

THE PROPOSED STATUARY POLICY IS ILL-CONCEIVED AND  
FAULTY IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS

1. The Committee which would be required to review statues and monuments is an unnecessary bureaucratic step and expenditure for taxpayers. The small number of requests to erect statues over the years indicates that such requests can be easily dealt with by Council.
2. It is absurd to limit statues, in areas named for individuals or themes, to those only with the name or theme of that area, eg. Churchill Square.
3. Restricting statues in the Civic precinct area to those dealing with local history is parochialism at best and discrimination against any other statues at worst. City Council's hands should not be tied in this manner for the future.
4. Designating "special areas" outside the Civic precinct for Edmontonians of "ethnic background" is tantamount to having a municipal apartheid policy and ethnic segregation. In keeping with the City's multicultural reality, all groups contributing to Edmonton's society should have fair and equal representation in the Civic precinct or elsewhere.

SUMMARY: The proposed policy is UNJUST and UNFAIR to A LARGE PROPORTION OF EDMONTONIANS. Adoption of this policy would be a retrograde step which demonstrates a very narrow viewpoint. By defining areas where statues can or cannot be placed, based on ethnic or cultural identity, through a municipal policy, is treading on dangerous ground. Under such a restrictive policy a statue of John A. MacDonald could not even be erected in the Civic precinct.

SOLUTION: The more practical and reasonable approach would be to deal with each request to erect statues or monuments on a case by case basis.