




City of Richmond


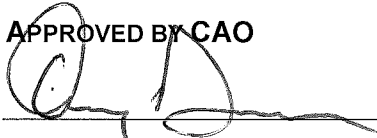
Report to Council

To: Richmond City Council
From: Andrew Nazareth
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
Date: March 7, 2017
File: 01-0168-01/2017-Vol 01
Re: Ceremony to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge

Staff Recommendation

That a jointly hosted ceremony between the City and the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 291, to be held at City Hall plaza on April 9, 2017, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, be approved.


Andrew Nazareth
General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
(604-276-4095)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

The 100th anniversary of the historic Battle of Vimy Ridge is April 9, 2017 and the City of Richmond has been asked to host a ceremony, along with the Royal Canadian Legion 291 (Richmond), to commemorate this date in history.

Findings of Fact

Many historians and writers consider the Canadian victory at Vimy Ridge to be a defining moment for Canada. Canadian troops also earned a reputation as formidable, effective troops because of the stunning success. But it was a victory at a terrible cost, with more than 10,000 killed and wounded.

The Canadian Corps was ordered to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917. Situated in northern France, the heavily-fortified seven-kilometre ridge held a commanding view over the Allied lines. The Canadians would be assaulting over an open graveyard since previous French attacks had failed with over 100,000 casualties.

Communities all across Canada are planning commemorative ceremonies and activities to mark the 100th anniversary of this Battle. The Royal Canadian Legion has requested the City of Richmond's help to organize a ceremony at City Hall for veterans and members of the public to be held on Sunday, April 9, 2017.

Analysis

Representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion are planning a ceremony, approximately 30 minutes long, to start at 11:00 am on Sunday, April 9, 2017. While this event will be much smaller than the Remembrance Day event, the ceremony will feature a band, speeches and a moment of silence. The Royal Canadian Legion is organizing the participants for the ceremony.

In order to support the ceremony, it is proposed that the City provide:

1. Access to the plaza area of City Hall for ceremonies;
2. Access to the Cenotaph for possible wreath laying;
3. Use of podium, microphone and sound system;
4. Tents for a band and for spectators;
5. Access to City Hall washrooms;
6. Refreshments for participants after the event; and
7. Advertising and an invitation for the public to attend the ceremony.

Financial Impact

The City's share of the costs for this ceremony is estimated to be \$5,000. The expenditures include items such as; sound equipment, tent rentals, refreshments, advertising and staffing costs. With Council's approval, funding will be from the Council Contingency account.

March 7, 2017

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Conclusion

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was a historic event in Canadian history and it is recommended that the City of Richmond, in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion, join communities across Canada in hosting a ceremony to commemorate the 100th anniversary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CE', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carli Edwards, P.Eng.
Manager, Customer Services and Licencing
(604-276-4136)

CE:ce