

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT REPORTING

Appointment:	Edmonton Salutes Committee
Classification:	Other ▾
Councillor(s):	Councillor Karen Principe
Reporting Period:	November 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Mandate

Edmonton Salutes promotes and recognizes our local military community contributions, both at home and abroad, toward world peace, security and stability. It further reinforces the message that military personnel and their families are valued members of the Edmonton Capital Region.

The mandate of Edmonton Salutes will be to: (a) provide advice to Council regarding appropriate official civic recognition initiatives for the military, veterans, and their families; (b) provide leadership as champions of the military, veterans, and their families; and (c) provide recognition of military members and veterans, and their families, by championing causes and sustaining meaningful collaborations with public, private, and nonprofit organizations.

Background

Edmonton Salutes was first established as an administrative committee in 1997 and then became a Committee of Council on July 3, 2007. The committee was formed in response to the movement of the soldiers from CFB Calgary to the Edmonton Region upon the relocation of the Army of the West. What was formerly known as the Royal Canadian Air Force Station Namao was transferred to the Army in 1994 which is now known as 3rd Canadian Division Support base Edmonton. It supports the Army, Navy, Air Force and local Reserve units. In 2007 Edmonton Salutes evolved into a committee that partners with City

Council. As many military members live within the region of Edmonton, other surrounding municipalities have representatives on the committee.

Edmonton Salutes committee is comprised of up to 25 members, including one Edmonton City Council representative, 8 public members appointed by City Council, as well as one member appointed by:

- Canada Lands Company
- Canadian Forces Liaison Council
- The Royal Canadian Legion
- Edmonton Chamber of Commerce
- Edmonton Garrison Military Family Resource Society
- Edmonton Regional Airports Authority
- Edmonton United Services Institute
- Government of Alberta Liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces
- City of Fort Saskatchewan
- City of St. Albert
- Strathcona County
- Sturgeon County
- Town of Bon Accord
- Town of Gibbons
- Town of Legal
- Town of Redwater

Edmonton Salutes is pleased to accept a request from the town of Morinville to join the committee.

Shared priorities and advocacy areas

Edmonton Salutes Committee aligns with Council's recognition that the contributions that the military and military families make to the community, and (iii) support the families of military personnel who are deployed; (b) promote remembrance through education and support for organizations that deliver commemorative activities; (c) support the provision of programs and services that serve, involve, or advocate for the military community; (d) engage communities in paying tribute to the military

Edmonton Salutes advocates for unhoused veterans. Discussions have occurred with groups such as Green Violin, Home for Heroes and Edmonton Veterans Food Bank.

Report on activities, projects, and outcome

Recently, Edmonton Salutes supported a fundraiser for MFRC (Military Family Resource Centre), the Yellow Ribbon Gala. This successful event was attended by the Mayor, the City Manager, Councillor Paquette, Councillor Rutherford and Councillor Principe. The military community expressed appreciation for the show of support from the City of Edmonton. MFRC is crucial in supporting the families of the military members.

EUSI (Edmonton United Services Institute) Conference, Mitigating Natural Disasters-March 25th was attended by Chair Hodgson, Councillor Principe, Alex Tsang and Lt Cdr Leslie Stacey-Yewer as well as many other community members.

The last two years Edmonton Salutes provided "A Christmas Carol" tickets at Citadel Theatre to military members and their families. This is always a well attended event and much appreciated by the military members and their families.

At a recent Salutes meeting representatives with The Edmonton Elks attended to discuss ways in which both groups could work together to show support to military members and their families.

Edmonton Salutes supports the Veterans Food Bank.

Freedom of the City, which is a ceremonial event that grants freedom for the military to march in the streets of the city, was unfortunately canceled in October 2022 due to a directive from the National Department of Defense. Mayor Sohi, Councillor Principe and Chair Hodgson did attend a more intimate event at LCol Philip L. Debney Armoury on October 22, 2022.

HMCS Edmonton crew visited Edmonton from September 26th-30th. The ship is assigned to Maritime Forces Pacific and is homeported at CFB Esquimalt. The crew met with several committee members and the ship sponsor, Esther Starkman. Commander Tyler Smith and the crew of HMCS are wonderful representatives and carry themselves with high standards. They earnestly respect their role in representing Edmonton's outstanding reputation.

Some members of Edmonton Salutes (including Chair Hodgson and Councillor Principe), along with the crew of HMCS Edmonton, attended the Leveraging the Reservist Workforce Luncheon. The keynote speaker, City Manager Andre Corbould, was exceptional at inspiring the attendees. One member of the HMCS Edmonton crew expressed how in awe he was of City Manager Andre Corbould and how he aspires to be like him.

The board chair, Brian Hodgson, is requesting support for a feasibility study on having a Military Tattoo, which is a large event of marching and musical performance by military members.

Numerous Garrison Business Luncheons are attended by several members of Edmonton Salutes throughout the year. The next one will be May 19th.

Edmonton Salutes members participate in Remembrance Day events throughout the city.

Upcoming events and milestones

There are many recurring events that will occur throughout the year including:

Garrison Business Luncheon- May 19th

June 11th Edmonton Elks game-Military Appreciation night

Freedom of the City is expected to occur later in 2023.

Evaluation

It is recommended that the City of Edmonton continue to work with Edmonton Salutes to advance municipal priorities and areas of shared interest including how to advocate for the City's interests.