

Commission Agenda

Date 2015 Apr 15

Delegations..... (a)

From: tewald@telus.net [<mailto:tewald@telus.net>]

Sent: April-07-15 11:31 AM

To: Clerks

Cc: Ellenwood, Dave

Subject: Request to appear as a delegate

Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission
Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

We are requesting to appear as a delegate before Parks, Recreation & Culture commission meeting held at 7:00 pm April 15th 2015.

Name of delegate: Dave Laprise
Address of delegate: 4840 Eton Street Burnaby
Phone number of delegate: 778 838 3715
Subject: Opposition to the proposed comfort women statue.

Should you require above request to be faxed, please let me know as soon as possible
Thankyou,

Regards,

Scarlet Ewald
1 778 856 1929
BC Japan Network

Dear council and committee members,

My name is Dave Laprise and I was born and raised in North Burnaby. I've lived and worked here in the film industry all of my working life except for the year that I spent in 2012 and 2013 teaching English in Osaka Japan. I discovered that the Japanese are a quiet and non confrontational people who are very polite and civil in their everyday life.

The reason I mention this is to make a contrast between the average Japanese citizen and tourist to Burnaby today, with the Japanese imperial army of 80 years ago. They've apologised, paid reparations, and moved on after the devastations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And so should we, here in Canada.

The act of installing a statue to memorialize comfort women will divide the local Japanese, Chinese and Korean communities, and pit them against each other for no other reason than to settle old grudges. It is completely against the ethos of the concept we cherish in Canada called "Multiculturalism". We came to this country from all over the world, but we didn't bring our old battles with us. My family came from Finland, Scotland and Wales, but I didn't pick any fights with Russia, or Sweden or even England for that matter. My grandfather Horace Evans was killed in the battle of Singapore in world war 2, and my father married a Japanese lady, and so did I. Move on, I suppose.

Fifty years ago this year, Burnaby joined with Kushiro in Hokkaido Japan to share sister city status. 25 years later in 1990, a delegation of sculptors installed several Ainu totem poles on Burnaby mountain to represent their gods, and celebrate life. It seems to me that a comfort women statue would represent the Japanese as a devil, and

celebrate only misery. Is this really what Burnaby wants for it's public space? Imposing this statue on people in a happy park setting is a complete and utter fraud on the unsuspecting citizens.

If we are going to remember Japan's use of wartime prostitutes here in Burnaby, should we not also recognize the grievances of Korean comfort women who serviced the South Korean and American soldiers from 1952 to 1992? They are also suing the government of Korea for reparations, and surely they deserve a written plaque as well. Perhaps while we're at it we should have an atrocity memorial walk through the park, where all the indignities of humanity can be displayed for everyone visiting Central park. Canadians interned during world war 2, native children in residential schools, Pol Pot, Indonesia, Rwanda... where does it end?

I sincerely hope that the spirit of multiculturalism can stay alive in Burnaby, and that this proposal does not move forward.

Thanks for hearing me out.