



June 24, 2026

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Manager, Arts Reconciliation & Culture

SUBJECT : **Japanese Canadian War Memorial Plaque Installation - Board Briefing Memo**

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Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the plan to install a plaque at the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Stanley Park, at the request of the Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee (JCWMC) and Parks Canada.

### **Background**

A plaque commemorating Japanese Canadian World War 1 veterans' fight to gain the right to vote was fabricated by Parks Canada ten years ago. The intention at the time was to install it at the Japanese Canadian War Memorial alongside two other plaques in 2016; however, this plaque could not be installed due to size limitations of the existing plinth on the wall surrounding the memorial. The plaque has remained in storage since that time.

### **Context**

Although the Park Board approved the 2022 [recommendation](#) to suspend the review of any new commemorative requests, including plaques, while the Commemoration Framework is under development, the Arts, Reconciliation & Culture Department (ARC) considered this request because it was planned to be one of the three plaques added to the memorial in 2016. Staff also recognize that it commemorates Canada's oppression of Japanese Canadians.

ARC advised Parks Canada to send the request as a referral to the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. Parks Canada heard from each of the local Nations that they have no comments about the request other than to undergo archaeological permitting if the ground is to be disturbed and to provide project updates. The Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee requested that the plaque be installed before Remembrance Day, November 11, 2026.

### **Next Steps**

Park Board staff are working with Parks Canada to coordinate the installation with no ground disturbance. Parks Canada will be funding the project. The attached document shows installation details.

The Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee plans to issue a press release and will invite members of the JCWMC, a photographer, and dignitaries to the installation day. The plaque installation will be scheduled sometime after July 8. Staff will aim to provide more than one week's notice of the installation to the local Nations, the JCWMC, and Park Board Commissioners. The JCWMC also plans to recognize the plaque at their Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph with a speech and reception at the Stanley Park Pavilion.

Regards,

Rena Soutar (she/they)

Manager, Arts Reconciliation & Culture – Vancouver Parks and Recreation



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RECREATION

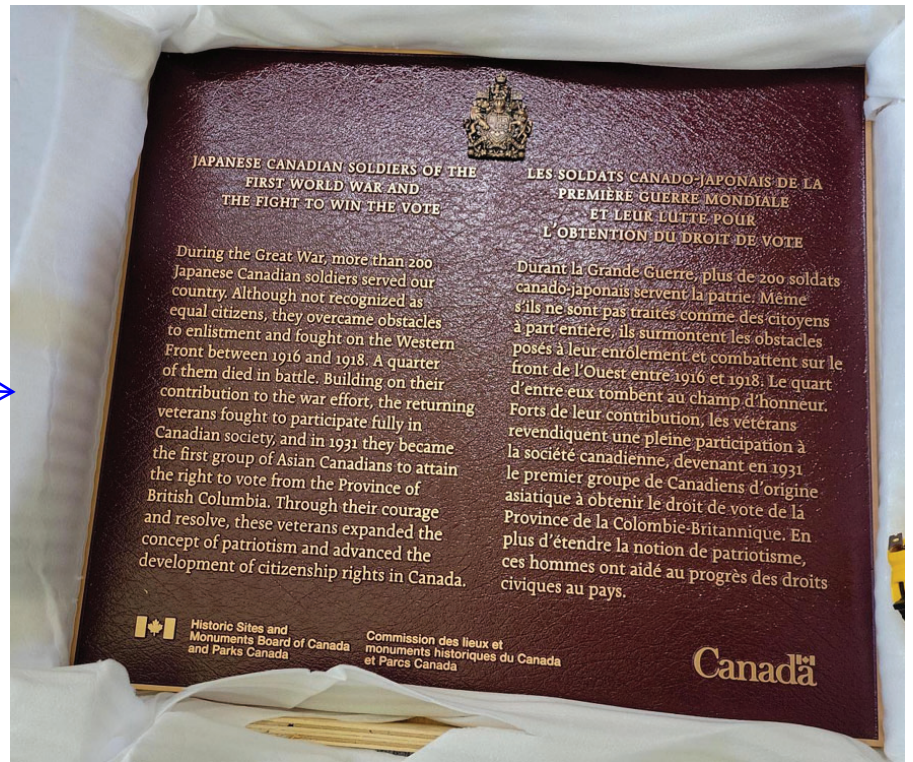
Copy to: Park Board Leadership Staff  
PB Communications  
Julia Hulbert, Social Planner III, Arts Reconciliation & Culture



Existing plaque from central plinth moved to north end of the wall

Modification of central granite plinth to accommodate new plaque

31" x 26" Plaque to be installed on central plinth



Japanese Canadian War Memorial Plaque