

London Celebrates Canada London Célèbre le Canada



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE 13 FEBRUARY 2013

Good evening Your Worship and Committee members,

Thank you for this opportunity to appear before you this evening. My name is Randy Warden and I am Executive Director for London Celebrates Canada. I am here representing our Chairperson, Dr. Stephan Vachon; his Board of Directors, and our numerous supporters, volunteers, community partners and friends.

In the three short years since London Celebrates Canada was incorporated to ready London for the sesquicentennial anniversary of Canada's confederation, we have achieved much.

Our group has grown London's municipal-level Canada Day festival from the City's \$14,000 expenditure in 2009 to one of Canada's premier birthday celebrations with more than 38,000 Londoners attending annually.

Although Canada Day has become the signature event for London Celebrates Canada, our successes include Flag Day events, an outdoor military concert commemorating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a speaker series commemorating the bicentennial of the War of 1812, a Canadian Flag programme that has replaced more than 175 weathered Canadian flags within the City of London, and much more. Londoners are proud Canadians, in part due to our effort.

We have engaged the community and attracted significant funding support. Our most recent event attracted nearly five times London's core funding investment.

More than a year ago, our group was encouraged to solicit City funding and support to build upon our capacity. Our group appeared before you one year ago. The outcome was that our financial request was deferred to this calendar year. Regretfully, provincial level funding failed in part because the City's financial commitment was not apparent.

Our funding request is included in this year's Municipal budget. Our funding request is modest, good investment, and essential to our continued success.

Respectfully, this Council seeks community engagement for its many initiatives. Our group exists because we answered your call.

We have taxed our volunteer base and we're now in need of infrastructure.

We ask for your vote in support of our request at budget time.

www.CelebrateCanada.info