

The following Q&A resulted from an article published by the CTV News on Wednesday, August 19, 2020...

<https://winnipeg.ctvnews.ca/inmate-unlawfully-at-large-dies-after-escaping-from-healing-lodge-csc-1.5071353>

Questions...

1. Will the proposed healing village be set up the same way as the centre in the article? That is, will it provide the same services and therefore expose nearby communities to the same “escape” threat?
2. Since there is a need for this project, I’m assuming there must be statistics clearly defining the capacity of the village and the breakdown of people based on their healing needs (ie. abuse victims, criminals, etc). Can you please disclose this information?
3. Will inmates and/or former inmates be included in the people being healed?
4. Has a study been conducted to determine the Village’s impact regarding crime, environment, taxes, etc? Can you provide me with the results of those studies?
5. What laws, etc will be put in place to prevent changing the purpose of the village in the future? (eg. Converting to a detox centre, penitentiary, etc).

Response from Donovan Toews (Landmark Planning & Design Inc.)...

As you are aware, we’ve been working to help people understand what is proposed for the site and what is not proposed. I can appreciate that with news items like the one your group shared in this email, people may see this and begin to worry about the worst for their own neighbourhood.

I’m pleased to confirm that nothing has changed from what we have shared at your AGM and with others in the community previously. The site in the news story is very different from what is proposed by the Clan Mothers, which I explain again below. Some in your group may not have participated in meetings to date or had the opportunity to review the minutes posted on the BPOA website. Hopefully your executive can help its members by sharing the information below to dispel some of the misinformation that may still be lingering in the community.

The Eagle Women’s Lodge (in the news story you shared) is a multi-level security institute providing transitional housing for women involved with the law. The lodge opened in September of 2019 and is equipped with 30 beds in addition to being able to accommodate women’s children. This lodge is the first of its kind in Manitoba—prior to opening, Indigenous women in Manitoba sentenced to federal time had to serve sentences out of province. Women are ONLY eligible to live in the Eagle Women’s Lodge if they:

- ARE enrolled in the Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court program;
- ARE incarcerated with Day Parole eligibility;
- HAVE BEEN sentenced as youth and be coming of age and are convicted of a serious violent offence (application through Intensive Rehabilitative Custody and Supervision (IRCS) Program;
- WERE sentenced provincially and have served 1/6 of their sentence through the application for a Temporary Absence; or

Clan Mothers Healing Village is proposed as something substantially different from the Eagle Women’s Lodge in a number of important ways:

- It is NOT a detox facility, half-way house, correctional institution, protection facility or anything of the sort
- It will NOT be receiving referrals from Corrections Services Canada or any funding from same
- Women can NOT be serving time in a correctional facility or be out on Day Parole
- Women can NOT be serving in the Winnipeg Drug Treatment Court program;

Rather, as shared throughout our process, women will be staying voluntarily. They will be partaking in healing activities such as gardening, crafting, educational classes, walking, sweat ceremonies/activities, discussions with peers, and so forth. It would be best to think of these folks as real people who've had some strikes/harms against them but do not have access to cottages and other common respite activities that others have. They may have been abused by others in foster care or other situations. Everyone will be trying to find a better life through self-healing and self-bettering.

To your questions:

1. Will the proposed healing village be set up the same way as the centre in the article? That is, will it provide the same services and therefore expose nearby communities to the same "escape" threat? **No, the facility will be different in the fundamental ways noted above.**
2. Since there is a need for this project, I'm assuming there must be statistics clearly defining the capacity of the village and the breakdown of people based on their healing needs (ie. abuse victims, criminals, etc). Can you please disclose this information? **No, unfortunately there are not statistics available. That said, the village will be seeking to accommodate about 45 women. Suffice it to say, the need in Manitoba is likely much greater than this number, statistically speaking.**
3. Will inmates and/or former inmates be included in the people being healed? **No, inmates will not be included (per above). It is possible that some women may have convictions in the past though not for certain, and this would not be a criteria for acceptance/rejection at the healing village. Stringent review will be undertaken for anyone who wishes to be a part of the program to ensure (primarily) the safety of the women staying there.**
4. Has a study been conducted to determine the Village's impact regarding crime, environment, taxes, etc? Can you provide me with the results of those studies? **We have not 'studied' crime impacts per se, though we have reviewed each matter very carefully. We do not believe a healing village like the one proposed will result in any change to the neighbourhood with respect to crime. We have reviewed all environmental approval requirements and can share information further going forward (we have environmental professionals on the team). There will be no tax implications of the facility. We have professional traffic engineers on the team who are reviewing the proposal and do not anticipate any traffic impact, since the 'come and go' movements will be quite low (including servicing) – much lower than what is seen in the community to the south. Based on our own research and experience in the field of development, there would not be any impact on property values (possibly a positive impact given the uncertainty of the current property zoning which allows for natural resource extraction as a right today). We have professional designers, constructors, financial advisors, electrical engineers, and many others advising the team and conducting on-going due diligence design and planning – all of which we can share going forward when the time comes. We were thinking a community meeting in the Fall (noted in our letter) might be helpful to share a preliminary site concept as we start to get into design details. Would that be of interest to your group?**
5. What laws, etc will be put in place to prevent changing the purpose of the village in the future? (eg. Converting to a detox centre, penitentiary, etc). **The RM of Alexander**

Zoning By-law already regulates such uses. Such uses are not allowed without special permission of the RM (application and public hearing)– they are part of a different zoning category/conditional use approval. Feel free to speak with the RM about those restrictions as well, as they are the regulator.