



Donor Makes Second Major Gift in Support of Canada's Diversity Gardens Project

For immediate release: Winnipeg, August 28, 2019 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) is excited to announce a gift of \$1 million from Sean McCoshen in support of the *Imagine a Place* Campaign and the Canada's Diversity Gardens project. This is McCoshen's second gift in support of the project; his first gift of \$2 million was announced approximately one year ago. McCoshen's generous donations will be recognized in The Leaf with naming of the second floor event hall and mezzanine, which overlook the expansive indoor plant biomes.

"The Canada's Diversity Gardens project will celebrate our world's natural and cultural diversity, reconnecting people with nature and each other," said Margaret Redmond, President & CEO, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. "It is a project of its time and Winnipeg is the perfect place to bring it to life. We are so grateful to donors like Sean McCoshen who have embraced this vision and what it will mean for our city, our province, and our country."

The Canada's Diversity Gardens project will consist of The Leaf, an architecturally brilliant indoor horticultural attraction, and the new outdoor Diversity Gardens. The Leaf will feature four distinct zones that transport visitors through different environments, Canada's tallest indoor waterfall, a canopy walkway that provides a bird's eye view of the tropical biome and surrounding Park, and over 16,000 tropical and Mediterranean plants. The 6,000 square metre building will also house a restaurant, retail space, indoor and outdoor classrooms, and beautifully appointed banquet facilities for daytime and evening events.

"These gardens are not just a stunning attraction. They're a symbol of what makes Canada the envy of the world, a nation where — more than any other country — diverse people lead lives of mutual acceptance and respect," said McCoshen, Chairman, A2A Rail USA LLC and Chairman, Alaska - Alberta Railway Development Corporation. "In this era of climate change, they're also a reminder of how much we depend on the natural world and that our future depends on our stewardship of the planet."

Fundraising for the final phase of the *Imagine a Place* Campaign is ongoing and additional gift announcements in support of the Canada's Diversity Gardens project are anticipated in the coming months.

About Canada's Diversity Gardens

- The Canada's Diversity Gardens project is the final major phase in the redevelopment of Assiniboine Park and Zoo that was launched in 2009. The first phase focused on renewal in the heart of the Park (Riley Family Duck Pond, Nature Playground, Qualico Family Centre). The second phase focused on revitalization at the Assiniboine Park Zoo.
- The Canada's Diversity Gardens project will consist of:
 - The Leaf
 - The Diversity Gardens:
 - The Indigenous Peoples' Garden
 - Kitchen Garden
 - Performance/Sensory Garden
 - Seasonal Garden
 - The Grove
- The entire project will span approximately 35 acres in the south east corner of the Park.
- Through horticultural displays, interpretive and education elements, The Leaf and Diversity Gardens will explore the human connection with plants and the role plants play in shaping the life and identity of our communities and cultures – past, present and future.
- In addition to being a world-class tourist attraction, The Leaf and Diversity Gardens will be a living classroom where students can participate in environmental education programs year-round.
- The Leaf and Diversity Gardens are expected to open in 2021.

To learn more and take a virtual tour, visit www.assiniboinepark.ca/cdg.

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