



April 13, 2022

TO: Park Board Chair and Commissioners
FROM: General Manager – Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: MST Flags at Brockton Point

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Vancouver Park Board approve the installation and raising of Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Flags on the newly replaced flagpoles at Brockton Point in Stanley Park.

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this Board Report is to seek Board approval of the installation of Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh flags on the recently replaced flagpoles installed in 2019 at Brockton Point in Stanley Park. The installation of the MST flags was recommended by the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Committee and Working Group (SPIGWG), as per the [memo](#) provided to the Board on January 9, 2020, and the gifting of the flags to the Board occurred at the Stanley Park Intergovernmental event held on January 31, 2020.

BOARD AUTHORITY, POLICY, PREVIOUS DECISIONS/UPDATES

As per the [Vancouver Charter](#), the Park Board has exclusive jurisdiction and control over all areas designated as permanent and temporary parks in the City of Vancouver, including any structures, programs and activities, fees, and improvements that occur within those parks.

At its meeting of January 11, 2016, the Park Board adopted [eleven reconciliation strategies](#) in response to the Calls to Action provided by the Truth and Reconciliation of Commission of Canada (TRC) including the following:

- A. Take a 360 degree approach to programming, including in the areas of culture, health, public dialogue, physical activity, and sport in order to increase public knowledge and awareness of reconciliation and to provide support to indigenous peoples including children, youth, Elders and families;
- B. Continue Park Board's precedent-setting intergovernmental approach to the future stewardship of Stanley Park and other relevant lands.
- C. Review the donation of monuments, memorials, and public art processes and policies to ensure integration of Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices

On April 16, 2018, as part of an update on the [Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan & Process](#), the Board approved the terms of reference for the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Committee and Working Group. The purpose of the Committee is to collaboratively create a long-term vision for Stanley Park and provide high-level direction to develop a comprehensive plan for the park which will guide future development, stewardship, interpretation and restoration.

On April 16, 2018, the Park Board adopted the [Reconciliation Mission, Vision & Values](#) to act as a compass to guide the Park Board's reconciliation journey; one value is titled - **Clarity**: *We will focus on how colonialism functions to exclude, not on how to include.*

In January 2020, the Board received an update on the [Brockton Point Flag Replacement](#) initiative, proposing that the Canadian, Provincial and Union Jack flags (removed for the flag pole replacement project) be replaced with flags of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, in alignment with the Park Board's Reconciliation strategies. Flags from the Nations were gifted to the Park Board at a Stanley Park Intergovernmental event held later that month.

BACKGROUND

Through the truth-telling phase of the ongoing Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan, much has been uncovered regarding the erasure of MST history and presence in Stanley Park. The SPIGWG frequently discusses opportunities to reverse these colonial actions through acknowledgement and increased visibility of MST in the park.

On April 28, 2017, Park Board Operations staff attended a SPIWG meeting to discuss the need to replace the three flagpoles at Brockton Point (see Figures 1 & 2 below for images of the original flags and location). Installed in the mid 1960s, the existing flagpoles were in poor condition and had become a safety risk. The working group approved the replacement of the poles, contingent on archeological protocols being followed. The three new poles were installed in late 2019.



Figure 1 - Original Brockton Point Flags

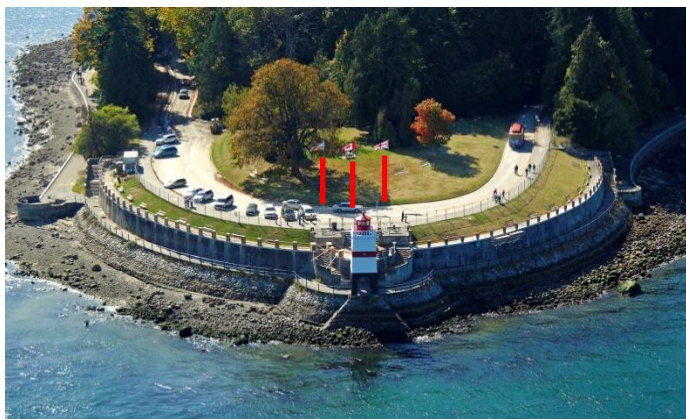


Figure 2 – Flag Pole Locations at Brockton Point

In January 2020, a [memo](#) was sent to the Board advising of the SPIGWG's recommendation to replace new flags with that of the MST Nations. Discussions early on with the group also noted that protocol would be to have a flag raising ceremony, but these ideas were put on hold due to the onset of the pandemic in March of 2020. With the pandemic restrictions lifting, there is potential for a gathering again.

DISCUSSION

There are currently 15 flag poles located in Stanley Park (including the three at Brockton), which commemorate Canada, British Columbia, the Canadian Air Force, Canadian Navy, the City of Vancouver, and the Union Jack (see Figure 3 for a map of Stanley Park flag sites).

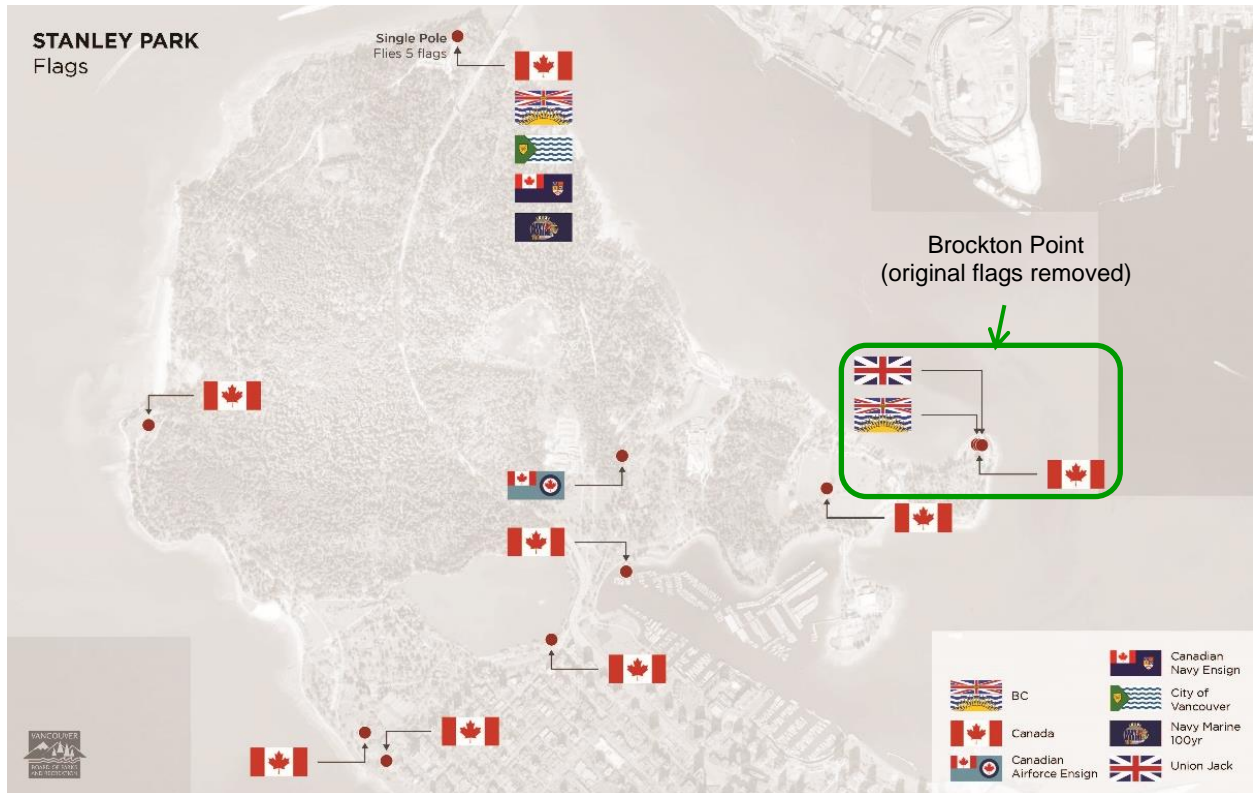


Figure 3 - Map of Flags located in Stanley Park

While working through the Brockton Point flag pole replacement project, the SPIWG questioned the appropriateness of raising the same three flags previously flown at that site (Canada, British Columbia, and Union Jack). The group noted that simply raising these flags again, which are already present in many other locations in Stanley Park and the City of Vancouver, further diminishes and overshadows the communication of MST’s history and connection to Stanley Park to all of its visitors. SPIGWG agreed that replacing these flags with one for each local Nation would be a small gesture meaningful to the Nations and a symbol of progress being made, while supporting the aim to work towards balancing the cultures and histories in the park.

Representatives from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations presented their flags to the Park Board in a flag gifting ceremony at the Stanley Park Intergovernmental event held on January 31, 2020.

NEXT STEPS

Pending the Board’s decision, staff can formalize discussions with MST’s Cultural Advisors and Council and begin planning efforts for raising the flags through an official flag raising ceremony, with key individuals from the MST Nations, Park Board and others in attendance. Staff will also be reporting back to the Board with an update on the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan later this summer.

FINANCIAL / OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There are no known financial considerations related to raising MST’s Flags at Brockton Point.

CONCLUSION

As the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Committee and Working Group continue the important work on the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan, the raising of MST flags would mark the first intervention in the Park that will generate discussion and awareness of MST's occupation of these lands since time immemorial.

General Manager's Office
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation
Vancouver, BC

Prepared by:
Emily Dunlop, Senior Planner, Planning, Policy & Environment Team

/ed/ds/clc