TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM48.17	ACTION			Ward:All

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow

**** 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 James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. The City Manager, in conjunction with the City Clerk, report back to City Council on a strategy such that:

   a. Toronto can host events during the week of April 9, 2017 across the City to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Events could include but not be limited to ceremonies in Civic Centres, community centres and at war memorials;

   b. a strategic working group be assembled that would include veterans groups, families of Canadian World War I soldiers and community partners to play a leadership role in this endeavour; and

   c. any plan moving forward includes intergovernmental coordination with federal and provincial counterparts.

Summary

The Battle of Vimy Ridge occurred from April 9 to 12, 1917 during World War I in Northern France. The battle is a historic moment for Canada where the country emerged from the shadow of Britain and our soldiers earned the reputation as a formidable force because of their stunning success at Vimy Ridge. This victory came at a terrible cost though with more than 10,000 killed and wounded.

The Canadian Corps was ordered to seize Vimy Ridge in April 1917 after previous French Attacks had failed. It was a daunting task as the heavily-fortified seven-kilometre ridge held a commanding view over the Allied lines that had already seen over 100,000 causalities.
The capture of Vimy also marked the first time all four Canadian divisions attacked together with soldiers from all regions of Canada present at the battle.

With the passing of the Canadian men and women who served in the First World War, the responsibility falls upon us all to tell their stories and to share their achievements with each new generation of Canadians.

(Submitted to City Council on February 19 and 20, 2014 as MM48.17)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM48.17