



# Marking National Flag of Canada Day 2017

Park Board Committee Meeting  
November 14, 2016



Seeking Board approval for the installation of a flag pole in Queen Elizabeth Park near the Bloedel Conservatory to commemorate National Flag of Canada Day 2017.



# National Flag of Canada Day 2017

- 2017 – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation
- February 2016 Board motion: directed staff to complete a feasibility study on installing a flag pole at Bloedel Conservatory to mark National Flag of Canada Day on February 15<sup>th</sup> as part of 150+ celebrations

- Highest elevation in Vancouver
- Conservatory built as Centennial project and is on the register of National Historic Places



- Spacious and popular plaza well suited for future ceremony





- 8 free standing flag poles in Vancouver parks, in addition to poles at community centres
- Staff recommend a 18.2 m tall (60') aluminum pole with internal rigging
- This approach saves staff time and financial commitments and prevents safety concerns



# Feasibility Study





- Four locations were studied
- Top of the Conservatory dome:
  - Creates access issues for staff
  - Would require roof modifications to support the pole
  - Conflicts with architectural and national significance
  - Locating a pole directly on the Conservatory was not further pursued

Three locations  
around the  
Conservatory  
were further  
explored



# Feasibility Study – Option A



- Underutilized area between upper plaza fountain and Conservatory entrance
- Surrounded by a large staircase which provides opportunity for staging during ceremonies
- Location is accessible from the parking lot
- Estimated cost is \$50,000

Existing



Proposed





- Requires relocation of one existing memorial bench on the main plaza
- Visually prominent and accessible location
- Adjacent benches and walls limit gathering space potential around the pole
- The estimated cost is \$50,000

# Feasibility Study – Option C

## Existing



## Proposed



- Requires construction of a retaining wall and walk out from the existing plaza to create viewing platform
- Would not impact the plaza or existing features directly
- Requires the most extensive construction
- The estimated cost is \$80,000 or more

- Option **A** is recommended by staff
- Staff further recommend creating a concrete plinth at the flag pole base with a commemoration plaque
- Geotechnical and structural engineering reviews needed



# Next Steps



- With Board approval for the installation of a flag pole near the Bloedel Conservatory, staff will initiate engineering studies for the Option A location;
- Should Option A be found not feasible, staff will proceed with Option B as the alternate location;
- Staff will work with the successful design-build team to target the flag pole installation for Flag Day 2017;
- A plaque can be unveiled on National Flag of Canada Day during a special ceremonial event.

Staff recommend Option A as the most appropriate location for a new 60' tall flag pole near the Bloedel Conservatory as it is accessible and will animate the space



**THAT** the Vancouver Park Board approve the installation of a flag pole in Queen Elizabeth Park near the Bloedel Conservatory to commemorate National Flag of Canada Day 2017, as described in this report, subject to successful engineering studies.

