

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM48.1	ACTION			Ward:All
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150th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson

** City Council on December 16, 17 and 18, 2013 waived referral of this Motion. City Council subsequently deferred this Motion to the February 19 and 20, 2014 meeting.*

** This Motion is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

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

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to engage with citizens and neighbouring municipalities to create a regional strategy for 2017, and host local sessions in libraries, arenas, and community centres to educate citizens about the Centennial and plan for the Sesquicentennial.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to promote our community to the provincial and federal governments with a view to staging a major Sesquicentennial event in Toronto.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to review our local Centennial history, and look to other past celebrations which may provide inspiration for 2017 planning.
4. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to create a Toronto: 2017 Planning Committee to begin forming partnerships, consulting with residents, residents associations, as well as private sector organizations in planning Toronto-based 2017 initiatives.

Summary

Canada will celebrate a milestone in 2017: the 150th anniversary of the coming into force of the British North America Act (now the Constitution Act, 1867) on July 1, 1867.

Canada's federal government has the celebration planning well under way. Planning for this big celebration throughout Canada is going to be quite complex and time-consuming. It will be a major milestone in our country's history.

Canada's 100th birth anniversary celebration which concluded with the Expo in Montreal in

1967 is still fondly remembered by Canadians. It gave a big boost to this country's profile around the globe. The celebration in 2017 would give Canadians another opportunity and excuse to reflect and celebrate this country's history, natural beauty, cultural diversity and a lot more. This year-long celebration will be an opportune time to encourage Canadians – young and old – to appreciate what a wonderful country Canada is.

We need to keep in mind while celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial the drastic change in its demographics (and Toronto's) which has taken place during the past 50 or so years. Canada of 2013 is totally different from Canada of 1867 and even of 1967. For the first 100 or so years of its existence, this country was made up mostly of Aboriginal persons as well as people of European heritage in general and British and French heritage in particular.

The federal government should ensure that all of these communities are well represented in these celebrations. It will be an excellent time to showcase what Canadians have been able to achieve in every sphere during the past 150 years.

In this regard, a recent Ipsos-Reid poll of 1,021 Canadians found the vast majority of Canadians would like ordinary citizens, business leaders and private groups to plan the activities for the 2017 celebration. The Federal Department of Canadian Heritage, along with the provincial and local governments, can greatly assist and support the citizens in making the festivities a truly grassroots, historic and memorable celebration for our 150th birthday.

(Submitted to City Council on February 19 and 20, 2014 as MM48.1)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM48.1

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-66905.pdf>