



Landfill Search Feasibility Study Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Co-Chairs

Dr. Emily Holland, Forensic Anthropologist, Brandon University

Mr. Kristopher Dueck, Rocky Mountain Forensic Consulting

Regular Members

Kirstin Witwicki, Harris Family Representative

Donna Bartlett, Myran Family Representative

Leslie Spillet, Elder

Kristin Flattery, Women's Coordinator, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Ryan Schenk, Fire Commissioner, MB Office of the Fire Commissioner

Shannon Kohler, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment and Climate

Nada Suresh, Environment and Climate

Izzie Abrams, Vice President, Government & External Affairs, Waste Connections Canada

Chris Visser, P. Eng., Canadian Region Engineering Manager, Waste Connections Canada

Report Submitted to:

Landfill Search Feasibility Study Oversight Committee

Chairs

Grand Chief Cathy Merrick, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Howard Burston, Executive Director, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Co-Chairs

Kirstin Witwicki, Harris family representative

Donna Bartlett, Myran family representative

Regular Members

Chief Kyra Wilson, Long Plain First Nation

Sandra DeLaronde, Director, MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee

Kristin Flattery, Women's Coordinator, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Leslie Spillett, Elder

Florence Paynter, Elder

Landfill Search Feasibility Study Committee: Ex-officio Members

Sgt. Alex Bear, RCMP D Division Community & Indigenous Policing Services

Ryan Schenk, Fire Commissioner, Office of the Fire Commissioner, Province of Manitoba

Frankie Snider, Assistant Deputy Minister, Indigenous Reconciliation & Northern Relations, Province of Manitoba

Cecil Sveinson, Manager, Indigenous Relations, City of Winnipeg

Cam MacKid, Inspector, Division 42, Forensics, Intelligence and Technology, Winnipeg Police Service

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview

- December 5th, 2022
 - The Winnipeg Police Service informed family members of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran that their remains were most likely located in the Prairie Green Landfill and a search would not take place.
- December 13th, 2022
 - The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), the Southern Chiefs Organization, the MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, the Assembly of First Nations Manitoba Region, and Long Plain First Nation, sent a joint letter to the federal government requesting funding for a feasibility study.
- January 17th, 2023
 - AMC formally announced the appointment of the Landfill Search Feasibility Study Committee consisting of an Oversight Committee and a Technical Subcommittee.
- February 22, 2023
 - CIRNAC announced funding for the feasibility study with AMC as the responsible organization.

Mandate

The Technical Subcommittee was tasked with addressing the following:

- 1) Is it feasible to search the Prairie Green Landfill for remains of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran?
- 2) If such a search is feasible, how would it be possible, how much would it cost, and how long would it take?

Feasibility Study Findings

- Not conducting a search could cause **considerable distress** to victim family members.
- A search of the Prairie Green Landfill **is feasible**, but there are considerable risks due to exposure to toxic chemicals and asbestos.
- If a search is conducted
 - a **successful outcome is not guaranteed**
 - a strategy that utilizes a conveyor belt system should be considered
 - it could take between 12 and 36 months
 - it could cost between \$84,000,000 (12 months) and \$184,000,000 (36 months)

Technical Subcommittee Recommendations

1. Increase funding for social supports and culturally appropriate social programming for First Nation and Indigenous peoples, specifically MMIWG2S+, including addictions rehabilitation programs, affordable housing, mental health supports, and care and cultural connectivity.
2. Increase funding for Indigenous homeless shelters so the unhoused can transition into a safer life.
3. Mandatory GPS tracking systems in garbage trucks for all waste removal companies in Canada.
4. Mandatory rear-facing cameras in all garbage trucks so that operators can observe the material being dumped into their truck.
5. Video surveillance of landfill entrances and exits.
6. Support from the responsible Ministry for smaller municipalities/communities to make these changes.