

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM32.4	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Diversification of Depictions on Canadian Coins and Bills to better reflect a more Heterogeneous and Inclusive Society - 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 urge the Bank of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mint to ensure, in future issuance of Canadian currency, that it better reflects the values of the multicultural, gender diverse and multiracial society Canada has become.
2. City Council request the City Manager to correspond with the Minister of Finance, the Bank of Canada, the Royal Canadian Mint, and Montreal City Council for their support.

### Summary

I am requesting that Toronto City Council support Montreal City Council in its April 20, 2021 adopted motion moved by City Councillor Marvin Rotrand, urging the Bank of Canada and the Royal Canadian Mint to ensure future Canadian currency more accurately reflects the values of the multicultural, gender diverse and multiracial society Canada has become.

In 2015, the campaign to include women on Canadian currency was supported by a petition signed by 75,000 names sponsored by British Columbia writer Merna Forster who observed that Queen Elizabeth's image on our money is due to her position as Head of State, and not because she is a woman. Montreal City Councillor Marvin Rotrand sponsored a motion as did Toronto Councillor Mary Fragedakis. These actions were cited by Stephen Poloz, the head of the Bank of Canada in 2015, for helping launch the process that ultimately led to Viola Desmond being featured on the new Canadian \$10 bill, starting November 19, 2018.

In the pursuit to better reflect a more heterogeneous and inclusive society this Motion speaks to our currency being overrepresented by politicians, most of whom are white and male, underrepresenting persons who have contributed to other fields of great importance to our society. Our currency does not reflect our current multiracial, gender diverse and multicultural reality as a nation.

In the United States, the Biden administration has recently decided to replace the image of President Andrew Jackson, who has appeared since 1928 on the United States \$20 bill, with that of Harriet Tubman, who incarnates the struggle against slavery.

The Biden administration is also considering special coin and bill issues which will give prominence to those who championed women's rights as well as civil and voting rights. Those being considered include Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Alice Paul, Martin Luther King Jr. and Marian Anderson.

Now is the time for Canada to present a more diverse face to the world. This Motion reflects the evolution of our cities and Country and will have resonance with the Bank of Canada and the Government of Canada, celebrating Canada in the 21st century.

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

Member Motion MM32.4