



Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor | Maire

**Office of the Mayor
City of Ottawa**

110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1
Tel.: 613-580-2496
Fax: 613-580-2509
Email: Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

**Bureau du maire
Ville d'Ottawa**

110, avenue Laurier Ouest
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1
Tél. : 613-580-2496
Télééc. : 613-580-2509
Courriel : Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

June 20, 2023

Tobi Nussbaum, CEO
National Capital Commission
202-40 Elgin St.
Ottawa, ON K1P 1C7

Dear Tobi Nussbaum,

As Members of Ottawa City Council, we want to express our fullest support for the Governor General's Foot Guards Regimental Association's proposal to install a Commemorative Entry Gate at the South entrance of Confederation Park to celebrate the 150-year relationship between the Regiment, the City, Ontario and Canada.

The Governor General's Foot Guards was formed on June 7, 1872, and is the most senior reserve infantry Regiment in Canada, as well as one of three Royal Household Regiments in the Canadian Army. The Regiment's operational role encompasses territorial defence of Canada, and supporting operations overseas. Its presence is also visible at Rideau Hall, the National War Memorial, and the mounting of the Ceremonial Guard on Parliament Hill. The Regiment has participated in national conflicts and domestic operations since Confederation. 2022 marked the Regiment's 150th anniversary of service to Canada.

The proposed Commemorative Entry Gate, abutting Laurier Avenue West, is a fitting site, directly across from the Cartier Square Drill Hall, and City Hall. Confederation Park has historical significance as the former location where the Regiment was housed from 1872 until the existing Drill Hall was completed. Prior to 1879, the Regiment's band would also practice at the arena on the land, which once served as an early home ice for the Ottawa Senators. Today, the Regiment still utilizes Confederation Park for regimental events and activities. Allowing the installation of a Commemorative Entry Gate would pay tribute to the Regiment's history on the site and serve as a permanent landmark of the Regiment following the Rogers and Osgoode statue being relocated in 2006.

In addition, the proposed Commemorative Entry Gate would offer high visibility as a primary focal point of interest along the ceremonial route of the Governor General's Foot Guards for the Changing of the Guard on Parliament Hill. Confederation Park is home to monuments paying homage to Indigenous veterans and other members of the military for their service to Canada. The Commemorative Entry Gate would underscore their important contributions to our country, while at the same time improving the Park's southern entry point, both aesthetically and functionally, to better accommodate festivals and events.

The Regimental Association is currently fundraising, including donations in-kind, which will cover the NCC application fee, design, construction and installation of the Gate project. Once the NCC application requirement of 50 % of funding is reached, a formal application to your organization will follow, expected later this year. We reiterate our strongest endorsement of the Commemorative Entry Gate project and trust that the Regiment's application will demonstrate strong merit for a favourable decision.

Sincerely,

Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor
City of Ottawa

Mathew Luloff
City Councillor, Orléans East-Cumberland Ward
Council Liaison for Veterans & Military Issues