



June 22, 2022

## RE: CENOTAPH DISCUSSION

I would like to address some recent discussions regarding the Cenotaph. This discussion was only ever intended to be had about whether the Legion was even open to the idea of relocation of the Cenotaph. With the objective to provide a larger and more enhanced space. The Town of Fort Macleod, as well as myself, have deep admiration for the sacrifices made by the men and women who fought for our freedoms. I believe we owe all veterans our respect and gratitude. Some monuments and cenotaphs have been moved in other communities for various reasons, but these all happen with support from the local Legions. That's why the conversation started with members of the Legion executive, and then discussion with legion members. It was never the intent to do anything without the full support of the Legion.

Monday night we were invited to the Legion's General meeting, and there was some great discussion. It was made abundantly clear that the Legion is opposed to the idea of moving the Cenotaph. So, the Cenotaph will not be moved. It was a great experience to answer questions and have an open dialogue on such an important and significant topic. That evening I formed new friendships with those who adamantly opposed the idea, but at the end of the night they expressed appreciation for the conversation, and we were able to respectfully shake hands and agree that the Cenotaph is staying in its current location.

I hope we can all learn from this experience and not shy away from open discussion and healthy respectful deliberation. New or different ideas are good for a community to expand our understanding of need and to foster growth. Being able to ask questions and seek feedback is key to making sure we are headed in the right direction. I was deeply moved by the sincere appreciation I received from some Legion members for taking the time to discuss this item in person.

Thank you to everyone who passionately shared their views respectfully during our meeting and contributed to our newfound understanding. We can have opposing ideas and still respect one another. The Legion members were a great example of that. The Town of Fort Macleod welcomes and looks forward to more community building conversations.

Just so it's abundantly clear, the Cenotaph is staying exactly where it is.

Anthony Burdett, CPA  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Town of Fort Macleod  
[a.burdett@fortmacleod.com](mailto:a.burdett@fortmacleod.com)