

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Authority to Accept Donations Raised Through Fundraising Campaign for the Restoration of the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument

Moved by: Mayor

Chow

Seconded by: Councillor

Perks

SUMMARY:

The Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument was constructed in 1968 through a close collaboration between the Ontario Institute of Engineers, Toronto's Polish community, and the City of Toronto. Situated in a City of Toronto park of the same name, this impressive memorial commemorates the life and work of Sir Casimir Gzowski (1813 – 1898), who was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1890 for his vast contributions to Ontario and Canada. The monument is an asset in the City's Public Art and Monuments Collection, managed by Economic Development and Culture.

The monument's substantial structure, designed by architect Richard R. D'Wonnik, symbolizes the major facets of Sir Casimir Gzowski's professional life; his work as an engineer, in the military, and as a statesman. Features such as railway tracks and I-beams atop the concrete tower allude to the bridges and railroads Sir Gzowski built across Ontario. The spike positioned on top of the monument is a beacon, which was intended to guide boats into the Toronto harbour at the time of construction.

The centrepiece of the monument is a bronze bust of Sir Casimir Gzowski, sculpted by Frederick A. Turner Dunbar. Turner Dunbar's design was selected by the Ontario Institute of Engineers, a fitting tribute as Sir Casimir Gzowski helped found the Engineer Institute of Canada during his time serving as a senator of the University of Toronto. The interior of the monument also features didactic panels, which share historic context and images of Sir Casimir Gzowski's life and legacy.

Since its installation, the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument has undergone several restoration campaigns, including standard care and maintenance, repair of the railway ties, and replacement of the bronze bust after the original was stolen in the 1980s.

Now, more than half a century after its creation, the memorial requires comprehensive revitalization, including the rehabilitation of both structural and symbolic elements.

Since the beginning, professional engineers and Toronto's Polish community have served as essential partners in the realization and ongoing care of this unique monument. It is with the same spirit of stewardship that the Association of Polish Engineers in Canada established the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument Revitalization Committee. Comprised of community volunteers, the Committee is dedicated to the preservation of the monument as a site of tribute and meaning for residents and visitors. The Committee has generously offered to spearhead a fundraising campaign to support the City of Toronto's upcoming rehabilitation work, known as the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument restoration project.

By leading a fundraising campaign for the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument restoration project, the Committee's efforts ensure that this significant structure continues to commemorate Sir Casimir Gzowski, the Polish Canadian community, and all that they have contributed to Toronto and beyond.

Reason for Urgency: This motion is urgent to ensure that the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument Revitalization Committee can begin fundraising for the restoration project.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to engage with the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument Revitalization Committee regarding a fundraising campaign led by the Committee for the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument restoration project.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to accept donations raised through the fundraising campaign and collected by the City, and to apply the donated funds toward the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument restoration project, in compliance with the City of Toronto Donation Policy. Donations will be held in a deferred revenue account (GL 2030003) available to Economic Development and Culture to contribute to the restoration capital project in 2028 for revitalizing and rehabilitating the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument.
3. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, to negotiate and execute any necessary agreements with a non-profit organization acting as a trustee on behalf of the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument Revitalization Committee to facilitate the fundraising campaign for the Sir Casimir Gzowski Monument restoration project on

terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture and in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor.

4. City Council authorize the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to accept donations of more than \$50,000 from the same donor for the same campaign in a fiscal year, and to execute any necessary agreements for the same on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, in compliance with the City of Toronto Donation Policy.

July 29, 2026