



Report Number: EC2025-1029

Meeting: Executive Committee

Meeting Date: 2025 December 09

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**RE: Amending The City of Calgary Flag Policy CP2016-07**

**Sponsoring Member(s) of Council:** Councillor McLean, Mayor Farkas

<p>CITY OF CALGARY  <b>RECEIVED</b>          IN COUNCIL CHAMBER</p> <p><b>DEC 15 2025</b></p> <p>ITEM: 11.1 EC2025-1029</p> <p>Distro - NM</p> <p>CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT</p>
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**WHEREAS** Council approved a *Flag Policy* in the early 1990s, and on 2009 March 16 Council adopted a *City of Calgary Flag Policy (general, dignitaries & flag raisings)* CC036 to ensure that all flags at the Municipal Complex and other City of Calgary properties and buildings are flown and displayed in a consistent and appropriate manner;

**AND WHEREAS** on 2016 November 07, Council adopted *Flag Policy* CP2016-07 which provides that all flags are important symbols of honour and pride and must be treated in a respectful and consistent manner;

**AND WHEREAS** the purpose of *Flag Policy* CP2016-07 is to ensure all flags at the Municipal Complex and other City sites are displayed in a respectful, consistent and appropriate manner;

**AND WHEREAS** in 2025, The City of Calgary ("The City") has raised 34 flags of nations to date;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipal Complex is a central civic space intended to be welcoming, inclusive, and safe for all Calgarians, regardless of background or heritage;

**AND WHEREAS** the display of national flags at City Hall, while originally intended as a gesture of respect and cultural recognition, has increasingly become a focal point for demonstrations, counter-demonstrations, and heightened security concerns;

**AND WHEREAS** the City's intent in recognizing cultural communities is better reflected through proclamations, cultural events, community partnerships, and other inclusive forms of recognition already established in Council policies CP2018-02 (Recognitions by Council) and CP2020-03 (Proclamations and Letters of Recognition);

**AND WHEREAS** national flag-raisings inherently speak to matters of foreign affairs and diplomatic recognition, which fall exclusively within federal jurisdiction and are outside the mandate of municipal government;

**AND WHEREAS** the operational resources required to manage security, crowd control, and administrative processes associated with national flag-raisings have grown significantly, placing increasing strain on City staff and diverting resources from core municipal priorities;

**AND WHEREAS** ensuring that City Hall remains a neutral civic space, free from perceived alignment with any foreign government, is essential to maintaining public confidence, safety, and trust;

**AND WHEREAS** discontinuing the practice of flying national flags is consistent with the City's responsibility to prioritize local community harmony and protect the Municipal Complex as a place for all Calgarians;

ISC: UNRESTRICTED

**AND WHEREAS** the City will continue to celebrate and recognize the cultural diversity of Calgary through inclusive, community-driven initiatives that do not elevate one nation over another or risk dividing Calgarians during periods of geopolitical tension;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Executive Committee forward this Notice of Motion to the December 15, 2025 Regular Meeting of Council for consideration; and further,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council amend The City of Calgary *Flag Policy* CP2016-07 as follows:

1. Delete in its entirety Section 5.3.2, Flags of Nations, which reads as follows:
  - “(a) In recognition of the ethnic and cultural diversity of Calgary, The City may fly the flag of a nation on its national day.
  - (b) It is the responsibility of the requesting organization to submit an application for a flag to be flown, as well as supply the national flag.
  - (c) Only official flags recognized by the federal government will be raised.
  - (d) If a flag raising is requested as part of a larger ceremony, applicants must make appropriate arrangements in accordance to the Municipal Complex Bylaw for the use of the Municipal Plaza”;
2. Delete in its entirety Section 5.4.2, Other dignitaries, which reads as follows: “(a) As a gesture of respect and friendship, Protocol may direct that the appropriate flag be flown on the occasion of a visiting dignitary to the Mayor or delegated Member of Council”;
3. Delete in its entirety Section 3.1(k) which reads as follows: “National Day” means a designated date to celebrate the nationhood of a nation or non-sovereign country. The date may be symbolized by the date of independence, of becoming a republic, or a significant date for a patron saint or ruler. The National Day will often be a national holiday in that country”;
4. In subsection 5.3.1 (a), add the words “, with the exception of flags of nations.” after the words “ceremonial occasions”;
5. Delete in its entirety Subsection 5.3.1(c)(i) which reads as follows: “The City will not fly flags of nations with whom Canada does not have diplomatic relations as recognized by the federal government”;
6. Add a new Subsection (b) to Section 5.5.6, Solemn Occasions, which reads as follows: “5.5.6 (b) No flags of other nations shall be flown, or lowered to half-mast in reference to this Section”; and
7. Where sections and subsections have been deleted in their entirety, renumber the remaining sections and subsections accordingly.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of Motion Checklist