

**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**CORPORATE SERVICES**  
**City Clerk's Division**

<b>TO:</b> Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> CITY WIDE
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> March 21, 2012	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> Granting of the "Freedom of the City" – 31 Signal Regiment of the City of Hamilton (City Wide) (CL12003)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Rose Caterini, City Clerk	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Mary Gallagher, Deputy Clerk Colonel Geordie Elms (Retired), Office of the Mayor
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the "Freedom of the City" be granted to the 31 Signal Regiment City of Hamilton.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The granting of the "Freedom of the City" has been a long time tradition in the City of Hamilton dating back to the mid 1970's.

"Freedom of the City" is an ancient honour granted to martial organizations, allowing them the privilege to march into the city with drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed. It is a symbol of trust and reward in return for dedicated duty.

Today, martial freedom of the city is an entirely ceremonial honour, but remains the oldest and one of the highest civic honours. It is granted by the local Council by way of a formal motion, followed by a special ceremony at a later date.

By way of Ministerial Order on September 1, 2011, the 705 (Hamilton) Communication Squadron was re-styled as the 31 Signal Regiment of the City of Hamilton.

As well, April 1, 2012 marks the Centennial of the Unit's founding as "No.1 Wireless Detachment, Royal Canadian Engineers".

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This report is seeking a motion from Council granting the “Freedom of the City” to the 31 Signal Regiment. A formal ceremony is expected to be scheduled on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall.

***Alternatives for Consideration – Not Applicable***

**FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** (for Recommendation(s) only)

**Financial:** N/A

**Staffing:** N/A

**Legal:** N/A

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (Chronology of events)

The original “Freedom of the City” was granted to the 705 (Hamilton) Communication Squadron on July 25, 1978.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Mayor’s Office  
Clerk’s Office  
31 Signal Regiment

**ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

It is important that the City of Hamilton recognize and express their gratitude to its young men and women who have served their country and community with distinction and the granting of the “Freedom of the City” provides an excellent way for the recognition to occur.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

None

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)**

Focus Areas: 1. Skilled, Innovative and Respectful Organization, 2. Financial Sustainability, 3. Intergovernmental Relationships, 4. Growing Our Economy, 5. Social Development, 6. Environmental Stewardship, 7. Healthy Community

***Skilled, Innovative & Respectful Organization***

- ◆ A culture of excellence

***Healthy Community***

- ◆ An engaged Citizenry

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

None