

**Community Services Report to  
Executive Committee  
2024 April 16****ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
EC2024-0147****Park Renaming – Ward 7**

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**PURPOSE**

This report requests approval for renaming the Fort Calgary Site (the Site) located in downtown Calgary at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers. The request to rename the Site was initiated by the Fort Calgary Preservation Society (the Society) based on broad community engagement, including engagement with Indigenous communities. The renaming demonstrates action on Truth and Reconciliation and provides new opportunities to tell a more comprehensive story of the Site's history.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION**

On 2016 April 11, Council approved the Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy (CP2016-01) and the policy was last amended in 2020.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:****Review or Release By: 2024 May 31.**

That the Executive Committee recommend that Council:

1. Approve the renaming of the Fort Calgary Site to “The Confluence”; and
2. Direct that the Closed Meeting discussions, Report and Attachments be held confidential pursuant to Section 16 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to be reviewed by 2024 May 31.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2024 APRIL 16:**

That Council:

1. Adopt the renaming of the Fort Calgary Site to “The Confluence”; and
2. Direct that the Closed Meeting discussions, Report and Attachments be held confidential pursuant to Section 16 (**Disclosure harmful to business interests of a third party**) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to be reviewed by 2024 May 31.

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATION OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS**

General Manager Katie Black acknowledges and supports the recommendations brought forward by Administration on behalf of the Fort Calgary Preservation Society.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- As part of the Society's commitment to sharing a comprehensive story of the history of the Site and advancing Truth and Reconciliation, the Society has made a request to The City to change the name of the Site. The majority of the Site falls within the Society's License of Occupation with The City.

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- Under the *Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy* (CP2016-01), Council approval is required to change the Site name. Approval of changes to the Society's legal name is within the authority of the Society, not The City.
- The proposed name for the Site, "The Confluence", aligns with the *Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy* (CP2016-01) and the proposed new policies being brought forward for consideration under the *Updated Policies for Naming and Sponsorship of City Assets* (EC2024-0012).
- The Site is one of Calgary's most significant local geographic and historical features in the downtown. The proposed name is built on extensive community engagement led by the Society. The name change and evolution of the Society's activities on the Site will contribute to Calgarians better understanding a more comprehensive history of the Site including its use as a gathering place by Indigenous people since time immemorial.
- The full name to be used by the Society will be *The Confluence: Historic Site and Parkland*.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

## DISCUSSION

The Site (map included in Attachment 2) is a City-owned asset managed and operated by the Society (a Civic Partner) under a License of Occupation and Operating Agreement with The City. The Site is located at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow rivers in downtown Calgary and features 40 acres of natural parkland, an interpretive centre, and outdoor event and gathering spaces. It has both provincial and federal historic designations. Annually, the Site attracts thousands of Calgarians and visitors eager to learn about the history of Calgary and the land.

In 2023, the Society launched strategic planning process including broad engagement through a third-party to better reflect the history of the Site and continue the organization's journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. The engagement summary is described in Attachment 3. Based on feedback from the community, the Society is proposing a new name for the Site: *The Confluence*. This would be the name of the Site that would be used on City maps and other resources.

If approved, the Society would release the new name to the public as part of a larger announcement about their organization's renewed brand. The name change aligns with the history of the Site that includes the establishment of a North-West Mounted Police outpost, the use of the land as a place of gathering and ceremony for Indigenous peoples and other histories. Under the *Municipal Naming, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Policy* (the Policy), Council approval is required to change the Site name. A compliance report has been completed by the Policy Steward that confirms the proposed name meets all the Policy requirements. The Policy review process also confirmed that the renaming would comply with the new policies being proposed under the *Updated Policies for Naming and Sponsorship of City Assets* report (EC2024-0012).

As part of the Society's commitment to sharing the comprehensive story of the Site, the organization is working alongside Indigenous communities and others to learn and amplify the

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lesser-known stories of the land. Since 2021, with guidance from Indigenous communities, the Society has facilitated more than 70 sessions that were Indigenous-led or co-led including the Walk for Reconciliation, Orange Shirt Day events, Journeys to Reconciliation courses, Fireside Drumming, Indigenous handcraft workshops, and Introduction to Indigenous Interaction courses. The Society has also focused on strengthening relationships with the Indigenous Nations with ties to the Site including the Blackfoot Confederacy.

The Society is initiating a number of organizational changes aligned with the renaming including working in partnership with Indigenous communities to replace outdated interpretive centre exhibits with content that explores Indigenous histories and the impacts of colonialism; creating an accessible space for Indigenous communities, including elders, to gather, connect and conduct ceremony; providing platforms for marginalized voices to share their stories in meaningful ways; and partnering with The City to construct a Indian Residential School Memorial on the Site.

All business units impacted by this proposed name change were consulted during this project including Business and Engineering Services that stewards the Policy and Calgary Parks & Open Spaces. The Indigenous Relations Office reviewed this report, supports the name change and is working in a good way with the Society on the Indian Residential School Memorial Project. Members of Administration engaged directly by the Society are included in Attachment 3.

**EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed     | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Through their own work and with support from a third-party consultant, the Society reached out to Calgarians, Indigenous communities (including Indigenous youth), travellers, staff, members and veterans of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, volunteers, partners, funders, and representatives from various industries including tourism, government, linguistics, arts and accommodations. They engaged people through one-on-one conversations, group discussion, and workshops. They also heard from 1,500 respondents through online surveys.

**IMPLICATIONS**

**Social**

Renaming the Site contributes to action to advance Truth and Reconciliation by helping Calgarians and visitors better understand the comprehensive and complex history of the Site and its role as a gathering place for Indigenous people.

**Environmental**

Not applicable.

**Economic**

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As a City-owned cultural attraction, the Site contributes to Calgary's economy by offering a unique experience for local, regional, national and international visitors. Changing the Site's name to better reflect the history of the Site contributes to the advancement of Truth and Reconciliation and helps it remain relevant as a destination by creating new opportunities to draw visitors.

**Service and Financial Implications**

**No anticipated financial impact**

Costs associated with renaming will be borne by the Society.

**RISK**

Approving the renaming does pose some risk for The City as the owner of the asset. With its location in the downtown and proximity to Riverwalk, it is a popular location for Calgarians. There is a risk that some Calgarians may not support the renaming which does create some reputational risk for The City. This risk is being mitigated by the Society as the operator of the Site through the broad community engagement process they have undertaken and by The City and Society adopting a coordinated approach to the renaming process.

The renaming is a natural evolution that builds on a shift in the Society's strategy and operations over the past number of years to better reflect all histories and stories of the Site. From a lens of advancing Truth and Reconciliation, not changing the name to better reflect the history of the Site creates more reputational risk for The City than approving the proposed renaming.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Background and Previous Council Direction (Confidential)
2. Proposed Naming of Park (Confidential)
3. Engagement Summary (Confidential)
4. Letters of Support (Confidential)
5. Presentation (Confidential)

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	Community Services	Approve
Doug Morgan	Operational Services	Consult
Michael Thompson	Infrastructure Services	Inform

Author: Partnerships business unit

**City Clerks: J. Palaschuk / A. Degrood**