

Letter of Support – Ward Councillor

THE CITY OF

CALGARY

OFFICE OF THE COUNCILLORS

23 February 2015

City of Calgary Naming Committee

RE: Renaming an alley in the Beltline after Nellie McClung

Dear Sir or Madam:


I am pleased to write this letter in support of the initiative to rename a laneway or pathway in the Beltline after one of the greatest Canadians and Calgarians- and Beltline residents – Nellie McClung.

Nellie McClung (1873- 1951) was a politician and social activist who, as part of the "Famous Five" in the 1920s, fought for and eventually won the right for women to be considered "persons" under Canadian law. Her achievements on behalf of women and human dignity have helped to shape our nation, and her name has become a byword for Canada's struggle for equality. Two identical statues, one in Ottawa and the other in Calgary's Olympic Plaza, depict Nellie, surrounded by the rest of the Five, holding a newspaper that reads, "Women are Persons".

While best known as an Alberta MIA, League of Nations delegate and human rights campaigner, Nellie McClung was also an accomplished novelist and journalist. From 1908 to 1945, McClung wrote nine volumes of fiction and short fiction as well as an additional nine volumes of non-fiction, many of which were national bestsellers. It was McClung's fiction that helped her attain the social recognition necessary to run for public office.

Naming an alley after Nellie McClung not only fits with our city's values, but it would help us tell our stories and more deeply understand our collective past and future.

Sincerely,

UA- 
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