



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Report Number 24-126**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services
Resource Staff: Vanessa Mensah, Manager, Equity Diversity & Inclusion
Date of Meeting: April 2, 2024
Subject: Confederation Basin Flagpole Installation

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: Policies & by-laws

Goal: 4.5 Promote and support diversity.

Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on [Report Number 22-162](#) where the City's Flag Display Policy was updated to reflect and acknowledge the land and traditional territories on which the City is situated and to also acknowledge Francophone residents. Following these updates and as part of advancing the direction on the new flag poles additional information and feedback was received from Indigenous community members. This report brings forward some further recommended updates to the City Flag Display Policy based on these new findings, as well as a recommendation to undertake specific consultation with the Francophone community to determine a new placement for the Franco-Ontarian flag within the broader Confederation Park redesign.

Recommendation:

That Council approve amendments to the Flag Display Policy, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number 24-126; and

That staff be directed to initiate discussions with the Francophone community to determine a new placement of the Franco-Ontarian flag within the broader Confederation Park redesign.

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Options/Discussion:**Background**

The flags that were previously approved by Council, [Report Number 22-162](#), to be added within Confederation Park are the Nation flags of the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, and the Métis, as well as the Franco-Ontarians flag. The three First Nation flags correspond to the traditional caretakers of the lands in and around Kingston and the fourth recognizes the ongoing vibrancy of the Metis Nation of Ontario in this region as well. The Franco-Ontarians flag symbolizes a shared commitment toward the Francophone community of Kingston and serves to acknowledge the historic French roots of the City.

During discussions with affected groups regarding the City's intentions to install the suggested flags, staff learned of a preference to display the four Indigenous flags separately from other flags. This requires updating the existing Flag Display Policy, which currently directs that the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat and the Métis flags are to be displayed in Confederation Park alongside the National Flag of Canada, the Province of Ontario flag, the City of Kingston flag and the Franco-Ontarian flag. Based on an assessment of the space in Confederation Park and in Flora MacDonald Confederation Basin, staff recommend displaying the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat and the Métis flags as a group beside the waterfront pathway.

Staff acknowledges the feedback from the communities and recommends that the Franco-Ontarian flag not be included in the flags to be installed this spring. As part of an expanded approach to consultation staff will, with Council's direction, re-engage with the Francophone community to ensure a deliberate and respectful future placement of the Francophone flag within the broader Confederation Park redesign, which is a strategic priority identified by Council to "complete a redesign of Confederation Park and associated spaces to provide a more public activation for residents and tourists (2025)".

Indigenization, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility (IIDEA) Considerations

It is incumbent upon staff to ensure that efforts to recognize both Indigenous community members and Francophone community members are carried out with clear purpose, and respectful consultation, and due consideration.

Existing Policy/By-Law:

POL-20 Flag Display Policy

Financial Considerations:

Capital funding for the additional flagpole installation was approved as part of the 2023 Facilities Management & Construction Services capital budget. The flagpole will be installed in Q2 2024.

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Contacts:

Vanessa Mensah, Manager, Equity Diversity & Inclusion 613-546-4291 extension 1344

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Speros Kanellos, Director, Facilities Management & Construction Services

Jeff Rempel, Manager, Facilities Construction Services

Kevin Gibbs, Director, Heritage Services

Derek Ochej, Deputy City Clerk, Office of the City Clerk

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A – Amendments to Flag Display Policy

Exhibit B – Confederation Park Flagpole Layout

Amendments to Policy Number POL-84, Public Appointment Policy

The following amendments are recommended to Policy Number POL-20, Flag Display Policy, via Report Number 24-126:

- Replace section 3.1.5 in its entirety with the following: “the flags displayed in Confederation Park shall be the National Flag of Canada, and the flags of The Province of Ontario and the City of Kingston. The City flag, as prescribed by the Visual Identity Policy, may be replaced, upon request and as approved by the City Clerk, for a maximum of one day. All other flags shall be displayed permanently and shall not be replaced other than if necessitated due to damage or approved by Council. Council may approve requests to replace the City flag with flags that are recognized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs;”
- Replace section 3.1.6 in its entirety with the following: “The 18 flags displayed in Flora MacDonald Confederation Basin shall be the flags of Canadian provinces and territories: The Province of Ontario; The Province of Quebec; The Province of Nova Scotia; The Province of New Brunswick; The Province of Manitoba; The Province of British Columbia; The Province of Prince Edward Island; The Province of Saskatchewan; The Province of Alberta; The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador; The Northwest Territories; The Yukon Territory; and The Nunavut Territory; and the flags of the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, the Huron-Wendat, the Métis, and the Franco-Ontarians.”
- Replace section 3.1.8 in its entirety with the following: the two flags displayed on the **roof of City Hall** shall be the National Flag of Canada and the flag of The Corporation of the City of Kingston;
- Replace section 3.1.9 in its entirety with the following: the two flags displayed in the **Council Room** shall be the National Flag of Canada and the flag of The Corporation of The City of Kingston;
- Replace section 3.1.10 in its entirety with the following: the three flags displayed year-round at Battery Park shall be the National Flag of Canada and the flags of The Province of Ontario, and The Corporation of The City of Kingston;
- Replace section 3.1.11 in its entirety with the following: the two flags displayed year-round at the Lion Civic Gardens shall be the National Flag of Canada;
- Replace 3.1.12 in its entirety with the following: flags displayed at all other City facilities or properties not identified in this policy shall be the flags of Canadian provinces or territories, the National Flag of Canada, the City, the Kingston Police, flags that are recognized by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, or as otherwise approved by Council;

- In section 3.1.13 and 3.1.15, replace the words ‘the flags of the Government of Canada’ with the words ‘the National Flag of Canada’;
- In section 4.1.3 replace the words ‘The Government of Canada flag’ with the words ‘the National Flag of Canada’;

ONTARIO STREET

CLARENCE STREET

TOURIST INFORMATION

FOUNTAIN



EXISTING STONE BATTERY

EXISTING FLAGPOLES

7
S2

NEW FLAGPOLES - 5 REQUIRED

1
S1

KEY PLAN

1:1

