

Letter of Support – Beltline Community Association



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Mr. Colin D'Costa
Chair, Municipal Naming Committee
The City of Calgary
P.O. Box 2100 Station M #8206
Calgary AB T2P 2M5

February 25, 2015

Dear Mr. D'Costa:

RE: Nellie McClung Alley -naming proposal for 7 street SW lane between 13 and 14 avenues SW

Poet laureate Derek Beaulieu has developed an engaging public undertaking to bring greater recognition to Calgary writers. Working with Calgary Arts Development Authority [CADA], historic contributions to literary arts are to be recognized by naming lanes in the communities where they lived.

Nellie McClung is a clear choice for Beltline. Everyone knows the 'famous five' story of how Nellie helped make women legal persons in the Commonwealth. Fewer know Nellie as a writer.

Linda Quirk of Queen's University points out, "Although her political triumphs have tended to eclipse her literary career, McClung was an accomplished and popular author during her lifetime. She published in a range of periodicals. While many of her contemporaries found it extremely difficult to publish books in Canada, her extensive list of monographs includes novels, collections of short stories, collections of essays, and two volumes of autobiography, all published in her native country."

The current Arrata Opera Centre property was built as Wesley Methodist Church in 1906. Nellie McClung lived nearby at the corner of 15 avenue and 7 street SW from 1923 to the mid 1930s. She attended regularly and drew inspiration from her religious commitment. The naming of the lane by Wesley would enhance the McClung house designation and add further recognition to the role of Nellie McClung in the area.

Our poet laureate and CADA also envision interpretative programming to support the lane namings. For example, a celebration and signage as well as a 'little library' including reprints of Nellie McClung's works and/or brochures are possibilities for this lane.

Beltline Communities supports this initiative, and finds it an excellent proposal for the Beltline community district.

Thank you for considering the name 'Nellie McClung Alley'.

Sincerely,

Rob Taylor, president
Beltline Communities of Victoria and Connaught Association

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