

## HKVCA 2018 Annual General Meeting

### Our Priorities for the Upcoming Year

Let me spend a few minutes giving you an overview of our top priorities for the upcoming year.

As you know, the Board decided earlier this year to move our next national convention to 2020. It will be on the weekend of August 15, 2020 ... the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war with Japan, and we will hold it in Ottawa. There's a lot of work that must go into planning for this significant event, and much of it will happen over the next 12 months. We want it to be exciting, compelling and worthy of attendance by as large as possible a number of our members and their families. Mitzi Ross is heading up our convention team and will be looking for volunteers to help!

We will continue to place our commemorative plaques into Legions and other locations. The funding for these plaques comes from our national treasury, but we depend on you, our members, to scout locations and enter into discussions with Legion branch executives and others to obtain agreement to place plaques. I'm hopeful that we can place at least as many as we did over the last 12 months ... 35 across the country. I'm counting on all of you to speak to your nearby Legion to make it happen in your home town.

Depending on the outcome of our negotiations with Veterans Affairs Canada on funding for the new parking spots at the Memorial Wall, we may need to undertake a fundraising campaign to pay for the construction of the spaces. We don't know yet how much this might be, but it could be considerable ... \$50,000 or more. Obviously, this could require a big effort!

I just introduced our Board of Directors for the upcoming year. It's a stellar group, no doubt about it! But of all our members, only 8 stepped forward in the nomination process for Directors. I'm sure there are more members who would like to help set the direction for our organization, and one of our priorities for this year is to increase the number of nominations to ensure that we continue to field a high-quality, dedicated Board of Directors.

We will continue to provide valuable information to our members and the broader public via our web site, Facebook presence and our national newsletter.

Finally, we have not run our Cross Canada Writing Contest for a couple of years. This has left us without a specific program for bringing the story of the Battle of Hong Kong to high school students. This is an important audience for the story, and we should be finding a way of reaching this audience. Doing so will take a volunteer who is knowledgeable about teaching high school history and who will undertake to create a compelling program for student learning. We'll be looking for someone to take this on!