



July 2, 2019

Honourable Val van den Broek  
Mayor of Langley  
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cc: SMT, Admin Staff

Honourable Val van den Broek:

Re: European liberation public events, tulip projects, and school activities planned for British Columbia by Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society from April 2020 to July 2020

The Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society, a not-for-profit organization established in August 2018, is organizing commemorative events throughout British Columbia, Alberta and across Canada. To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands and Europe by Canadian soldiers in 1945 much is being planned from April 2020 to July 2020.

In collaboration with the BC/Yukon Royal Canadian Legion, the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Vancouver, and in partnership with Veteran Affairs Canada, BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, Faces to Canadian War Graves Groesbeek Foundation (Netherlands) many school activities and events are underway. With the Vancouver Lower Mainland Dutch Associations including CAANS (Canadian Association for the Advancement of Netherlandic Studies), and the Dutch Business Club, and local bulb growers, a major tulip planting project and a musical Cinematique is being initiated.

The gratefulness expressed by Dutch people and the desire by Dutch Canadians to thank Canada and Canadian liberators is overwhelming. The sacrifices made by Canadian families and the lives lost by men and women fighting for freedom in the Netherlands and across Europe must never be forgotten. As a Society, we are proud to have the privilege to deliver the message of thankfulness and appreciation to Canada.

The Society is seeking the support of the mayor and city councillors to announce special public events for attendance by Canadian families. Working with the BC/Yukon Royal Canadian Legion, we will be holding public candlelight vigils on May 2, 2020 at 8:45 pm at a city memorial cenotaph and/or a city cemetery throughout the province. As well, the support of council is most appreciated with the goal to plant thousands of "Canadian Liberator" or "Strong Love" tulip bulbs in fall 2019 in public spaces and in planters along streets and boulevards to decorate the city with beautiful flowering tulips in May 2020. Events are posted on Veteran Affairs Canada's national event page and are posted on [www.legionbcyukon.ca](http://www.legionbcyukon.ca). Each city's support and participation will draw public

attention to the program honoring Canadian soldiers and to show once again how very grateful the Dutch are to Canada.

To commemorate the Liberation of the Netherlands on Monday, May 4, 2020 a Dodenherdenking (Remembrance) Service will be hosted by the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and conducted at the BC Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own) Drill Hall on 620 Beatty Street in Vancouver.

The BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation has developed a teacher package for distribution in early fall 2019 to elementary schools entitled *Celebrating Liberation with a Promise*. The educational package combines two history lessons on the liberation of Europe in 1945 with the planting of tulips by children at their schools. As well, for teachers and students and school/city libraries, not only for British Columbia but across all provinces of Canada, the Society is looking for ways to distribute some books to school children focused on the reflection of the war days in the Netherlands.

The Faces to Canadian War Graves Groesbeek Foundation in the Netherlands is searching for photos, copies of documents, and newspaper cuttings from Canadian families to help create a virtual memorial (digital file) of all the men and women buried in the Netherlands in a Canadian war cemetery. The Foundation is seeking the appeal of Canadian family members, friends and/or neighbours to help create a life story of their loved one who died fighting for freedom and Dutch liberation. For more information, visit the website [www.facestograves.nl](http://www.facestograves.nl) or send an email to [info@facestograves.nl](mailto:info@facestograves.nl)

The Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society would much appreciate the opportunity to make a 15 minute presentation to City Council about the details related to the 75<sup>th</sup> Liberation commemorative events, projects, and activities being coordinated. We have a PowerPoint presentation with promotional materials to support our presentation. If possible, the Society would like to make the presentation to Council prior to September 2019. We look forward to your reply by email to [azylmans@telus.net](mailto:azylmans@telus.net) and/or contact Adriana Zylmans at (604) 816-3243.

Sincerely,

*Adriana Zylmans*

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