

[Date]

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss [Name of Councillor]

Dear Councillor [Name]: Re: Request for immediate action to reduce the property tax bill for the Kingsway Legion Branch #175 at 14339 50<sup>th</sup> Street NW Edmonton. With the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, I am [We are] asking you for your commitment to continue to support this organization, which is central to the Edmonton community. The Legion:

- Provides a community for veterans including services like assisting filling out claims, providing resources, and of course is central to Remembrance Day and the Poppy Fund; and
- Throughout the pandemic (whenever the restrictions allowed), Kingsway Legion has served as a safe venue for seniors and past and currently serving military and their families; and
- Provides physical activities for community seniors, which support physical and mental health taking strain off other city, provincial and federal programs.

In early 2021 the city reduced the property taxes based on a reinterpretation to the Legion's AGLC liquor license.

2022 Property Use Assessment Class Status 100% Social/cultural community facility Non-residential Legions/Veterans/Allied Forces Exempt from All Levies 83.29% Taxable 16.71%

2020 Property Use Assessment Class Status 100% Social/cultural community facility Non-residential Legions/Veterans/Allied Forces Exempt from All Levies 63.99% Taxable 36.01%

Penalties, interest and the 2021 taxes leave the legion with a current tax bill of roughly \$120,000 up from the original bill of \$66,000 inclusive of roughly \$18,000 in penalties.

At the current rate of interest coupled with impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the branch on the verge of closing its doors permanently. This is the last thing we want to do to our veterans, who have no other place to go.

[Insert Personal Story Here - Optional]

My [Our] support for this motion is not just based on the fact that is the right thing to do, or my [our] own personal attachment to this organization, but also as a taxpayer[s]. The rising cost of medical care, along with an aging population put tremendous strain on the publicly funded programs. Rather than seeing this as a reduction in property tax income for the city, I [We] see this opportunity as way to invest in proactive care reducing higher cost expenses dedicated to reactive care.

My [Our] ask is that you support the motion to forgive the outstanding property taxes on behalf of the legion to backdate the readjusted taxable portion from 2020/2021 to the new 17% taxable area based on provincial readjustment. This will keep this important organization open for veterans, seniors, and their families.

I [We] look forward to your response by [email/letter/phone].

Yours Sincerely, [Sign and type your name.]