

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM45.2	ACTION			Ward:All
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**2014 as the Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I, and the 75th Anniversary of the Commencement of World War II - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson recommends that:

1. City Council recognize the importance of 2014 as the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the start of World War I, and the 75th anniversary of the commencement of World War II, and remember with respect and appreciation those citizens who gave their lives in the defence of Canada, originally from the City of Toronto between 1914 - 1918, as well as 1939 - 1945, together with all Canadians who have participated in defending the freedom of Australia and Canada in both wars.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to delegate to staff under his direction, the responsibility of organizing appropriate events, in desirable locations, in conjunction with appropriate military and private sector partners to commemorate both of these historic events which Torontonians actively participated in.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to apply for funding assistance to the Department of Canadian Heritage and Veterans Affairs Canada which has announced it can fund a diverse array of World War related projects, including commemorative events and ceremonies, learning materials, exhibits, interpretive programming, plaques and monuments, educational websites. The Department can also fund a wide range of Canadian funding applicants, including non-profit organizations, educational institutions, Aboriginal organizations, municipal, provincial and territorial governments and private sector companies (for projects that are not for profit in nature).

**Summary**

2014 marks the 100th Anniversary of World War I, and the 75th Anniversary of World War II.

Both of these wars saw large numbers of Torontonians participate. This participation had a huge impact culturally, economically, and socially on the City of Toronto.

Residents of the City of Toronto were a significant part of Canada's sacrifices and contributions to World War I which changed its history and enabled it to become more independent. For the first time in its history, Canadian forces fought as a distinct unit, first under a British commander and then under a Canadian-born commander. The highpoints of Canadian military achievement during the First World War came during the Somme, Vimy, and Passchendaele battles and what later became known as "Canada's Hundred Days". Canada's total casualties stood at the end of the war at 67,000 killed and 173,000 wounded, out of an expeditionary force of 620,000 people mobilized (39 percent of mobilized were casualties).

During World War II, many Torontonians were part of the 1.1 million Canadians who served in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Of these more than 45,000 lost their lives and another 54,000 were wounded. By the end of the War, Canada had the world's fourth largest air force, and third largest navy. As well, the Canadian Merchant Navy completed over 25,000 voyages across the Atlantic. The war had significant cultural, political and economic effects on Toronto as a result of this conflict.

(Submitted to City Council on December 16 and 17, 2013 as MM45.2)

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM45.2