all day, evenings and weekends are our only time to go to the library. Please take these concerns into consideration when making any decisions about reducing library hours. Thank you.*name removed*	11/19/2019 3:11 PM
277	Leisure guide activities for children are essential and many prone already find it difficult to get their child in one. To enroll in programming outside of these activities is expensive and simply not financially feasible for so many people.	11/19/2019 3:52 AM
278	I agree with closing some of the aging infrastructure. The citizens of City of Winnipeg do do not need a pool, arena, playground out their backdoors. We need to decommissioned our aging facilities and invest in regional multiplex facilities that service areas of the city Programs need to operate in City u Winnipeg facilities that do not cost money such as schools. It speaks of front line cuts but it does not speak of management cuts. If there is less front line staff there is less need for current number of management staff.	11/19/2019 2:31 AM

## Feedback on the Community Services Department budget

279	I just read your Community Services Department budget and the cuts are devastating. Pools, wading pools, arenas and libraries--the last remaining accessible community gathering places. These cuts DE-CENTER our communities. These cuts take away essential services to the most marginalized members of our city. These cuts take away local services to families who want to live active, informed lives in their communities. We need strong communities more than ever. Strong communities make a strong and vibrant and safe city. You are taking away the last of our safe spaces.	11/18/2019 6:26 PM
280	Closure of 2 facilities serving the Windsor Park community (Maginot Arena and Windsor Park Pool) would be completely unacceptable.	11/16/2019 8:07 PM

### Feedback submitted in other feedback forms:

To whom it may concern, There is a book in each childhood. Winnipeg has a great reading culture among its residents and is home to many neighbourhood libraries. Helen Norrie (donor of the Bill and Helen Norrie Library) attests that she "saw firsthand the impact these fixtures can have on individuals of all ages". In a time of thrilling but also challenging tumultuous change, the return to social solidarity, tolerance and participation increasingly gains in importance. Public libraries are an essential part of this civic task and act as a social and spatial transformer for everyday landscapes within a city. By providing books and other media in spaces accessible for all abilities, libraries remain a very powerful and ubiquitous medium for cross-cultural exchange of knowledge and ideas. We are writing you in order to express our deepest concerns about the proposal to close the Fort Garry Library in January 2022. We moved to Canada twelve years ago and we were lucky to find a home in Wildwood Park (501 South Drive, Wildwood Park). Our children were 1.5 and 3.5 years old at that time. The wading pool and the library were such important destinations in our everyday life. And while spending time in the library I got the impression that this kind of social infrastructure is so well received by others. I am aware that Winnipeg is not the richest city but we are not poor, we just don't have big budgets for everything. The system of well maintained public libraries offer fantastic opportunities also for those who can't afford books or newspapers. It's a sustainable investment in the future of our City. It would be a shame if we as a human society are not longer willing to cultivate our educational and social landscape. The community libraries are an indispensable component of this culture. Please stop the plan to close the Fort Garry Library in January 2022. Please feel free to contact us anytime if you have any questions. Best regards,

please leave Pequis Trail Health Facility open. This section of the city needs a facility and the savings would be minimal

Do not close the West Kildonan Library. It is so heavily used and relied on in this neighborhood. This neighborhood needs it. Why are we closing down safe public spaces amid all these violent crimes?! Closing safe public spaces will cause violent crime to go up even higher!!!!