

CITY TO LOWER FLAGS ON MARCH 12 TO COMMEMORATE THE END OF CANADA'S MILITARY MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

February 25, 2014
For Immediate Release

WETASKIWIN, ALBERTA – At their regular February 24 Council meeting, Wetaskiwin City Council unanimously voted to fly all City flags at half-mast on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 to commemorate the end of Canada's 12-year military mission in Afghanistan. All schools and municipalities in Alberta are being asked to recognize the occasion by lowering their flags.

On the morning of Wednesday, March 12, all flags on City property will be lowered to commemorate the lowering of the Canadian flag in Kabul. At 12 noon the flags will be raised again to full height in order to acknowledge the end of the mission and the successful return of the last Canadian troops.

When the military mission in Afghanistan comes to a close at the end of March, the Canadian military presence there will have lasted almost as long as Canadian military involvement in the First World War, the Second World War and the Korean War combined. More than 45,000 Canadians have taken part in the mission with 162 making the ultimate sacrifice – including 46 Albertans.

"We're proud of our brave men and women who served Canada overseas" said Mayor Bill Elliot. "We hope that this small action honours the fallen and gives thanks to those returning safely home."

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