

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM54.4	ACTION			Ward:All
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Norman Bethune Day - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the death of Norman Bethune, a great Canadian who influenced medicine worldwide and honours our City with his inventive and life saving medical procedures and influence.
2. City Council proclaim November 12, 2014 as Norman Bethune Day.

Summary

Norman Bethune had an exceptional life where he provided medical services and knowledge to many across the world. His tremendous efforts and selflessness brought honour to Canada making his life and work a tribute to be honoured.

His service began during and at the end of World War I when he performed in the medical services of all three armed forces. In 1936, he was in Madrid at the front of the Spanish Civil War leading a mobile blood-transfusion service where he was later hailed as a major contributor to the military through his medical methods of delivering bottled blood to the wounded near the front lines, saving many lives. His transfusion methods were also rendered in Málaga, where an esplanade along the waterfront is dedicated as "The Promenade of the Canadians", "In memory of the assistance that the people of Canada through the efforts of Norman Bethune gave to fleeing Malagueñans in 1937."

Norman Bethune continued his work in China where he continued his medical service but also taught his medical skills to set up military hospitals in villages. Mr. Bethune travelled by horseback to areas under attack risking his own life to aid others. On November 12, 1939, Norman Bethune died of blood poisoning, caught while on the battlefield in China.

Today, his memory is celebrated in all Chinese schools where students are taught of his contributions. Two medical schools bear his name along with hospitals.

Although not born in Toronto, after spending the first three years of elementary school in this City, and Grades Six and Seven in Jesse Ketchum Public School on Davenport Road, he entered the University of Toronto, where he graduated as a medical doctor in 1916.

Determined to find a cure for tuberculosis, Norman Bethune became a prominent chest surgeon, did medical research, invented instruments used in tubercular surgery and carried out a campaign in favour of government programs to eradicate tuberculosis. Norman Bethune was aware of the need for all to have access to medicine and was one of the earliest Canadian advocates of socialized medicine — medicare.

(Submitted to City Council on July 8 and 9, 2014 as MM54.4)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM54.4