Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – November 18, 2015

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

Item No. 1 Canadian Veterans Recognition

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management, as amended, and submitted the following to Council:

1. 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.

2. That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management be concurred in, with the following amendment:

- Add the following:
  "2. That a copy of the resolution be forwarded to Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs."

and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 5, 2015, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management passed the following resolution:

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 ;

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

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 submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.