

The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Nov 6, 2015

Dear Minister McKenna,

As spokesperson for the 1700 members of the group “People North Of Smokey Who AGREE to Having Our Monument At Green Cove”, I would like to report that we have been quite active in rebutting much of the misinformation regarding the Never Forgotten National Memorial. During the summer, we also gathered a number of petitions in support of the Veterans Memorial which will be presented to Parliament by our local MP the Honourable Mark Eyking. We believe we have 90% of the people living North of Smokey supporting the construction of the Never Forgotten National Memorial.

For your edification, I am attaching some of our responses through local newspapers and two Open Letters that were submitted to the former Minister of the Environment. This project is very important to Canadians welcoming home, those 114 000 individuals that never made it “HOME”.

The Honourable Melanie Joly
Minister of Canadian Heritage

Nov.6, 2015

Dear Minister Joly,

Our cultural history in this area of Victoria County has not been adequately preserved or presented according to the Parks Management Plan for the Cape Breton Highlands National Park. I know that Parks Canada is not a part of your portfolio but I hope, when you are sitting at the Council table, that you will be able to have an informed opinion when the subject of the Never Forgotten National Memorial presents itself. The sooner this project gets under way, the sooner that Parks Canada can honour its mandate.

The Honourable Scott Brison
President of the Treasury Board

Nov.6, 2015

Dear Minister Brison,

Over the summer months I have sent you a few articles regarding the Never Forgotten National Memorial on behalf of the people North of Smokey who support the Veterans Memorial. In addition to nine other petitions, we have a petition from your riding in Hants County. As the Minister representing Nova Scotia on the Privy Council we ask that you lend your support to this important project which recognizes the ultimate sacrifice by 114,000 Canadian Veterans.

The Honourable Bardish Chagger
Minister of Small Business and Tourism

Nov.6, 2015

Dear Minister Chagger,

You will soon become aware of the high unemployment rate in northeastern Victoria County. Tourism in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park has been on the decline in recent years: from 2001-2003 visitors averaged 390,000 persons while the years 2011-2014 had that drop to 181,000. This resulted in downsizing and the subsequent loss of jobs at the park. The park has recognized the need to increase tourism by supplying alternative possibilities to visitors. Surveys show an increasing number of tourists are travelling to sites with a military theme. The Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation has presented a proposal to build a memorial to honour the 114,000 Canadian Veterans who sacrificed their all in the cause of freedom around the world. We believe this project should go ahead as quickly as possible.

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier
Minister of National Revenue

Nov.6, 2015

Dear Minister Lebouthillier,

As an owner of a business that depends greatly on tourism, you are quite aware of the dependence of you employees on secure longer term jobs. Your area, like ours in Victoria County depends greatly on seasonal employment and the short season has resulted in a 34.5% child poverty rate. As a social worker, in all probability, you have encountered this in the Gaspé region. In the collegial planning you will hear about the Never Forgotten National Memorial. We hope that its construction will result in a longer shoulder season which will allow small business to extend opportunities for their employees. In our opinion, the sooner this Veterans Memorial gets built – the better.

The Honourable Kent Hehr
Minister of Veterans Affairs

Nov.6, 2015

Dear Minister Hehr,

As minister you have an awesome task before you. From a report that I saw on TV, it is obvious that you have a tremendous respect for our veterans. The Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation has submitted a proposal to build, in Canada, a memorial to the 114,000 Canadians who sacrificed their lives to support the cause of freedom around the world. I know this is not your area of responsibility but I would like you to be informed, from our local perspective, on this topic.

The Honourable MaryAnn Mihychuk
Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour

Nov.6, 2015

Dear Minister Mihychuk,

A great insult had been delivered to us by former PM Stephen Harper when he referred to the Atlantic Region's "culture of defeat". The result of that comment can be found in the delivery of the 32 Atlantic seats to the Liberal election victory.

We are not looking for a hand out – we are in need of a hand up. Every job opportunity we can get is much appreciated in our region. The Never Forgotten National Memorial Foundation is proposing the development of a memorial to honour the 114,000 Canadian veterans who sacrificed their lives across the world in support of freedom. This project may result in extended days/weeks of operation for our small businesses in our tourism industry. We believe that this project is best advanced as quickly as possible.

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos

Nov.6, 2015

Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

Dear Minister Duclos,

In 1989, the House of Commons pledged to end child poverty in Canada by the year 2000 .As you are well aware, this has not happened. Through your work with PEP, you realize the importance of parents having secure jobs to help deliver children from poverty. In the area of Victoria County, where I live, the poverty rate is over 34% for children. Seasonal employment is a main part of this issue. Perhaps, with the construction of the Never Forgotten National Memorial, some of this poverty can be relieved. Increased tourism could lead to an extended season which would enable restaurants, garages, motels and other service industries to remain fully staffed for a longer period of time. Your support for this project would be greatly appreciated.