



January 9, 2020

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Malcolm Bromley
General Manager, Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Brockton Point Flag Replacement – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

This memo is to inform you about an initiative to replace the three flags at Brockton Point with flags of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (MST). This gesture aligns with the Park Board's Reconciliation strategies, mission, vision, and values, and begins to address the lack of MST visibility in Stanley Park.

MST representatives from the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Working Group (SPIWG) are in support of this initiative and would like to use the gathering of elected officials at the Stanley Park Intergovernmental event being held on January 31st to officially gift the flags to the Park Board. The working group would then recommend a future date for a flag raising ceremony to allow time for planning and enable any public or media interest.

Background

Through the truth-telling phase of the Stanley Park Comprehensive Plan, much has been uncovered regarding the erasure of MST history and presence in Stanley Park. The SPIWG frequently discusses opportunities to reverse these colonial actions through acknowledgement and increased visibility of MST in the park.

On April 28, 2017, Park Board Operations staff attended a SPIWG meeting to discuss the need to replace the three flagpoles at Brockton Point (see Figures 1 & 2 for images of the original flags and location). The poles, installed in the mid 1960's, were in poor condition and had become a safety risk. The working group approved the replacement of the poles, contingent on archeological protocols being followed. The three new poles were installed in late 2019 and are now ready for new flags.



Figure 1 - Original Brockton Point Flag Poles

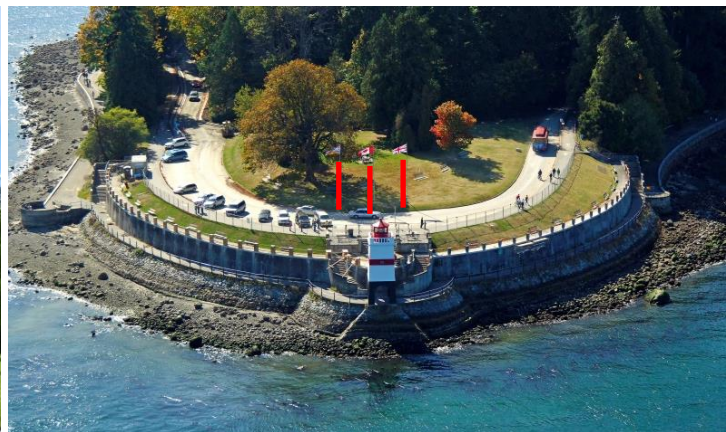


Figure 2 - Flag location at Brockton Point

There are currently 15 flags located in Stanley Park (including the three at Brockton), which commemorate Canada, British Columbia, the Canadian Air Force, Canadian Navy, the City of Vancouver, and the Union Jack (see Figure 3 for a map of Stanley Park flag sites).

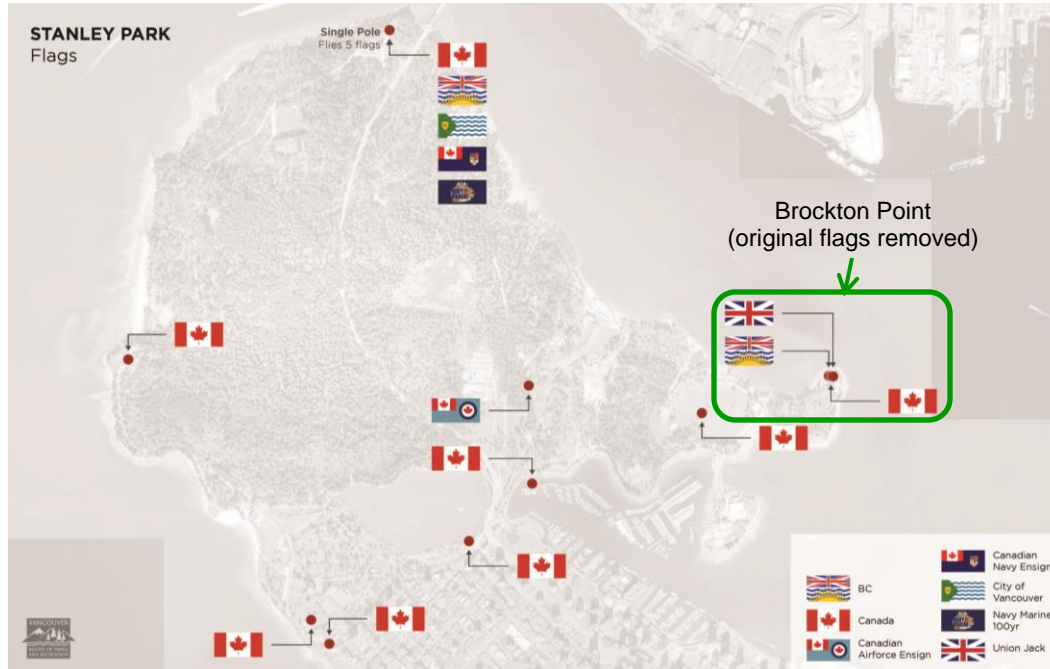


Figure 3 - Map of Flags located in Stanley Park

While working through the Brockton Point flag pole replacement project, the SPIWG questioned the appropriateness of raising the same three flags previously flown at that site (Canada, British Columbia, and Union Jack). The group noted that simply raising these flags again, which are already abundantly present in many other locations in Stanley Park and the City of Vancouver, further diminishes and overshadows the communication of MST’s history and connection to Stanley Park to all of its visitors. They agreed that replacing these flags with one for each Nation would be a small gesture meaningful to the Nations and a symbol of progress being made, while supporting the aim to work towards balancing the cultures and histories in the park.

To celebrate this initiative, representatives from Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations will present their flags to the Park Board in a flag gifting ceremony at the Stanley Park Intergovernmental Lunch & Update event taking place on January 31, 2020. We hope you will all be able to attend this special occasion.

Regards,



Malcolm Bromley
General Manager - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/ed/clc

Copy to: PB Senior Leadership Team, PB SPIWG Team, PB Communications