



SUBJECT: By-Law to Exempt the Halton Naval Veterans Association and The Navy League of Canada from Municipal Taxes

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Finance Department

Report Number: F-17-19

Wards Affected: 2, 3

File Numbers: 435-01

Date to Committee: April 1, 2019

Date to Council: April 23, 2019

Recommendation:

Grant the exemption from municipal taxes under section 6.1 of the *Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990* for the Halton Naval Veterans Association; and

Grant the exemption from municipal taxes under section 6.1 of the *Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990* for The Navy League of Canada; and direct finance department staff to prepare the necessary by-laws.

Purpose:

An Engaging City

- Good Governance
- Community Building through Arts and Culture via Community Activities

Background and Discussion:

Council has historically granted exemptions from municipal taxes to the Royal Canadian Legion, the Halton Naval Veterans Association, and The Navy League of Canada.

Royal Canadian Legion (828 Legion Rd)

The *Assessment Act* was recently amended by adding paragraph 15.1 to subsection 3(1) which exempts the Ontario branch of the Royal Canadian Legion from all property

taxes including City, Region, and education taxes. Therefore, effective January 1, 2019 all Legions in Ontario are exempt from property taxes.

The *Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990* gives a municipality the option of passing a by-law to exempt from municipal taxes only land owned, occupied and used solely for the purposes of carrying out the activities of the Ontario Division of The Navy League, and land that is used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds by persons who served in the armed forces of His or Her Majesty or an ally of His or Her Majesty of any war. The City and the Region cannot grant an exemption from the education portion of property taxes.

Halton Naval Veterans Association (2444-2458 Industrial St)

The Halton Naval Veterans Association (HNVA) has several hundred members of which approximately 1/3 are Veterans that include all three Canadian military services. Since obtaining their charter in 1989 and acquiring their present location in 1991, the HNVA have donated over a million dollars to local charitable organizations, including Camp Maple Leaf, a camp established for under privileged kids. They have also supported all three Burlington cadet Corps over these years. They contribute to minor sports and have been financial supporters of the Fire Department, the Police, Carpenter Hospice and the Reach Our Centre for Kids (ROCK Centre). The HNVA recently donated and were a major partner of the Korean Veterans Association for the erection of the monument in Spencer Smith Park to honour and remember the bravery and sacrifice of those who served in this conflict.

The Navy League of Canada (451 Elizabeth St)

The Navy League of Canada, Burlington Branch building is used by The Navy League and the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets Corps. There are no other tenants that occupy or use this building at any time. The Navy League of Canada was established in 1895 and has a presence in over 260 Canadian communities. Their youth programs benefit 15,000 young Canadians every year. The Navy League focuses on key programs such as the Royal Canadian Sea Cadets which is a youth program delivered in partnership with the Department of National Defense. The program helps to encourage and develop leadership skills, good citizenship and physical fitness; the program also teaches valuable life skills such as teamwork, self-discipline, organization and effective communication.

It is recommended that the exemptions for the municipal taxes (City and Region only) continue to be granted for the four years to coincide with the new Council term for 2019-2022.

Financial Matters:

The 2018 taxes on the Halton Naval Veterans Association's property were \$1,313.68 which represents the education taxes only on the clubhouse portion. The property also has a commercial and an industrial portion that are taxed at the full amount. If the City and the Region taxes were payable in 2018 the total taxes would have been \$6,299.37 on the clubhouse portion only, an additional \$4,985.69 in taxes.

The 2018 taxes on The Navy League's property were \$3,177.30 which represents the education taxes only on the entire property. If the City and the Region taxes were payable the total taxes would have been \$15,235.88, an additional \$12,058.58 in taxes.

Conclusion:

This report is provided to advise Council that the term of the by-law for an exemption from municipal taxation (City and Region) for the Halton Naval Veterans Association and The Navy League of Canada expired at the end of 2018 and to recommend that Council pass by-laws to provide the same exemption from 2019-2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lacelle

Coordinator of Assessment

905-335-7600 ext. 7755

Appendices:

- A. By-Law exemption Halton Naval Veterans Association
- B. By-Law exemption The Navy League of Canada

Notifications:

Halton Naval Veterans Association	2444 Industrial St., Burlington, ON L7P 1A5
The Navy League of Canada	451 Elizabeth St., ON, L7R 2L8

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.