

THE CORPORATION OF THE  
**CITY OF WHITE ROCK**  
15322 BUENA VISTA AVENUE, WHITE ROCK, B.C. V4B 1Y6



**POLICY TITLE: CITY OF WHITE ROCK FLAG POLICY**

**POLICY NUMBER: COUNCIL – 167**

<i>Date of Council Adoption:</i>	<i>Date of Last Amendment:</i>
<i>Council Resolution Number:</i>	
<i>Originating Department:</i> Administration	<i>Date last reviewed by the Governance and Legislation Committee:</i> April 26, 2021

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**Policy:**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all flags flown at City Hall and other City locations are displayed in a consistent and appropriate manner. The policy includes flag-raising and half-masting as well as displaying of the flags and respect for the flag.

**Rationale**

The City of White Rock flies the Canadian flag, the Province of British Columbia flag and the flag of the City of White Rock on designated poles at various buildings and properties throughout the city, including at City Hall.

The flags of Canada and British Columbia flown at the west side of City Hall, the flag of Canada flown at the White Rock Fire Hall and the flag of Canada flown at the White Rock Pier do not change.

On the north side of City Hall, at the main entrance, a flagpole is used to host guest flags.

**Flag-Raising**

The City of White Rock will fly flags on City properties on a permanent basis and a temporary basis to mark special occasions. Special occasions include national days, multicultural events, fundraising drives. They encourage support from the community and benefit and enrich White Rock.

A flag-raising is the ceremonial raising of either a flag that can take place with or without a ceremony,

**City Hall Single Flagpole**

Requests maybe made in writing to the Mayor and Council for consideration of a flag to be flown on the single flagpole in front of City Hall.

Requesting organizations must be not-for-profit with a noted affiliation with the City of White Rock. The affiliation must be indicated for Council to make a decision. The flag-raising information will be posted on a dedicated web page on the City of White Rock's website and will be shared on social media.

The following flags have annual Council approval and do not require a request:

<b>Flag-raising at City Hall Single Flagpole</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Scouts Canada Flag	10 <sup>th</sup> White Rock Scout Group, in honour of Scout Week, held each year in February.
Day of Mourning flag	CUPE Local 402-01 in honour of those who have been injured or lost their lives on a jobsite, flown annually on April 28.
Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Flag	Multiple Sclerosis Society, in honour of MS Awareness month in May.
National Indigenous Peoples Day	June 21, featuring the flag of the Semiahmoo First Nation.
Pride flag	White Rock Business Improvement Association (BIA), in honour of Pride Week, flown annually in July. A flag-raising ceremony will be planned in partnership with the BIA.
Canadian Association of Retired Persons	CARP, Chapter 11, in honour of National Seniors Day each year on October 1.

### **Flag Half-Masting**

Flags are flown at half-mast as a sign of respect and mourning for an individual or to mark a special day. Flags to be flown at half-mast include all flags at City Hall and all flags at City-operated properties that are capable of half-masting. Properties owned by the City but operated by a third party are exempt from this policy.

All flags flown together must be half-masted. Flags honouring someone who has passed will be half-masted from the time of notification to sunset the day of the funeral.

In exceptional circumstances, flag half-masting may be ordered at the Call of the Mayor, subject to discussion with the Chief Administrative Officer.

The following are occasions when individuals who have passed will be recognized with the half-masting of City flags.

<b>Honoured with Half-Mast</b>
Immediate member of the Royal Family
Current Governor-General
Current or former Prime Minister
Current or former South Surrey-White Rock Member of Parliament
Current or former Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia
Current or former Premier of British Columbia
Current or former Surrey-White Rock Member of Legislative Assembly
Current or former White Rock Mayor
Current or former White Rock Councillor
White Rock firefighter, City of White Rock employee or White Rock RCMP member who has perished in the line of duty
Additional heads of state or community leaders as indicated by White Rock Council

## Annual Schedule

The City of White Rock annually honours those who have lost their lives in the workplace, in the line of duty, who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces or with its allies or who have been the victims of terrorism or violence against women. Here is the planned annual schedule.

<b>Date of Half-Masting</b>	<b>Occasion</b>
April 28	Day of Mourning (Workers)
June 23	National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism
Second Sunday in September	Firefighters' National Memorial Day
Last Sunday in September	Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 6	National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

## Position of Flags

The City of White Rock follows the flag etiquette issued by the Government of Canada, found here, [Position of Honour of the National Flag of Canada](#) and honours the [Flag Protocol](#) for the Province of British Columbia.

The order of precedence for flags is:

- The National Flag of Canada
- The flags of other sovereign nations in alphabetical order (if applicable)
- The flags of the provinces of Canada ([in the order in which they joined Confederation](#))
- The flags of the territories of Canada ([in the order in which they joined Confederation](#))
- The flags of municipalities/cities
- Banners of organizations
- [Historical flags](#)

It is important to note that the following flags take precedence over the National Flag on buildings where one of the dignitaries are in residence or where they are attending a function:

- Her Majesty's Personal Canadian Flag;
- the standards of members of the Royal Family;
- the standard of the Governor General; and
- the standard of the Lieutenant Governor (in his or her province of jurisdiction and when assuming the duties of the representative of the Queen).

### **Quality of Flags**

Flags flown must be in good condition, with no tears or fading. This includes flags provided by a community group for a National Day or fundraising effort. The flag can be no larger than the flag of Canada.

### **Disposal of Flags**

When a flag becomes tattered and is no longer in a suitable condition for use, it must be destroyed in a dignified way. See [Disposal of the Canadian Flag](#) on the Government of Canada's website.

### **Links to Resources:**

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Government of BC](#)
- [City of Vancouver](#)
- [City of Langley](#)
- [City of Ottawa](#)