

PFC2021-0631  
 Attachment 3

**Attachment 3 – Application and letters of support for “Dr. Leslie Allan Park”  
 (Confidential)**

<b>Proposed Name:</b>	Dr. Leslie Allan
<b>Nominator:</b>	Ashley Proceviat
<b>Achievements:</b>	<p>Dr Leslie C Allan was born in Scotland in 1915 and after coming to Canada in 1947, made his home in Calgary until his death in 1996. During his 81 years, Dr Allan celebrated many achievements that distinguish his contributions as worthy of recognition in Calgary’s Municipal Naming Program. Beyond his service in the British Military, where he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps during WWII and earned a medical degree from Aberdeen University and a diploma in Public Health from Liverpool University, Dr Allan’s greatest achievements came at Calgary’s City Hall as Asst (1950-60) and Chief Medical Officer of Health (1960-73) before his retirement in 1976. A resident of Elbow Park, Dr Allan was Calgary’s face of public health for a quarter century, often appearing in newspapers and on TV as an advocate for health protection, disease prevention and health promotion for all Calgarians. Dr Allan also sat on Public Dental Health Clinic for citizens who could not afford dental services. From his seat at the helm of Public Health in Calgary, Dr Allan led the City through other public health initiatives including anti-smoking education, growth of the Public Health Nurse program and the elimination of garbage burning, all of which were addressed in the face of Calgary’s booming population.</p>
<b>Impact:</b>	<p>As Calgary’s Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr Leslie Allan was an active member of the community and a visionary in his focus on medical and community issues like vaccination, fluoridation, smoking and environment that remain at the forefront of societal awareness almost 70 years later. Public health in the 1950’s and 60’s was difficult given the deadly rise of polio. The disease was so rampant that Alberta cases grew 18x from 1951-53 and a hospital wing was built at the Children’s Hospital to accommodate child patients in iron lungs. Polio cases spiked in summer and fall, forcing Dr Allan to make difficult decisions like the closure of public swimming pools, delaying the start of the school year, curtailing playground activities and prohibiting kids under 16 from going to movies, all to minimize the risk of exposure. Paired with a vaccination program he developed, Calgary citizens had the best chance to avoid disease. By 1959 thousands of Calgarians were vaccinated and by 1964, 90% of the school population was protected by both Salk and Sabin immunization programs. Dr Allan fiercely believed in water fluoridation and built the foundation for a city-wide program after the successful 1989 referendum. While the public fluoridation became a reality more than a decade after he retired, Dr Allan is regarded as a pioneer in its establishment. As Calgary’s fluoridation debate rages once again, Dr Keith Allan, Calgary dentist and Dr. Allan’s son notes that cavities in Calgary children are 40% higher than in Edmonton and “illustrates the impact of the misguided policy of removing fluoride from our public water system.” A member of Calgary’s Civil Defense Committee, Dr Allan played a critical role in Calgarian’s safety at the height of the Cold War through his attendance at Emergency Response Planning meetings and his participation in Operation Lifesaver (1955), a mass evacuation exercise that was one of the only major Civil Defense Evacuation operations in Canadian history. Dr Allan was a strong environmental advocate and led initiatives in mosquito population control and the elimination of garbage burning as a measure of pollution mitigation and the reduction of smoke induced illness and disease. The legacy and lasting impact of Dr Allan’s work in the Calgary community is best measured in the number of lives he touched in tirelessly serving the citizens of the City he loved and building a benchmark for public health that remains amongst the strongest in the country.</p>
<b>Preferred Greenspace:</b>	HIL494
<b>letter of support from CA:</b>	2 attached (Shawnee Evergreen and Lake Bonavista)
<b>letter of permission from family:</b>	2 attached
<b>other letters of support:</b>	5 attached: Councillor Farkas, Mary Lou Charles, Brian Brennan, University of Calgary (2)



December 20, 2019

**Re: Dr. Leslie C. Allan nomination for the Municipal Naming Program**

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Shawnee Evergreen Community Association I would like to support the nomination of a notable Calgarian, Dr. Leslie C. Allan, to be recognized through the naming of a park or green space.

His daughter, Ashley Proceviat, has outlined for us the numerous and significant contributions that Dr. Allan had made to Calgary in his over twenty-five years of service in the office of the Medical Officer of Health, with sixteen years as the Chief Medical Officer as well as through other roles in the community.

As Dr. Allan was a former resident in our community, we would be honoured to see a park in our area bear his name.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Lynn Jobe".

M. Lynn Jobe  
Vice President,  
Shawnee Evergreen Community Association  
[ljobe.91@gmail.com](mailto:ljobe.91@gmail.com)  
403-606-2406



**Lake Bonavista Community Association**

1401 Acadia Drive SE Calgary, AB T2J 4C6

Phone: 403-271-7107

Email: [info@lakebonavistacommunity.com](mailto:info@lakebonavistacommunity.com)

[www.lakebonavistacommunity.com](http://www.lakebonavistacommunity.com)

Ms. Ashley Proceviat  
119 Lake Placid Place SE  
Calgary, AB. T2J 5R6

Re: Dr. Leslie C. Allan, City of Calgary Municipal Naming Programing

December 9, 2019

Dear Ms. Proceviat,

Thank you for reaching out to us and sharing the details of your father's impact on our city. His leadership in the medical field was certainly impactful and improved the lives of many Calgarians during his time and for future generations. His 25 years of service to the City, especially in the capacity of Chief Medical Officer of Health, was no doubt impactful.

I am confident the City of Calgary Municipal Naming Program had people like your father in mind when creating this project. Designing a green space in honour of your father, Dr. Leslie C. Allan, would be a well-deserved tribute.

We are pleased to be able to support families in our community who seek to celebrate the achievements of their loved ones. As a family that has been active in our community for over 40 years, your initiative helps build pride in achievements that would likely go unknown. Your father's achievements should be shared so that they can inspire others to contribute to their community and help others. A park named in his honour would help share his impact and the energy he invested in his community. The Lake Bonavista Community Association wholeheartedly supports your initiative to recognize the accomplishments of your father.

If you require support outside of this letter please don't hesitate to contact us.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Shaw", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Shaw

President, Lake Bonavista Community Association

Ashley Proceviat  
119 Lake Placid Place SE  
Calgary, AB T2J 5R6

Dr. Keith Allan  
120 Hawk Eye Road  
Bragg Creek, AB T0L 0K0

December 28, 2019

**Re: Reference Letter for Dr. Leslie C. Allan - Calgary Municipal Naming Program Nominee**

To Whom It May Concern:

We are very appreciative that The City of Calgary chose to create the Municipal Naming Program in honour of the 125th anniversary of Calgary's civic incorporation. This wonderful opportunity to recognize the contribution of Calgarians for their service to the community and the betterment of the City is a remarkable way to celebrate.

We believe that our father, Dr. Leslie Christie Allan, who in his role as Calgary's Chief Medical Officer of Health, put the health and wellbeing of Calgarians at the forefront of his career with the City of Calgary. To have a park or green space named for him would be fitting recognition for his civic contributions and a wonderful legacy for his children, grand-children and great-grandchildren (and beyond) to so proudly remember him.

Researching the realities of the public health agenda during his almost quarter century of work at the City afforded us the opportunity to speak with many people who worked with him, or who came to know of his many contributions which, no doubt, have stood the test of time. Newspapers.com was an invaluable and enlightening resource where we found thousands of news articles about our father and the many important civic initiatives that he had a hand in.

Beyond the extraordinary man that we saw go to work everyday in service of all Calgarians, we wanted to take an opportunity to share some of our more personal memories of our father.

We grew up in a family where "good enough" was not "good enough". One always had to strive for perfection. That is the legacy our father left us and what was always on his mind in his work and personal life. When Dad served on the Civil Defence Committee it was a scary time. We knew that in the event of an attack, Dad had to go to a bunker with the city officials and we had to evacuate to High River without him. During his entire work career, we do not remember our Dad ever missing work. In Elementary school, we always were the recipients of perfect attendance awards at Elbow Park school.

*"In my career as a teacher in Terrace, in Northern BC, the only days I missed going to school were the snow days when schools was cancelled." - Ashley Proceviat*

*"I have worked in my dental practice for 47 years and have rarely missed a day of work. I was unable to match my fathers flawless work attendance record - Zero days missed for sickness in almost 25 years. I missed 2 days in my first 25 years and now a total of 8 days in almost 47 years." - Keith Allan*

Because our dad was always on TV and in the newspapers, all our school friends from grade 1 through grade 12 knew who our father was. We were very proud to see him highly recognized in the community for the work he did. Just one more personal story - Our Christmas turkey came intact, with no feathers but with all of the innards, from a farm in Didsbury. Dad invited all the neighbourhood children to come to our basement where he had covered the ping pong table with newspapers, and then with the turkey front and centre, and with his surgical knives. he gave us all a biology lesson as he removed the various organs and explained them!

Our sincere thanks to you for Initiating a program to honour Calgarians who had a positive impact on our city.

Sincerely and with proud feelings,

  
Ashley (Allan) Proceviat and Keith Allan

Ryan Proceviat  
146A Springbluff Blvd SW  
Calgary, AB T2J5R6

December 30, 2019

**Re: Reference Letters for Dr. Leslie C. Allan – Municipal Naming Program Nominee**

To Whom It May Concern;

Building this nomination package was an incredibly rewarding experience. An outlet to our family history that I got to share with my mum as we remembered her dad, my sister and our spouses as we reminisced about our grandfather, and perhaps most importantly with my daughters, his great grand-daughters, as I shared so many wonderful stories of a man they will never know in person but through this process will know in their hearts.

It is hard for me to believe that the work we are looking back on began 70 years ago. In fact, as I submit this package on December 30, 2019, it marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary (to the day) of Dr. Allan's appointment to the role of Assistant Medical Officer of Health at the City of Calgary. The significance of that is not lost on me as I consider that virtually all of my grandpa's co-workers, colleagues and even friends have all passed and we are left only with the memories of the stories that we heard and have told forward at our family gatherings. With almost nobody left to tell his stories first hand we were so lucky to find archives of the Calgary Herald (and many other newspapers from across the vast country of Canada) that allow his accomplishments and achievements to live on as indelible ink on newsprint, now stored as digital copies living somewhere in the "cloud."

While we have been successful in submitting five (5) reference letters in this nomination package, I have decided to submit a 6<sup>th</sup> by way of an appendix of 99 newspaper clippings from Dr. Allan's quarter century of work at The City of Calgary in the role of Assistant and Chief Medical Officer of Health. These articles capture the importance of his work, the effort he invested in securing the public health and safety of Calgary's citizens, and the resonating impact of his contributions that reverberate in the headlines of the present day.

Some of the articles printed on paper may be hard to read, and as such I ask for your indulgence to review the appendices in their digital format where each article can be zoomed in to an appropriate level for comfortable reading.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit Dr. Leslie Allan for your consideration in The City of Calgary's Municipal Naming Program and for taking the time to review this final Letter of Reference that I proudly call his 99 Greatest Hits.

Sincerely,





December 6, 2019

To whom it may concern:

**Re: Letter of Support confirming the employment of Dr. Leslie C. Allan**

Please accept this letter confirming that Dr. Leslie Allan was employed at the City of Calgary:

- from 1950 to 1960 as the Assistant Medical Officer
- from 1960 to 1973 as Medical Officer of Health

During his quarter century of service, Dr. Allan was instrumental in leading the fight against Polio through the development of vaccination programs and public education campaigns. These efforts ultimately resulted in the 1963 declaration of Calgary being Polio free for the first time in a decade. Furthermore, he led initiatives in improving dental health through fluoridation of the public water supply and the establishment of the first public health dental clinic to reach disadvantaged families.

As Ward 11 Councillor, I acknowledge Dr. Leslie Allan's status as a respected citizen of Elbow Park and dedicated local leader. I am in support of efforts to honour his achievements and contributions to the community.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Farkas".

Jeremy Farkas  
Councillor, Ward 11

Mary Lou Charles  
615 Riverdale Avenue S.W.,  
Calgary, AB T2S 0Y2

December 14, 2019

**RE: Reference Letter for Dr. Leslie C. Allan, City of Calgary Municipal Naming Program,**

To Whom it May Concern;

My name is Mary Lou Charles, and I am a graduate of the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in Nursing, specializing in Public Health. I joined the Calgary Health Department in 1955 and enjoyed a rewarding career until my retirement in 1988. For 18 years I had the privilege of working with Dr. Leslie C. Allan as he served as both the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer of Health. I am happy to write a letter of endorsement to the Calgary Municipal Naming program on behalf of Dr. Allan, and speak to the impact he had in protecting the health of Calgarians.

Dr. Allan was a quiet man who oversaw the City Health Department in a dignified, knowledgeable and well researched manner, always working on behalf all Calgarians and avoiding controversy or politics.

Forthright in his belief in preventative health care, Dr. Allan operated the Health Department as such, promoting good health in the community through school programs, well baby clinics, and neighbourhood clinics where we enjoyed personal relationships with the communities we served. While reactive measures were taken when required, our primary interest was in offering preventative health related services that were pro-active, responsible and served the public good.

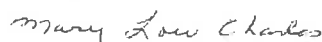
Examples of his leadership and philosophy can be found in the weekly school visits Public Health Nurses conducted, and the expansive Well Baby Clinics that blossomed as Calgary's population grew. From delivering immunizations and vision tests, to teaching nutrition and hygiene at local schools; or visiting new mothers and their babies, to providing generational health services to entire families (from babies to their grandmothers), Dr. Allan strived for everyone to have access to the best health services that the City could offer. In fact, each year every grade 1 student in Calgary was given a full medical checkup, and Dr. Allan personally delivered many of the examinations. He encouraged schools and families we served to contact the Health Department with any questions, and we would provide home visits to families who needed assistance. I look back very proudly on the front line nursing we did, and the focus Dr. Allan put on the pursuit of preventative health care for all Calgarians.

When the polio epidemic broke out in the mid 50's and 60's, our focus was on the Salk vaccine inoculation in schools and community locations. Dr. Allan led the program and saw the importance of vaccinating as many people as possible against this dreadful disease. He orchestrated the program with precision and it ran like well oiled machine. It might surprise you to know that in those days we did not have disposable needles, and each evening we would return to City Hall where the needles had to be autoclaved in preparation for the next day.

On the following page, I have provided 2 items that I want to share with you that I found in my photo albums, photographs that I saw fit to keep from almost 70 years ago because of their significance to the work we did in the City of Calgary.

I am honoured to write this letter and offer my support for Dr. Leslie Allan in the Municipal Naming Program in recognition of the role he played in leading the City of Calgary through numerous public health initiatives for the betterment of our community.

Yours truly,



Mary Lou Charles

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## Brian Brennan – Author

12 December 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

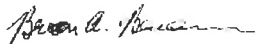
I first became aware of Dr. Leslie C. Allan's important contributions to public health care when I joined the *Calgary Herald* as a staff writer in 1974. As a result, I was pleased to salute his achievements in my "Tribute" column after he died in 1996.

During his 23 years of service to the City of Calgary, first as assistant medical health officer and then for 13 years as chief medical health officer, Dr. Allan played a significant role keeping Calgarians safe from such hazards of the day as polio, tuberculosis and infectious hepatitis.

He was also front and centre in the city's years-long quest to convince Calgarians that fluoride in the water supply would combat tooth decay. This initiative finally bore fruit in 1989 when, after four defeated plebiscites, the electorate voted to endorse water fluoridation.

When Dr. Allan left Calgary for Edmonton in 1973, Calgary's chief commissioner, Geoff Hamilton, told the *Herald* the city had lost a valuable administrator. I think it would be most appropriate to have a public green space named after Dr. Allan in recognition of his contributions.

Sincerely,



Brian Brennan

2034 2 AVE NW, CALGARY, AB, T2N 0G5  
403-270-3269 [brianbrennan@icloud.com](mailto:brianbrennan@icloud.com) [www.brianbrennan.ca](http://www.brianbrennan.ca)





SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE

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Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 1N4  
ucalgary.ca

December 16, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong support of the campaign to name a public space in Calgary after Dr. Leslie C. Allan, who served for 13 years as Calgary medical officer of health. I know of him both through the tales of his daughter, Ms. Ashley Proceviat, and from my Rotary Club of Calgary, Downtown, where he was a long-time member.)

Rotary International has made polio eradication a priority and has been successful in most parts of the world. This was accomplished through the diligent efforts of medical personnel such as Dr. Allan, who lobbied successfully for the vaccination of Calgary's children during his time with our City. He was truly a visionary and didn't shy from taking on controversial issues such as fluoridation of our water supply, an issue that is still being debated today.

While I didn't know Dr. Allan personally (he moved to Edmonton around the time I was moving to Calgary) I have done some research in both primary and secondary sources and this convinces me that he is very much a worthy and historically notable Calgarian.

I should point out that even though we are 99.9% there in eradicating polio, this work still needs attention, and Rotary worldwide has been providing that. As they note on <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/end-polio> :

It's crucial to eliminate polio from the last three countries where it remains endemic and to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

Naming a space after Dr. Allan would not only be a truly appropriate and well-deserved tribute, it would also be a chance for all Calgarians to be reminded of the importance of vaccination, whether it's for polio, HPV, or other conditions. His courage and leadership can inspire us and future generations to combat "fake news" like anti-vaccination celebrities, and replace it with something that he loved, evidence-based medicine.

Please feel free to contact me at 403 220-7437 or [kccnan@ucalgary.ca](mailto:kccnan@ucalgary.ca) if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Professor, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape



JULIET R. GUICHON  
Associate Professor

Department of Community Health Sciences  
Cumming School of Medicine  
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403-220-2752 guichon@ucalgary.ca

December 31, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Dr. Leslie C. Allan

Without knowing Dr. Allan personally, I am privileged to be one of tens of thousands who benefitted from Dr. Allan's dedication to public health in Calgary. As a Grade One pupil in south west Calgary, I well remember lining up to receive a sugar cube and then being instructed to take water to move the sugar off my teeth.

Dr. Allan's work meant that many Calgarians have avoided the dreadful disease of polio and its lifelong complications, and eventually benefitted from Dr. Allan's early dedication to promoting community water fluoridation, which Calgarians enjoyed from 1991 to 2011 and which reduces by up to 44% the incidence of the most common chronic disease of childhood – dental decay. Dr. Allan was also concerned to reduce injury to the lungs from the burning of garbage in Calgary and from the practice of tobacco smoking.

To improve public health, Dr. Allan was required to engage in public education and to confront vested interest while maintaining a clear-eyed focus on the goal: improving the lives of Calgarians. His field of medicine can be underappreciated because, if all goes well, nothing happens. People don't contract polio, they don't have dental cavities, they don't develop lung cancer.

In working to help Calgarians regain fluoridation, we are standing on the shoulders of this giant in public health. It is right that we name a space in Calgary after Dr. Allan because to have his name grace our city would continue to enrich our lives. Consistently with Dr. Allan's attributes, may I respectfully suggest that the space be on solid ground (as he operated from solid scientific ground) and that the space have a long view that encompasses children playing happily and safely outdoors, on their way to becoming healthy adults who will also contribute to Calgary.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juliet R. Guichon".

Juliet R. Guichon BA History (Yale); BA (Hons. Juris.), BCL, MA (Oxon.); SJD (Toronto)  
Called to the Bar of Ontario  
Recipient, Canadian Medical Association, Medal of Honour  
Recipient, Canadian Public Health Association, Public Health Hero Award