



## Member Motion

### City Council

#### Motion without Notice

MM23.31	ACTION			Ward:28
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#### **Possibility of Securing the First Parliament Site under Public Ownership - by Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie**

*This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral.*

*\* This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

#### **Recommendations**

Councillor Pam McConnell, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Director of Real Estate Services to form an inter-divisional working group consisting of, but not limited to, the City Planning Division, the Toronto Public Library, the Toronto Parking Authority, the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division and the remaining private landowner on the First Parliament Site and report back to Council, through the appropriate committee, on the possibility of a proposal that secures the First Parliament Site under public ownership, at no net cost to the City.

#### **Summary**

The site of Canada's First Parliament buildings (the First Parliament Site) is located at the southwest corner of Front Street East and Parliament Street (known municipally as 265 and 271 Front Street East and 3 and 25 Berkeley Street) is currently occupied by a car wash, rental car agency and former car dealership. These Parliament Buildings are of international significance having been attacked and set on fire by American troops in the War of 1812, which led to the burning of the White House in retaliation by British, Upper Canadian and First Nations forces.

The First Parliament Site is currently the subject of a development application for a 57-storey residential condominium, which would eliminate any opportunity to acquire the site in public ownership for the purposes of commemoration. This is now urgent as it is past the Ontario Municipal Board appeal date and the applicant and staff have gone as far as they can without further Council direction.

In 2005, a portion of the site was partially secured under public ownership through a land exchange with the former owner, the City and the Province.

The Federal National Historic Sites and Monuments Board has indicated that a National Historic Site designation could be secured if the entire site was under full public ownership.

There exists an opportunity to transform the first Parliament Site into a premiere tourist attraction and historical monument. The bi-centennial of the War of 1812 is being celebrated this year. The Pan Am and Parapan Am Games are taking place throughout the Greater Toronto Area in 2015, with the Athletes Village in the vicinity of the First Parliament Site.

Interest for a comprehensive commemoration of the First Parliament has been expressed by the following parties: City Planning, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Public Library, Economic Development and Culture, Real Estate Services, George Brown College, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, the Gooderham and Worts Neighbourhood Association, the Corktown Residents and Business Association, the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture and the MPP for the area, Mr. Glenn Murray.

(Submitted to City Council on May 8 and 9, 2012 as MM23.31)