Minutes – Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management – October 5, 2015

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Canadian Veterans Recognition

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the City of Winnipeg respectfully request the Mitsubishi Materials Corporation to accept as evidence the verbal statements from Canadian veterans and, based on such evidence extend the corporate apology to include Canadian veterans.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than 96 hours preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

The Chairperson called Councillor Gerbasi to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS the Mitsubishi Materials Corporation of Japan commendably issued an apology in July 2015 to Allied Prisoners of War (POWs) who were forcibly employed in slave-like conditions in Mitsubishi mines under Japanese control during World War II;

AND WHEREAS this apology was provided to veterans from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and the Netherlands, but not to Canadian veterans;

AND WHEREAS Mitsubishi has stated that it does not have evidence that any Canadian POW's were employed in their mines during WWII and therefore has not included Canadian veterans in the apology;

AND WHEREAS Canadian veterans have stated that they were forcibly employed in the Mitsubishi mines during WWII but lack photographic or documentary evidence due to the harsh conditions under which POW's lived;

AND WHEREAS this issue is of particular importance to the City of Winnipeg given that many of the Canadian POWs in the Pacific theatre of war were taken during the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941 in which the Winnipeg Grenadiers were a major contributing unit ;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg respectfully request the Mitsubishi Materials Corporation to accept as evidence verbal statements from Canadian veterans, and based on such evidence, extend the corporate apology to include Canadian veterans,

and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee.

Carried

Councillor Mayes resumed the Chair.