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April 25, 2016

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Calgary, AB, T2P 2M5

**Re: Municipal Complex Commemoration Policy**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the City's policy related to commemoration.

As you know, Alberta Champions Society had offered to install and maintain a dynamic commemorative display within City Hall highlighting the contributions of individuals from Calgary's history. It was also planned to have an interactive component which would allow citizens, visitors to the City or students on field trips to get engaged with our history by searching the individuals with an electronic feature and learning more about their contributions. This display would be constantly changing as new individuals from our past are honoured by Alberta Champions.

The draft commemoration policy which only allows for an installation to be on City property for one year would preclude the display that was suggested. It also appears that the City does not wish to have an interactive component to displays.

We are concerned that this policy would also preclude other significant displays such as commemorative pieces of art which would add beauty and artistry to the front of City Hall. Many groups would not want to invest in creating and installing an artistic display or monuments if it must be removed in one year.

The policy has a goal of changing displays at City Hall annually. However in some cases it would be helpful to have a permanent display.

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For example, Alberta Champions has Fields of Fame across the City honouring individuals from our history. City Hall would be a very effective place to have a permanent artistic commemorative display (in a different format than we had suggested earlier) pointing out to visitors where they can find the locations of these important installations. This would add to their appreciation of the City of Calgary. This component would also encourage visitors to our City to tour around the City to other Fields of Fame and develop a greater appreciation of our history and the beauty of historic representations in the City.

Other attractions related to historic Calgary in addition to Alberta Champions, such as the Famous Five, The Stephens Avenue Mall, The Nellie McClung House, Lougheed House, etc may also wish to provide or participate in a very attractive and interactive display which would commemorate our history as well as assisting visitors to see which locations they might visit. With any of the above, as long as the attractions are in place it would seem logical to keep a display in place directing visitors there and not remove it after a year.

It would be reasonable to have these groups review their display annually or on an ongoing basis to be sure it features their attractions in an up to date manner.

Is it possible that the policy requires two categories?

1. Displays for current or recent matters for public information and advice
2. Displays for historic or iconic information for public and visitor information and way finding

When choosing displays to include at City Hall, mandating in the policy that individuals commemorated must have passed on at least 10 years earlier may be restrictive as in some cases it would be clear that an individual's lifetime accomplishments are worthy of recognition sooner than 10 years after they pass on.

Alberta Champions Society would suggest that the Municipal Complex Commemoration Policy as it exists does not encourage a centre that will bring Calgary's vibrant history alive for both citizens and visitors.

Warm regards,

Pat Christie, Executive Administrator  
(on behalf of the Board of Directors listed below)

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