

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

DATE: August 24, 2023

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

FILE: 77000-01
Reference: Heritage General

SUBJECT: HERITAGE PROGRAM UPDATES

This memorandum provides updates on heritage initiatives advanced through the Community Heritage Commission (CHC).

Chinese Canadian Reconciliation

At its February 27, 2023 meeting, Council authorized implementation of a framework to review, acknowledge, and apologize for its historic discrimination against people of Chinese descent, with the goal of advancing reconciliation with the Chinese Canadian community. Subsequently, at its April 24, 2023 meeting, Council received a report outlining a strategy for the City's commemoration of the centenary of the Chinese Exclusion Act ("Exclusion Act").

Work to date on implementation of the Chinese Canadian reconciliation framework and commemoration of the centenary of the Exclusion Act includes the following:

- The services of the Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table (BIPT) were retained to support community consultation and engagement work. The BIPT will support the organization of consultation and engagement sessions, by providing interpreters and facilitation services in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese, arranging venues, and documenting input received at the sessions.
- Recruitment of members for the advisory group was completed. Four community representatives and two City staff representatives were selected from the applications received. The advisory group will advise staff on planned consultation and engagement activities.

- A draft engagement strategy was developed for the review of the advisory group at their first meeting, which is scheduled for early September.
- Content on the Chinese Canadian history of Burnaby, the centenary of the Exclusion Act, and the reconciliation process were developed and shared on the City's social media channels in May and June.
- The centenary of the Exclusion Act was highlighted in the official remarks of the Acting Mayor at the City's Canada Day events at the Burnaby Village Museum and Edmonds Community Centre, and educational panels related to the centenary, reconciliation process, and Chinese Canadian history in Burnaby were featured at the City's three Canada Day events.

As noted in the April 24, 2023 report, work is also underway to publish a book to highlight the stories of Chinese Canadian contributions to Burnaby's development. *Rooted: Chinese Canadian Stories in Burnaby* will be published this fall, as part of the City's commemoration of the centenary of the Exclusion Act. An event to launch the book and express appreciation for the contributors who shared stories and photographs will be held in October. Funding for the event is available within the 2023 Planning and Development operating budget.

Eagle Ford Neon Sign

At its June 20, 2022 meeting, Council provided support for the conservation and re-instatement of the Eagle Ford Neon Sign as outlined in the "Conservation of the Eagle Ford Neon Sign" report.

As outlined in the report, a conservation plan was commissioned to guide restoration of the sign. The plan was developed by John Atkin, a heritage consultant and researcher who specializes in research and conservation of neon signs. A copy of the conservation plan is attached.

The estimated cost of this work is \$105,000 and has been included in the 2023 Planning and Development Department operating budget. In order to allow the work to commence in early fall, staff intend to advance the report seeking authorization to prepare a Heritage Designation Bylaw for the sign directly to Council, provided there are no objections from the CHC.



E.W. Kozak, General Manager
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Attachment