

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society Canada 150 Project

Motions:

1. That Council approve the Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society's Canada 150 Project – building and installation of a viewing and information deck on the original NWMP Fort site.
2. That Council approve the on-going operating cost of \$4,000 as part of the 2017 City budget to maintain the deck.

Purpose:

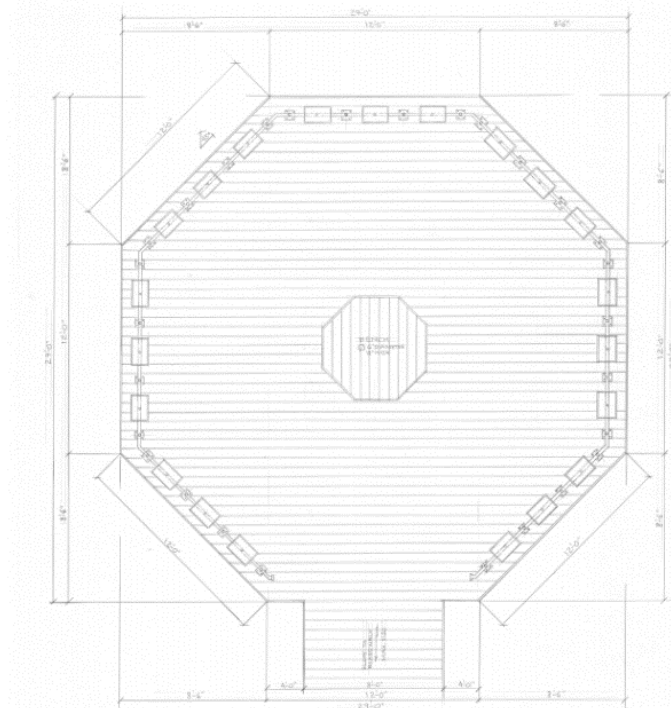
To approve the building and installation of a viewing and information deck on the original North West Mounted Police Fort (NWMP) site by the Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society. The Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society will be covering the cost of the project through grants, fundraising, and volunteer and in-kind donations. The deck will be donated to the City by the Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society, and the City will then be responsible for its on-going maintenance costs.

Background:

In 2017, Canada will be celebrating the Sesquicentennial or 150th birthday. To celebrate, the Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society would like to do a project that will commemorate the history of Fort Saskatchewan. The proposed project is for the building and installation of a viewing and information deck on the site of the original NWMP Fort.

The viewing and information deck is an octagonal deck that is 29 feet in diameter. There will be a 15 foot boardwalk connecting the platform to the existing boardwalk that runs through the original site. The deck will be accessible to all visitors at the Fort Heritage Precinct. The railings of the deck will include 21 interpretive signs that will interpret the history of Fort Saskatchewan. The location is close to the centre of the original site where it can be easily accessed from the boardwalk.

Proposed Viewing and Information Deck Design:



Plans/Standards/Legislation:

Goal 3 – 2014-17 Strategic Plan

The viewing and information deck will complement the work at the NWMP Fort and the interpretive signage along the River Valley installed by the City as part of implementing the Historical Precinct Site Master Plan.

Provincial Legislation - Alberta Historical Resources Act

Designation as Provincial Historic Resource

20(1) The Minister may by order designate any historic resource the preservation of which the Minister considers to be in the public interest, together with any land in or on which it is located and adjacent land that may be specified in the order, as a Provincial Historic Resource.

The original NWMP Fort site was designated a Provincial Historic Resources in 1985.

20(9) Notwithstanding any other Act, no person shall

(a) destroy, disturb, alter, restore or repair any historic resource or land that has been designated under this section, or

(b) remove an historic object from an historic resource that has been designated under this section

without the written approval of the Minister.

An application has been submitted to the Minister for approval, which will take 4 – 6 weeks.

Financial Implications:

- The cost of building and installing the viewing and information deck with all the interpretive signs is estimated to be \$74,496, and will be the responsibility of the Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society. The cost of producing and installing recognition signage will also be the responsibility of the Society.
- The City will be responsible for maintenance and lifecycle replacement costs. These cost are budgeted to be \$4,000 annually.

Internal Impacts:

The maintenance of the deck will be completed by the Facilities unit. Additional resources to maintain the deck totals \$4,000.

Recommendation:

1. That Council approve the Fort Saskatchewan Historical Society's Canada 150 Project – building and installation of a viewing and information deck on the original NWMP Fort site.
2. That Council approve the on-going operating cost of \$4,000 as part of the 2017 City budget to maintain the deck.

Enclosures:

1. Drawing of Viewing Deck
2. Site Map

File No.:

Prepared by:	Diane Yanch Acting Director, Culture	Date: September 20, 2016
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager Infrastructure & Community Services	Date: September 22, 2016
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: September 22, 2016
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: September 27, 2016