

BC Region AGM Report  
Greetings from the West coast

May, 1st/2026

I'm again pleased to provide an abbreviated summary of our BC region activities since the last AGM report . From the interior of our province, membership chair, Murray Doull who is also the poppy chairperson for his town of Clearwater has reported 102 Members for our region.

We also have six treasured Hong Kong widows still with us, and we wish them a comfortable, easy summer with plenty of visits from family and friends.

We seem to be holding fast around this number and I attribute that to Murray's long time work within our area. His contributions and experience will again be felt and appreciated as he assists our membership through the new streamline system that is being implemented by the National.

Also from the interior our dedicated researcher Lillian Randall from Creston has completed her local research and moved her focus eastward however the trickle down effect is still being felt here.

Three plaque installations are a direct result of Lillian's inquiries in towns and cities that have had a connection to our Hong Kong veterans.

The following Legions have completed HKVCA plaque installations.

They are: RCL #24 in Cranbrook,BC  
RCL #15 in Abbotsford,BC  
RCL #295 in Chilliwack,BC

There are also two other towns waiting for anniversary dates to add our plaque to their ceremonies.

ANAVETS Unit 26 in South Vancouver was the first BC unit to install our plaque and I recently received copies of their "Shoulder to Shoulder" publication featuring that particular ceremony and article about our 'C' Force Veterans and the importance of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VJ Day.

We thank Mr Jim Laidlaw of Vancouver for making the initial contact with their committee and thank another member Edmund Wu for assisting in the details that led to a most memorable afternoon for all.

Our Remembrance ceremonies are always well attended regardless of any inclement weather. Our winter newsletter article reported in detail how Mr Phil Mondor laid the HKVCA wreath at the crowded Victory square cenotaph in down town Vancouver and again made his way across town to the Chinatown Memorial Cenotaph. Well done Phil.

In the neighbouring lower mainland community of Burnaby HKVCA representative Edmund Wu again laid our wreath at the "No Stone Left Alone" ceremony.

This most respectful ceremony seems to have doubled in size and attendance by dignitaries. A good indicator for the future of this observance.

Most recently an appeal for 'C' Force memorabilia has been forwarded to us by Melynda Jarratt the curator for the New Brunswick Military Museum in Gagetown.

I think this is a fabulous opportunity for our membership across the country.

Donating a keepsake item or a document that will be kept safe and shared in perpetuity will contribute to the 'C' Force legacy.

As the years went by this was always a concern for our HK veterans. Many veterans asking themselves " Who will take care of my POW mementos". Now many of us are asking that same question.

If your at all curious about the archival process just give them a call and have a conversation with the museum staff.

In closing, I would like to welcome and thank our BC region nominee, Cameron Wood for stepping up and

representing us from the West coast. All the best Cameron.

This is my last report I want to thank my board colleagues for their kind fair well remarks.

I've enjoyed my tenure it has indeed been a rewarding experience. I saw it as a way to contribute and support an organization that existed to ensure my father and his buddies incredible wartime saga would never be forgotten. No danger of that as we march forward together using whatever technology is available for us to preserve that history.

So as I reflect on the all the family connections that can be made by simply reading 'C' Force surnames it reminds me of this quote by Pericles, the Greek statesman and overseer of the Parthenon,

“ What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others”.

I think we can agree the Hong Kong story has a poignant thread in all of us.  
Thank you.

I humbly submit this report for the record.

Gerry Tuppert  
Outgoing Director  
BC Region

## **PRAIRIE REGION AGM 2025 2026**

Prairie region meet monthly in Winnipeg at Smitty's Restaurant at Pembina and Grant. We also Zoom in members from various areas in Manitoba and Alberta. This works well in January, February and March when the weather is so nasty.

Last year with the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII we had a great celebration of our family that served in that military action. The "kids" had a terrific time learning history, making new friends and renewing old ones. Thank you to all who organized it and participated.

Kathie Carlson, from Alberta, received her King Charles III medal on August 30, 2025. Congratulations Kathie it is a well-deserved honour, and we are proud of your work.

Stephanie Mitchell is one of the storekeepers where the excess items from the Convention last August. So, anyone needing a souvenir item please contact the store on our website.

Pam Heinrichs was instrumental in engaging the Red River Metis with history of their family members to encourage them to attend the Convention. They supplied the entertainment that put the celebration on a high level.

We are involved with the Plaque project with 8 in Alberta, 5 in Saskatchewan, 4 in NW Ontario and 22 in Manitoba for a total of 39. When possible, we attend the facility where the plaque is to be placed and have a ceremony to dedicate it and if unable to attend, we can send the plaque and remotely assist in the dedication. We place articles in the ANAVETs 283 newsletter relating stories on the veterans from that area. They have been well received and encouraged me to continue.

We participated in the Red River Heritage Fair annually for over 20 years. This event is for school youth to build a diorama on something that occurred in the Red River Valley or Manitoba. We judge the military projects and award gift cards and books to the winners. Stan Lopata and Alex Taylor are situated in our display and engage the students in the scavenger hunt.

We also participate in the SAGE event for teachers and with our display and literature that we had out to encourage the teachers to include this part of history in their program. Stan and Alex set up our display and distribute the handouts.

We participate in Remembrance Day services, Provincial, Metis and Indigenous as well as organize one for our members at the Brookside cemetery, Field of Honour where many of our veterans are interred.

Stan will ensure that the HK flag is at the Legislature to be posted at the Cenotaph for the month of August and December.

Thank you to Barb Andres who has been scanning in many documents and sending them to Jim for the website. These documents are allocated to the vault and designated to the related veteran.

Roxanna Fenning is on the HK disk committee where they track all the veterans who have the disk on their gravestone.

After our monthly meeting on November 13, 2025, I had the honour to present a plaque of appreciation to Barry Mitchell for his many years of service to the HKV in Manitoba and the HKVCA nationally and regionally. He was very moved and grateful by this. He continues to do the financial reports for our region. Great job Barry. We are grateful for Lillian who is busy researching for possible plaque sites and has given me several pages to investigate for KIA names and the possible communities/legions, etc. to approach for plaques. Now we just need time to do this.

We encourage our members to help us with one of the projects that we have going as many hands make light work.

Hopefully we will have a wonderful summer – praying for less flooding and fires.

Take care everyone – God Bless.

## Ontario Report – AGM – May 4, 2026

Without a doubt, Ontario's largest investment of time and effort in 2025 was our 80<sup>th</sup> commemoration in Ottawa last August.

Of course, this was a country-wide event, and many members from coast to coast were very involved. But our team in Ottawa outdid themselves both before and during the event, and even in the aftermath.

At the risk of omitting someone, let me give a shout out to the following, in no particular order, most of whom live in Ottawa:

Randy Wing, Emma Lee Wing, Rita Flanagan, Judi Denison, Mitzi Ross, Alan Sandeman, Ian Englehart, Gwen Englehart, Julie Carver, Gail Angel, Mark Purcell, Derrill Henderson.

All the feedback was extremely positive, and everyone who helped to make this event such a success deserves our vote of thanks!

Of course, Ontario Region was active in other arenas as well. Lori Atkinson Smith, in particular, continued with our highly successful plaque program, and began an intensive program of posting on Instagram. She also continues to be a very active poster on Facebook.

Mark Sakamoto's award-winning book "Forgiveness", about his Hong Kong Veteran grandfather Ralph MacLean and his other grandfather who was a Japanese-Canadian displaced from his home in BC by the Canadian government, was transformed into a highly rated play which was performed at the Stratford Festival from May to October. We were able to display our HKVCA banners about the battle at the Tom Patterson Theatre, and they were viewed by the several thousand theatregoers who attended the play.

The Region participated in an interesting and well-attended event in September at Fort York in Toronto, which commemorated all World War II prisoners of war.

There were also other activities across Ontario including participation in Remembrance Day events, a display by Sam Chiu of his Battle of Hong Kong postal history exhibit in London, ON, and a V-J Day commemoration at the Remembrance Gardens in London.

Thank you to all our 141 energetic and creative Ontario Region members for helping to keep the memory alive!

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Babin

Ontario Region Director

AGM - May 4, 2026  
Quebec Region Report 2025

Greetings everyone from Québec,  
Hope you are all keeping well after our difficult winter and looking forward to a beautiful summer.

In Quebec we presently have 13 widows and 51 regular members. Unfortunately during the year we lost some of our members, widows Audrey Lowe and Joyce Clarkson and regular members Harriet Heath Healy and Bernard Lalime.

We sincerely thank our members for their continued support by renewing their membership, with their donations and support with their notes, cards and telephone calls. Our executive committee holds regular meetings by Zoom or by telephone and I attend our monthly national BOD meetings. We keep our members informed on the news and happenings locally and nationally via our quarterly newsletter "The Torch". We send greetings to our members for their special day and Christmas Greetings to all our widows.

Attended our National Convention commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V-J Day Legacy of Remembrance held in Ottawa last August. The convention was well attended during a beautiful and warm weekend. Many events took place, well attended "Meet and Greet" gathering of old friends and time to meet new ones, a great ceremony was held at the National War Memorial, visit to the HKVCA Memorial Wall, the National War Museum, great Gala Dinner with lively entertainment and closing the week-end with the farewell breakfast and "Bon Voyage" to all "Till we meet again". Many members not able to attend or make the trip to Ottawa, respectfully remembered their veteran family member or friends locally. We sincerely thanked Les Voltigeurs de Québec for their representation during the convention and display of their RRC memorabilia.

During Veteran's Week, many members attended events and commemoration ceremonies in their respective area and more and more Remembrance Flags of our HK Veterans were displayed along streets in different towns.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gerry Tuppert for his many years of involvement and work to our mission. Thank you and Merci Gerry.

Thank you, take care and wishing you all a healthy, safe and pleasant summer in good company of family and friends.

Respectfully submitted by

Lucette Mailloux Muir  
Director of Québec Region

Hello from the Atlantic Region.

2025 was an exciting year with the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary being held in Ottawa. A memorable one at that. Would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to make this anniversary a success. Both my oldest brother and one of my nephews attended many of the activities and ceremonies during this weekend. Unfortunately, I couldn't stay for the Sunday breakfast before departing for the East Coast. Was lucky enough to have a flight during the ongoing union dispute at the time. Many great memories were made over the weekend, and it was a pleasure to see familiar faces and meet new acquaintances from across Canada.

Hormidas Fredette, the last member of C Force RRC, was awarded the King Charles III coronation medal. His sons have received the medal, and pictures have been submitted to National. Hi sons, were presented with their dad's King Charles Medal. The presentation ceremony was to be held at a later date if Bryan's (Mr. Fredette's son) health improves.

Andy Flanagan and I have been busy giving presentations and laying wreaths in honor of the HK veterans. Andy continues doing presentations in Fredericton. The talk was based on Andy's acclaimed book *The Endless Battle*, created in collaboration with UNB's Military Heritage Program and Goose Lane Editions. The presentation includes artifacts, letters, and photographs that bring this history to life. Andy Flanagan and Ruth Murgatroyd (granddaughter of William Joseph Hickie of the RRC) presented the Battle of HK and POWs experience. Author and historian [Andy Flanagan](#) presented "The Endless Battle: The Fall of Hong Kong and Canadian POWs in Imperial Japan".

In November, I did a talk and presentation on my father, Joseph Napoleon LeBlanc RRC and the Battle of Hong Kong at the local Legion for Veterans' banquet. Many knew my father but few knew that he was a POW in Japan and the suffering he and others endured during their captivity. The presentation was well received, and I was asked to do it again for a group of students. On November 11, I laid a wreath to honour the Hong Kong Veterans, and my younger brother laid a wreath for the Korean War Veterans.

Submitted by Bernard LeBlanc

## President's Report to AGM - May 2026

Our Region Directors have given you a comprehensive update about all the HKVCA activities in their areas during 2025, so I would just like to add a very few comments of my own.

You've already heard today about our fantastic 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of V-J Day commemoration in Ottawa. I can only add my congratulations to the organizing committee, headed by Kathie Carlson, and all the volunteers who worked so hard to make it the enormous success it was. Although we had large sponsorship donations that funded much of our expenses for the event, we also received well over \$5,000 in donations from individual members, and I want to especially thank those members who so generously contributed.

Our association's mission statement is to honour the sacrifices and stories of the Canadian soldiers who served in the defence of Hong Kong, and to preserve their legacy for future generations. We are committed to achieving this through activities such as: commemorative events, public storytelling via traditional and social media, the placement of commemorative plaques, and the creation and sponsorship of educational materials and initiatives.

This work is all carried out by you, our members, nearly 500 in number. I sincerely thank those of you who have contributed your time and labour to the various events and programs across Canada that have helped to preserve their legacy of our Hong Kong Veterans.

I have no doubt that all 1,975 Veterans would be very pleased to see how they are being honoured and the HKVCA's mission achieved.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Babin

President