



**Report Number:** PFC2020-1269

**Meeting:** Priorities & Finance Committee

**Meeting Date:** 2020 November 10

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: National Historic Designation for Battalion Park Numbers**

**Sponsoring Councillor(s):** Jeff Davison

WHEREAS the Battalion Numbers, comprising a series of white-painted fieldstones arranged in the formation of the numerals 113, 51, 151 and 137 (technically known as geoglyphs), were originally placed in 1915-16 by members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force as part of the training for WWI at Sarcee Camp;

AND WHEREAS the construction of large scale, non-Aboriginal geoglyph formations is rare, and these landmarks are the only stone monuments of their type known to remain in Alberta;

AND WHEREAS Sarcee Camp was the second largest military training centre in Canada during WWI, training more than 45,000 personnel, the majority of whom were not career soldiers, but who volunteered for service as every day citizens;

AND WHEREAS the Battalion Numbers commemorate the brave men who served to protect Canadian society, including the 51st Infantry Battalion (recruited in Edmonton), the 113th Infantry Battalion (Lethbridge Highlanders), the 137th Infantry Battalion (recruited in Calgary) and the 151st Infantry Battalion (recruited in Central Alberta);

AND WHEREAS WWI included the tremendous sacrifice of over 6,100 Albertans lost and 21,000 wounded;

AND WHEREAS the Battalion Numbers are a tribute to the profound social and cultural impact of WWI on Canada, Alberta, and Calgary, and that WWI can be regarded as a defining moment in the history of Canada;

AND WHEREAS recognition of the Battalion Numbers as nationally significant increases awareness within Calgarians of the history of the place and provides a context for understanding the local and national contribution made during WWI, and how that impacted our local and national identity;

AND WHEREAS designation of the Battalion Numbers as nationally significant will not result in additional operational requirements or obligations;

AND WHEREAS the City of Calgary Bylaw Number 34M2015 designated the Battalion Numbers as a Municipal Historic Resource;

AND WHEREAS the City of Calgary Council has previously supported a nomination for National Historic Significance for the Battalion Numbers, which was submitted to Parks Canada and was ultimately refused by Parks Canada at the preliminary evaluation stage;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Administration reopen a dialog with Parks Canada, prepare and submit an updated nomination for National Historic Significance for the Battalion Numbers and return back to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and Protective Services when a decision by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada is finalized to share the results with Council.

AND FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor of Calgary, on behalf of City Council, write a letter to the Alberta Member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and the Federal Minister of Environment that encourages Parks Canada to re-evaluate the nomination.