

---

## MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2019

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Irina Dragnea, Meeting Coordinator

SUBJECT: Canadian Pride in Vancouver's Chinatown Memorial Square

---

On February 13, 2019, Vancouver City Council, at its meeting immediately following the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services, referred debate and decision on the following motion to the Regular Council meeting to be held on February 26, 2019, as Unfinished Business.

### WHEREAS

1. At the November 1, 2017, Standing Committee of Council on Policy and Strategic Priorities, City Council unanimously approved the Administrative Report dated October 20, 2017, entitled: "Historical Discrimination Against Chinese People in Vancouver" including the following key actions:
  - i. Adoption of the "Preliminary Research on Historical Discrimination Against Chinese People in Vancouver" report that provides context and background for the initiative;
  - ii. A request for a public acknowledgement and a formal apology for past legislation, regulations and policies of previous Vancouver City Councils that discriminated against residents of Chinese descent;
2. Recommendation #2 in the Historical Discrimination Report aims to Strengthen Relations with the Chinese Canadian Community through Legacy Actions that can confirm the values of a just and inclusive community;
3. The City of Vancouver values opportunities to celebrate our rich multiculturalism through public arts, installations and events that instill civic pride. There is no greater symbol of unity than the Canadian flag;
4. Council has previously provided support for a redesign of the Keefer Memorial Square and reimagined it as a future gateway to Chinatown as part of a UNESCO Heritage site application. Such a redesign is a number of years away from completion;

5. An engaged community group wishes to create a legacy action through the funding and installation of a flagpole at Chinatown Memorial Square that can proudly fly the Canadian flag. The Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club is prepared to underwrite the purchase and installation of a 30-foot flagpole, believing that the display of this symbol of Canadian pride would complement the resident statue that is dedicated to Chinese Canadian pioneers and veterans;
6. Installation of a flagpole would contribute to the continued work of building connected communities that celebrate Vancouver's cultural diversity, and positively recognize the contributions of Chinese people to the history, fabric, and success of our city and country;
7. The Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club will be celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019 and sees an opportunity to bring the community together for a public flag-raising event on May 5, 2019;
8. The initiative is supported by Pacific Unit 280 of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada as well as the Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society;
9. Acceptance of funding to support the installation of a flagpole in partnership with Vancouver's Chinese community is a timely and significant gift opportunity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council endorse the installation of a flagpole at or in proximity to Chinatown Memorial Square through the acceptance of a flagpole and support base gift from the Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club as a symbol of unity and cross-cultural pride.  
  
FURTHER THAT such acceptance be subject to review by Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, and Engineering staff.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to discuss the potential for installation of a flagpole now with a moveable base vs. the consideration of waiting for the installation as part of the Memorial Square redesign.
- C. THAT ongoing maintenance and any nighttime lighting costs would be the responsibility of the City of Vancouver.
- D. THAT staff work with the donor and Chinatown community organizations on flagpole siting options.
- E. THAT Council acknowledge that this initiative supports work underway in reconciliation of the "Historical Discrimination Against Chinese People in Vancouver".

\* \* \* \* \*