



## The Royal Canadian Legion

CALGARY (ALBERTA No. 1) BRANCH

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February 23, 2018

Mayor Nenshi and Councillors  
City of Calgary

CITY OF CALGARY  
**RECEIVED**  
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

FEB 26 2018

ITEM: 10.1.1 C2018-031

Distribution - Cllr. Farrell  
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

### Royal Canadian Legion (Alberta No. 1) Branch – Taxation

Calgary #1 is Calgary's oldest Legion, and the building is a designated Provincial Heritage Resource. Details of the original Heritage Value can be found at <https://hermis.alberta.ca/ARHP/Details.aspx?DeptID=1&ObjectID=4665-0555> and a PDF copy of the listing is attached to this letter. An excerpt from the Statement of Significance describes the Branch as "... a powerful reminder of the heroic sacrifices of Canadian soldiers during World War One and their struggle to secure justice and social reintegration for the nation's war veterans."

In 1919, we were fortunate to secure a 99-year lease with the City, exempting the Branch from all property taxes for the term of the lease. Effective January 1, 2019 the Branch would be taxed on the large portion of the property that acts as a liquor licensed area – the significant portion of the Branch.

During the years since then, we have served as a resource and a support for veterans and veterans' families. We have made hundreds of thousands of dollars in charitable donations to charities such as Inn from the Cold, the Boys and Girls Clubs, Track and Field, and numerous seniors organizations. We feel we are an integral part of the community.

We have negotiated event partnerships with the Calgary Stampede and Spud Island, just to name a couple. We support going away parties, retirement parties, wakes and receptions.

Member attrition, lack of new members, loss of parking and demographics relating to an increasing number of seniors with less disposable income have all contributed to a Branch that has struggled economically. The Branch is not in a position to take on a significant tax burden.

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The Branch strongly supports Councillor Farrell's Notice of Motion on our behalf, to bring forward an agreement between The City of Calgary and The Royal Canadian Legion (Alberta No. 1) Branch to continue to exempt the Branch from all property and municipal taxes for the next 100 years, or until such time that it is no longer operating as a Royal Canadian Legion, or no longer occupies the site located at 116 7 Ave SE, Calgary, AB.

Calgary No. 1 Branch would be very proud to be also designated as a Municipal Historic Resource, in addition to our Provincial Heritage Resource status.

Thank you for taking the time to consider Councillor Farrell's Notice of Motion.

Fraternally

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION (CALGARY NO. 1) BRANCH**

*Phil MacAulay*

Phil MacAulay  
President

Attachment Alberta Register of Historic Places  
Royal Canadian Legion Calgary (Alberta No. 1) Branch

c.c. Phil MacAulay, President  
Susan MacAulay, Manager