

My response to CAO Kim Ramsay's Comments taken from The Laker News, September 7, 2025.

East Hants Councillors, and Ms. Ramsay,

Thank you for providing additional background on the cenotaph relocation.

However, the community of Shubenacadie does not see this as a matter for new "options," budgets, or design concepts. The cenotaph's rightful place is not negotiable.

When the monument was moved no public consultation, no public vote, and no cost analysis were presented to residents. We learned of the relocation only after it was done. Now we are being asked to debate how much it will cost to correct a decision that was made without our consent. That is unacceptable.

This is not a parks or redevelopment feature; it is a sacred war memorial on land originally granted to the community in 1921 for that single purpose.

Its placement beside the train station was deliberate, our soldiers left and returned there. That historic connection cannot be replicated by interpretive panels or "prominent spots" in a parking lot.

The CAO's report suggests five possibilities and price tags. Respectfully, the only figure that matters is the cost to put the cenotaph back where it belongs. Had Council factored those expenses in before moving it, we would not be here today.

Further, raising the topic of Truth and Reconciliation in this context muddies the waters. We fully support reconciliation efforts with Indigenous peoples, but linking that important national conversation to the fate of a veterans' memorial diverts attention from the real issue: a historic community monument was moved without consent. These are separate matters and should be treated as such.

We therefore call on Council to:

- End discussion of alternative sites.
- Approve immediate funding to return the monument to its original Main Street location.
- Commit to a public consultation process for any future changes affecting community owned heritage assets.

The cenotaph honors those who gave their lives so that we might speak freely today. Its placement is a matter of duty and respect, not of convenience, parking, or budgets.

Lest We Forget,

Jodi Blois