

# Year-Round Free Parking Subsidy for Veterans and Current Serving Members of the Canadian Forces

Standing Committee on City Finance and Services

October 22, 2020



# Why do we price parking?

- Manage curb space
  - Support convenient access to businesses and residents
- Manage off-street parking demand
  - Support business parking demands



# Veteran and Active Service Member Demographics



- 90,000 veterans in British Columbia
  - ~48,000 veterans in Metro Vancouver, ~12,000 in Vancouver
  - 80% of veterans are under 80 years old
  - 4% of veterans experienced low income; this was lower than Canadians of comparable age and sex (14%)
- ~100,000 people currently serving in the Regular or Reserve Forces in Canada
  - 5 Units and Formations in the Vancouver Area
- Current Number of Veteran Plates\*:
  - British Columbia – 14,000
  - Lower Mainland – 4,900
  - Vancouver – 350

\*Source: ICBC

# Practices in Other Major Urban Centres

## Major Urban Centres

City	Free Parking for Veterans?	Notes
Calgary, AB	Yes - Value Limited	With a valid plate free parking credit of \$10 / month
Edmonton, AB	No	-
Montreal, QC	No	-
Halifax, NS	No	Free parking granted up until March 31, 2006 in recognition of Year of the Veteran in 2005.
Ottawa, ON	Yes - Date Limited	Free on Nov 11 (downtown)
Toronto, ON	Yes - Date Limited	Free on June 6, Sept 17, and Nov 11
Vancouver, BC	Yes - Date Limited	One week leading up to November 11
Winnipeg, MB	Yes - Value Limited	Free on April 9, June 6, Nov 11 and receive 20 hrs of complimentary free parking at meters (Scratch card)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to explore the possibility of a process to allow eligible holders of a BC veterans license plate and current serving members of the Canadian Forces to park their vehicle for free, subject to the time limits already in place, at City of Vancouver parking meters, Easy Park lots, surface lots, and Park Board operated parking facilities; including Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, the Vancouver Aquatic Centre, and all Vancouver Community Centres;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council by October 2020 with recommendations and plans to deliver a process by November 11, 2020, for year-round free parking for Veterans and current serving members of the Canadian Forces, at all parking locations currently offered by the City of Vancouver during the week of Remembrance Day

- Given the sizeable population of Veterans in the Metro Vancouver area, a high-level estimate of an unlimited free parking program is \$2M/year

# Report Recommendations



THAT no additional free parking provisions be granted to vehicles displaying veteran plates or identified as vehicles belonging to current serving members of the Canadian Forces;

THAT Council remove the current provisions for free parking for veterans during the week leading up to Remembrance Day (retaining Remembrance Day) from 2021 onwards;

THAT Council request that staff report back with a recommended City Policy that will guide future requests for free or subsidized parking for individuals or members of organizations; and,

THAT Council direct the City Manager to inform the Vancouver Park Board of Council's decisions on free parking provisions for veterans or current serving members of the Canadian Forces so that they can consider similar actions for Park Board controlled facilities

# Considerations

	Description	Potential Annual Forgone Revenue	Additional Staff Resources
A	Additional Free Parking on days of Military Significance - Veteran plates only	Negligible	0
B	Limited Free Parking (20 hours) - For veteran plates and active service members - Vancouver residents only - Low-income individuals only	< \$25,000/year	0.25 FTE
C	Limited Free Parking (20 hours) - For veteran plates and active service members - Vancouver residents only - All veteran plates exempted until the end of 2020	\$200,000 - \$500,000/year	2 FTE

Questions?