



## Governance and Priorities Committee Report

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**Date:** March 28, 2014      **From:** Kate Friars  
Director Parks, Recreation and Culture  
**Subject:** L'Ecole Polytechnique Memorial

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### Executive Summary

The Victoria Regional Women's Committee of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) made a request to install a memorial in the City of Victoria honouring the women killed at L'Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 1989. On November 7, 2013, Council passed a motion asking staff to report back on location options. Through consultation with a representative from the Committee, three City of Victoria potential park locations were considered. The parks considered included: Holland Park, Irving Park, and Cridge Park.

In the absence of existing policy to guide memorial installations, site selection criteria was developed specific to this request. The criteria included consideration of sites that would continue to suit annual anniversary vigils. Holland Park is recommended for the installation as it most fully met the criteria.

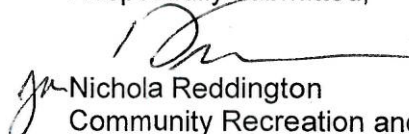
The Victoria Regional Women's Committee of the Public Service Alliance of Canada have committed to fund all costs associated with the design, fabrication and installation of the permanent memorial monument. PSAC will be responsible for monument maintenance and the City will continue to maintain the green space surrounding the monument.


Through this process, a policy gap has been identified. A memorial policy to guide the consideration of future requests to place permanent memorials in the city is prudent. Staff will initiate the development of a policy in late 2014 for Council consideration.

### Recommendation:

1. That Council approve the Holland Park site for installation of a permanent memorial to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique.
2. That Council direct staff to draft a comprehensive policy for memorials for consideration.


Respectfully submitted,

  
Nichola Reddington  
Community Recreation and Culture Coordinator  
Report Author

  
Kate Friars  
Director, Parks, Recreation and Culture  
Author's Director

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager:

Date:

  
April 2, 2014

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to present Council with options and a recommendation for siting a permanent memorial to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique.

## **Background**

The Victoria Regional Women's Committee of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) have submitted a request to erect a permanent monument in Victoria which will commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 2014. The proposed memorial monument is a rock boulder embedded with a bronze plaque. Four other cities in Canada have similar monuments including: Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal and Hamilton. On November 7th 2013, Council directed staff to report back on options for locating a memorial in the City of Victoria honouring the women killed at L'Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 1989.

The Victoria Regional Women's Committee of PSAC have held candlelight vigils in Victoria since 2009 to commemorate the lives lost in the Montreal Massacre and to raise awareness on violence against women in the community and around the world.

## **Issues & Analysis**

The Victoria Regional Women's Committee has committed to funding the design, fabrication, and installation of the memorial. PSAC will be responsible for maintenance of the memorial. The green space around the memorial will continue to be the responsibility of the City.

While there is a procedure related to memorial benches in parks, requests such as this one have previously been either incorporated into a planned park redevelopment, or received and considered by Council on an individual basis. Without existing policy for memorials, the following criteria was developed for considering potential sites for this project:

- an area in a park where other uses would not be impacted by a permanent memorial
- an easily accessible and safe location
- a park site that can accommodate an annual candlelight vigil on December 6th.

Following a review of the proposal and consultation with a representative of the Committee, three park sites met the criteria. The parks identified for consideration include:

- Holland Park, near Dallas Road and the Harrison Yacht Pond
- Irving Park, on Menzies Street at Michigan, adjacent to James Bay New Horizons Centre
- Cridge Park at the corner of Belleville and Blanshard Streets

Through this process, a policy gap has been identified which would guide the consideration of similar requests to place permanent memorials in the city. Requests for the placement of memorials are received regularly. Some common requests include: trees, benches, fountains, plaques, and statues.



The Parks division has a published procedure for memorial bench installation which is considered due for review. As a result of this identified gap in policy, staff recommend Council direct staff to develop a comprehensive memorial policy in late 2014 for Council's consideration. A memorial policy would provide the public with information and guidelines, and would provide a framework for Council's consideration of future requests.

## **Options & Impacts**

### Option 1 - Recommended

Approve the Holland Park site for installation of a permanent memorial to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique.

#### **Impacts:**

- Will not detract from current uses of the park space
- Will not increase green space maintenance around the memorial
- Accessible with nearby paved paths and parking
- Suitable for an annual vigil due to nearby amenities including washrooms, parking and street lighting

### Option 2

Approve the Irving Park site for installation of a permanent memorial to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique.

#### **Impacts:**

- May impede current uses of the park such as community, family, and recreation activities
- May pose a safety risk during recreation activities
- May increase green space maintenance around the memorial

### Option 3

Approve the Cridge Park site for installation of a permanent memorial to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique:

#### **Impacts:**

- Cridge Park is the site of a set of interpretive panels relating the park's history. Because these panels are site specific, the memorial may not be considered an ideal fit.
- The memorial may not receive the attention intended due to the existing focus on the park's history.

### Option 4

Delay a decision on this request until a comprehensive memorial policy is adopted, and continue to encourage and permit anniversary vigils.

#### **Impacts:**

- Delaying the decision for this request until policy has been developed and approved by Council, will result in the inability to meet the requested installation in time for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary unveiling.

## **Recommendation**

1. That Council approve the Holland Park site for installation of a permanent memorial to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique.
2. That Council direct staff to draft a comprehensive policy for memorials for Council consideration.

Dedicated in memory on the 25th Anniversary  
to those who lost their lives Dec. 6, 1989 at L'Ecole Polytechnique

Geneviève Bergeron  
Hélène Colgan  
Nathalie Croteau  
Barbara Daigneault  
Anne-Marie Edward  
Maud Haviernick  
Barbara Marie Klueznick

Maryse Laganière  
Maryse Leclair  
Anne-Marie Lemay  
Sonia Pelletier  
Michèle Richard  
Annie St. Arneault  
Annie Turcotte

Dedicated by the Victoria Regional Women's Committee  
of the Public Service Alliance of Canada





