Minute No. 23
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management – October 5, 2015

Item No. 1 Canadian Veterans Recognition

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

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.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management, as amended by the Executive Policy Committee, be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 18, 2015, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management, with the following amendment:

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

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;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

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 submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.