



February 26, 2014

Mr. Sousa + The Edmonton Naming Committee,

Our class was inspired by Alexander Decoteau after a recent trip to Fort Edmonton. The students felt that more people needed to know about him, and that something prominent should be named after him. I hope you enjoy their letters!

Sincerely,

Keri Clifford
Gr. 5/6 Teacher
Patricia Heights School

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Cory Sousa,
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton
AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I feel that a special place in Edmonton should be named after a Alex Decoteau. Alex Decoteau was an Aboriginal Canadian. Naming a big place in his native city will show our Aboriginal heritage and our respect and sense of equality for First Nations people. I have learned that the Edmonton Naming Committee is trying to be more open to First Nations people, this will be a step toward that goal.

Alex Decoteau was also a great athlete. He was put in the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and the Saskatchewan First Nations Hall of Fame. There is a 5 km race for students in Edmonton in his honour. Naming a place after him will incline Canadians to athletes like him who are working hard and preparing for the future Summer Olympics.

Alex Decoteau was a very versatile man. He, besides being an athlete and a police constable, also served in the army as a trench runner, dodging bullets, bombs, obstacles and mud patches to deliver news, messages, and orders from lieutenants to generals to soldiers or vice versa. He was brave, strong, courageous and keen to survive in the hostile conditions of war, where he was killed by a German sniper during the Battle of Passchendaele. Naming a place in Edmonton after him will motivate Canadians in other dangerous countries who are serving in the army to be courageous, not feel isolated, and to know that other Canadians are supporting them.

I know there is a small road and a path in Edmonton named after Alex Decoteau, but that is simply not big enough for such a great man in Canadian and North American Aboriginal history. Here are some suggestions that the City of Edmonton naming Committee might want to consider. I have heard news that new schools, parks and libraries are being built in Edmonton, and the City of Edmonton Naming Committee is preparing to name them. One of the schools or libraries can be named in honour of Alex Decoteau. I know there are bridges and new buildings are being built as well, which can be named after Decoteau.

I have come to a conclusion that Alex Decoteau was a brave, kind generous, selfless and optimistic man, and that

naming a place in Edmonton after him will continue his memory. Edmonton had honoured him greatly when he died, so now we can honour him again by naming a big place in Edmonton after him.

After all, Alex Decoteau has inspired me to do something for my country when I am older, and I am sure that naming a place in Edmonton after him will inspire other young Canadians like me to be like him.

These are the reasons why I think that a big place in Edmonton needs to be named after Alex Decoteau, who I think deserves it, as he is a role model for all Canadians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

February 26th, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I think Alexander Decoteau should be the name people see on highway signs, buildings, and other monuments around Edmonton. Alexander Decoteau deserves more than a road or a path. Alexander should get acknowledged with a school, bridge or even a neighborhood. Many people will feel proud of their country when they see Alex Decoteau's name.

Mr. Decoteau's name is great to use for several reasons. Alexander was the first Aboriginal police officer in Canada. He was also the first one to ride a motorcycle. During his time, the City of Edmonton Police hired him as constable. Many officers will look up to him today.

During his early years, Alex boxed, played cricket, soccer and baseball. Alex was an Olympic athlete who competed in track and field. He competed in the 1912 summer Olympics. Alexander won most major middle or long distance races in Western Canada. He finished sixth in the five thousand metres competition. He was a crazy fast runner!

Alex Decoteau is still remembered today. He is in the Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame. The Edmonton Police Museum also included him in their collection.

Those are a few reasons why this courageous, generous, smart and kind man is an appropriate candidate for many monuments around our city.

Sincerely,

Olivia

February 26th, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I am a student at Patricia Heights School. I have conducted some research on Alex Decoteau and I think that you should name a bridge, school or a neighborhood after this important figure in Alberta's history. Here is some information on Alex Decoteau.

Alexander Wuttunee Decoteau was born in Red Pheasant Indian Reserve in December, 1887. As a child, he excelled in sports. He enjoyed boxing, cricket, soccer, baseball, and was a Cree Canadian track and field athlete. Alex Decoteau tried out for the Summer Olympics, but he withdrew because of a leg cramp.

Alex Decoteau was also a police officer in Edmonton. He was the first Aboriginal police officer in Canada and the first police officer ever to use a motorcycle. I believe that he must have been an athletic person to be a police officer.

Alex Decoteau was a brave WWI soldier who fought in Passchendaele. His athletic ability helped him as a trench runner. At the age of thirty, he got shot by a German sniper and died, fighting for freedom.

Alex Decoteau is currently in the Edmonton City Police Hall of Fame, the sports Hall of Fame and the Saskatchewan Indian First Nations Hall of Fame. He should be recognized because of his contribution to Edmonton's history. I know that there is a small street and path named after him, but I think that something more significant, like a bridge or a school, should be named after this important figure.

Sincerely,

Maya

February 26th, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T51 3p4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I think that Alexander Decoteau plays a big role in Edmonton. So, because of what he did, something like a neighborhood, a building, a highway or a statute, should be named, or renamed after him. I already know a road and path are named after him, but those are small, something big and important should be named after him.

Alexander Decoteau was an athlete in the Summer Olympics in 1912. To be specific, he was in track and field. He finished sixth in the 5000 metre competition. This can prove how great of a police officer he is at catching bad guys. It's hard to believe that Alexander Decoteau was the first police officer to ride a motorcycle in Canada. He is an amazing guy to do that. Alexander Decoteau's picture is hung proudly in the Edmonton Sports Hall of Fame and is still in the Edmonton Police Museum. A German sniper killed him in World War One. He was a trench runner then. He was also thirty when this happened, it is sad but true.

As you can see, there are many reasons why something important should be named after Alexander Decoteau. He had inspired me, and I know he will inspire you, from all he accomplished.

Sincerely,

Katie

February 26th 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton , AB

Dear Mr.Sousa,

Alexander Decoteau has had a big impact on Alberta.He has accomplished astonishing things in his life. I think he should be recognized better in our area.

He was the first Cree police officer. He was also the first police officer to ride a motorcycle. If he was the first aboriginal officer, he must of had great potential. After he attended the Olympics, he became a sergeant.

Alex was a long distance runner. Alexander was also skilled in : boxing, cricket soccer and baseball. He won most major races,and made it to the Olympics. Alex made it to the finales. But, suffered from leg cramps and came in 9th. He is now in the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Hall of Fame. If he is in two Halls he must have been a terrific athlete .

Above all of the amazing accomplishes Alex achieved, was his military work. He volunteered to be a soldier, and became a trench runner. His athletic ability helped him spread news. He died in the battle of Passchendaele 1917. He was selfless. He died at age 30 fighting for freedom. I don't think that there is any other way of saying he was a hero.

I know that he has a path and a small road, but ,I think he deserves something bigger named after him. Thats why I think that Alexander Decoteau should have a: Landmark, road, or mabey bridge named after him.

Sincerely,

Lily M.

February 26th, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
Sustainable Development
7th floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T51 3p4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I think you should name or rename a highway, a building, or a neighborhood after Alexander Decoteau. I think it would make our communities stronger to know that First Nations people from our past are still part of us, and make us prouder to be who we are.

I think Alexander Decoteau played a big role in Edmonton because he was a Canadian summer track and field Olympic winner in 1912. He wanted to achieve things and be a bigger, better person. He was in the military to fight for his people and to be selfless as he was. He was a generous, kind, brave, and smart man and I think he deserves to be acknowledged by many others.

He was the first Aboriginal police officer and was hired as a constable, and then was promoted to a sergeant. Alexander Decoteau was the first police officer to decide to ride a motorcycle during a chase, at the penny arcade. He was also a very, very good police officer. Did you know that Alexander Decoteau is in The Edmonton Sports Hall Of Fame and in The Edmonton police Museum? He is still remembered today, and I think it would be great if he were known by even more people so they can learn about our past!

Alexander Decoteau should be remembered and I think this is one of the best ways to do it. I was inspired by him and other people could be to.

Sincerely,

Annika

February 26th 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I think Alex Decoteau would be perfect for a new school named for a First Nations person because he was smart, selfless and brave. School children need a strong figure to look up to.

First of all, he has served as a proud sergeant of the Canadian Army. He was also the first Aboriginal police officer, which shows great potential. Also, Alex Decoteau was and still is a wonderful role model for children everywhere. He has won various military trophies and awards and was a trench runner in the war of Passchendaele. Last but not least, he is also in the Sports Hall of Fame for great achievements.

I know Alex Decoteau has a road and a path named after him but I think he should really be acknowledged more. Those are few of the many reasons why Alex Decoteau is the perfect candidate for a new school named for a First Nations person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'C. Sousa', is written below the typed name 'Cory Sousa'.

February 26th, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr.Sousa,

I think that Alex Decoteau was a big part of our Edmonton history and a park should be named after him. My first reason is he was the first Aboriginal police officer in Alberta. My second reason is he came 6th in the Canadian 5000m/5 km race, which is very hard to do. My third reason is he later set a Canadian running record which is also very hard to do because there aren't very many places to practice . After that, he served as a soldier in the war where he was sadly killed by a German in Passchendaele October 30th, 1917.

He was very courageous and strong to serve for his country in a foreign land. This is why Alex Decoteau was a big part of our history and, at least something like a park should be named after him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leyan'.

February 26, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City Of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I think you should name a new school after Alexander Decoteau, because he did so many great things, such as a 8th place in the Olympics for Canada.

He was also the first Canadian police officer to ride a motorcycle. He was the first Aboriginal to be a police officer in Edmonton. Unfortunately, he was shot by a sniper rifle in the great battle of Passchendaele.

I also know that you have a small road and path named after him but I think he should be honoured in a better way. That is why I think you should name a new school after Alexander Decoteau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "will".

February 26, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City Of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Edmonton Naming Committee and Mr.Sousa,

I am writing to you today because of Alex Decoteau. I think he is a very important person in Edmonton history. He has inspired me. I think we should name a library, a statue, a bridge, a police station or even a park in his honor! I have done a bit of research on Alex Decoteau.

I have found some reasons why he is important. First of all, he was the first Aboriginal police officer. Second, he went in to the Olympics for Canada in 1912. Third, his picture went into the Sports Hall of Fame. Fourth, he set a record in Calgary for running (34min and 19sec). Fifth, he was the first motorcycle police officer in Alberta.Last, he worked in the military as a WWI soldier and a trench runner.

As you can see he is a very important man in Canadian history. I hope I have given all good reasons of why we should name something big nobody would for get in his honor and appreciation!

Sincerely,

Ella

February 26th, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr. Sousa

I think you should name a bridge after Alexander Decoteau. He lived in some parts of Edmonton and he did lots of good things, like being a Edmonton police officer, stopping crooks and gambling.

You should do this because he was also brave for what he has been through, like when he lost his life protecting our country. If you do put his name a bridge after him, everybody will look him up and know who he is. He was also an athlete who competed in the 1912 summer Olympics he was even good at it. He won major middle or long distance races. When he was three his father was murdered, and his mother left him. In 1917 he was killed by a sniper during the Battle of Passchendaele. His community had once honored him with a parade.

He was a brave and courageous person to do all he has done. I think he needs to be recognized by having a bridge named after him.

Sincerely,



February 26, 2014

Cory Sousa
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building
10250-101street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I am writing to you because I think Alex Decoteau is an amazing man. He was brave, kind, and generous. Maybe to show our appreciation, we could name a library, statue, or maybe a school after him. Here are some of my reasons why he is such an amazing man.

Alex Decoteau got into the finals for running in the Olympics. He was the first Aboriginal police officer in Alberta. He was also the first motorcycle police officer in Alberta. Alex Decoteau set the record for the Calgary Herald's 6.33 mile race. His record is 34 minutes and 19 seconds. Alex Decoteau was elected for Edmonton's City Police Hall of Fame, as well as Alberta Sports Hall of Fame, and the Saskatchewan Indian First Nations Hall of Fame.

I think we should have a statue, library, or maybe even a school named after Alex Decoteau, because he is such an inspiring man. If you can, please think about it.

Sincerely,

Raina

February 26, 2014

Cory Sousa,
Edmonton Naming Committee
City of Edmonton
Sustainable Development
7th Floor, HSBC Bank Canada Building 10250-101 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3P4

Dear Mr. Sousa,

I am a student from Patricia Heights School. I will be telling you about Alex Decoteau. I would like if you would name a special place after him, for example: streets, Rec Centres, libraries, and other things. Unfortunately he died in 1917, by a German sniper in Passchendaele. I think that other people need more information about him.

Here are some reasons why he is very important. In 1909, he became the first aboriginal police officer in Canada. Five years later he had become a sergeant. He also became a famous athlete in the Olympics in 1912. The event he participated in was Track and Field. He had a struggle, and he finished ninth place for the Canadian team, in 1912. He set lots of records, and won lots of events. Then he got put in the Sport Hall of Fame for the records he broke. He is also a very versatile man, and showed good perseverance to the citizens of Canada. He inspired so many people for his big achievements. He was very important to the history of Canada, and the culture of Alberta.

I hope you are able to name a place in Edmonton after him. I also hope you understood me, and about how magnificent Alex Decoteau was.

Sincerely

noah

Dear Mr.Sousa,

Alex Decoteau has had an important impact in Edmonton. He was the first Aboriginal police officer and he was the first motorcycle police in Edmonton. He came 7th in the 5000 meter in the Olympics because he suffered leg cramping. He also enjoyed other sports like boxing, cricket, soccer, and baseball. He is in the Sports Hall of Fame, because he broke records and amazed people. He has accomplished so much and I think people should recognize him. I do realize that he has a road and a path somewhere in Edmonton named after him but he is a brave, kind, strong man that fought for freedom and justice so, I think he should have something major named after him.

He served in the Canadian army. He volunteered to be in the military, then again, he offered to be a trench runner and got killed by a sniper at the age 30. I have heard you want to name new bridges after Aboriginal people, so why not use Alex Decoteau's name? Military friends brought his body home so they could celebrate his life, soul, and accomplishments. In conclusion, he was a very important part of Canadian History, so he should have a road ,school or a library, maybe even a police station, named in his honor.

Sincerely,

Lauren