Attachment 1

Peace Through Valour

Remembering the sacrifice of Canadian Soldiers in the Italian Campaign - WWII

October 12, 2011

For the Attention of:

Nancy MacSwee
Acting Chief of Protocol
Protocol Services, City Clerk's Office
City of Toronto

Proposal for installation in Nathan Phillips Square of a monument commemorating the Canadian soldiers who fought in the Italian campaigns in World War II.

Description of project:

Ninety three thousand Canadian soldiers fought in the Italian campaign during World War II. There are 19 towns in Italy which have cemeteries in which are buried the 6000 Canadian soldiers who lost their lives during this campaign. The contribution and sacrifice of the Canadian troops has a very prominent place in the history and memories in Europe with many statues and plaques commemorating their valour.

Yet, in Canada, the Canadian efforts in Italy are referred to as the 'Forgotten Army'. A group of private citizens in Toronto are working to rectify this loss of historical memory by commissioning a statue to commemorate the valour of these soldiers: it was their sacrifice that helped ensure peace and democracy were restored. We need to remember those 6000 soldiers.

This group of private citizens has formed a committee and will commission the creation of a commemorative statue to these soldiers. This group is also planning to create an educational and interactive web site which will contain information about the Italian campaign: the regiments, the battles, as well as the name of every Canadian soldier who lost their life. The committee is planning to attach a bar code to the statue which will allow individuals with smart phones/devices to directly access this web site. The committee is planning on having table top replicas of the sculpture to be given as gifts to every Canadian regiment which took part in the Italian campaigns as well as to every town in Italy which has a cemetery in which are buried Canadian Soldiers.
Committee and Funding:

The committee is comprised of Joanne De Laurentis, Senator Consiglio Di Nino, The Honourable Albina Guarneri, Laureano Leone, Eleon Rinomato and Toni Varone. Mr. Nick Torcetti, Aird & Berlis LLP is the Honourary Legal Counsel to this committee. The creation of this monument is a Villa Charities project. The project is being funded as a private initiative. The committee has undertaken to raise the funds required for the sculpture, installation of the sculpture, landscaping requirements and consultant fees. The budget for this project is $250,000.00. The committee understands that 10 per cent of the cost of the statue is required by the City of Toronto for the creation of an endowment fund for the physical maintenance of the statue. This committee will be advised by an art consultant and other appropriate individuals.

Process for Choosing Artist:

The committee will issue invitations to submit initial concepts to 14 prominent artists each of whom has experience in creating sculpture for outdoor installation. This group will reflect diverse artistic expression, artists with strong reputations as well some who are lesser known. From these submissions 6 artists will be interviewed with the goal of 4 artists being chosen to receive the Request for Proposal. The artists will be tasked to create a sculpture which fulfills the mandate of this project and which will complement the existing installations. The dimensions of the piece will be guided by City of Toronto staff and architectural requirements. The artists will be given the freedom to interpret the subject matter in a manner which results in a piece which is recognizable and emotional. Each of these 4 artists will be given an honorarium to complete the RFP.

Location:

The committee would like to give this statue as a gift to the people of Toronto so that every person in this city and every visitor remembers that peaceful co-existence should never be taken for granted. The committee would like to respectfully suggest that a location in the North West corner of the revitalized Nathan Phillips Square would do justice to the theme, to the Canadian soldiers and to the location. The title of this project is ‘Peace through Valour’, a theme which resonates with both the Winston Churchill Statue and the Peace Garden.

Yours truly,

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