



Royal Canadian Legion, North Calgary Branch #264
1918 Kensington Road NW, Calgary Alberta T2N 3R5
Telephone: 403-283-5264;

Druh Farrell
Ward 7 Councillor
City Of Calgary



Dear Councillor Ferrell;

We have been advised of your intended Motion to reduce the taxes for Branch 264 North Calgary of the Royal Canadian Legion. As this branch represents in excess of 1800 members, we all applaud your effort to secure what we deem as just.

In 2010 this branch of the Royal Canadian Legion was destined, and directed to close. No longer could a facility of over 65 years sustain itself into the future, and as such the Royal Canadian Legion was prepared to sell off the property, close, and simply disappear from the community. Through the efforts of a number of volunteers, an alternate course of action was taken to redevelop a portion of the property and swap a portion of our land holdings in return for building a new facility which would serve the community, the veterans, veteran's family, and the city as a whole.

In 2017, we achieved our dream of a new building with the absolute partnership and commitment of George Trutina. Our new building would give the Royal Canadian Legion a new home, a place in the community, and a pattern by which other Legions from across the country could emulate the success of redevelopment. Well our dream, has become a nightmare.

Plummeting oil prices, huge vacancy rates downtown, carbon taxes, minimum wage increases, statutory holiday payment changes, lack of investments, and an aging population has resulted in this facility being on the brink of complete failure. We had 20000 square feet of a building, which should have been generating some cash flow and has not. Couple that with a property tax increase by more than 300 percent and we truly face failure.

But, as always, the Royal Canadian Legion has persevered, but only through the remembrance of why we are here to start with. My father, my uncles, his friends, the very fabric of us, just did without ask, or for that matter a hand out. It pains me to ask, but I do now on behalf of the 1800 members of this branch of The Royal Canadian Legion. We need your assistance. We need your help. From failing hands we pass this torch to be held high.

In absolute honour, I respectfully endorse your efforts, as they are beyond honorable, they are simply right.

Mark F. Barham
President Branch 264
North Calgary Branch
Royal Canadian Legion