



# MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### PREMIER KATHLEEN WYNNE PROVIDES SUPPORT MESSAGES TO CANADIAN, ALLIED MERCHANT NAVY, AND AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS

June 13, 2017

**Today** – Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, President and CEO, MNCTP, thanked the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, for providing support messages to our Canadian, Allied Merchant Navy, and American Merchant Marine Veterans.

Premier Wynne also became the third Premier in Canadian history to officially acknowledge the efforts of the American Merchant Marine Veterans. The Honourable Paul Davis, former Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, was the first. The Honourable Brian Gallant, Premier of New Brunswick, was the second.

Premier Kathleen Wynne added her Message of Recognition to that of: the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, former Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the New Democratic Party; the Honourable Senator Joseph A. Day, Saint John—Kennebecasis; Her Honour, Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan; the Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia; the Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta; and many more.

*“I applaud you and your colleagues at the Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP) for recognizing the vital wartime contributions of the Allied Merchant Navy and the American Merchant Marine. I believe we should all take time to remember the achievements of veterans – in times of war, military conflict and peace – and to recognize that we owe much of our personal freedom to their service and sacrifice.”*  
(From e-mail received May 31, 2017)

– The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario

*“I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the vital role that the Canadian Merchant Mariners played in the First and Second World Wars and to pay tribute to their tremendous courage and resilience. We should never forget what they did for us or the sacrifices they made in the name of freedom. (From letter received February 26, 2016)*

On May 5, 2017, Mr. Jim Wilson introduced Bill 130, *Merchant Navy Veterans Day Act, 2017*, at Queen’s Park. This Bill would designate September 3 in each year as Merchant Navy Veterans Day in the Province of Ontario. The deadline for the Winter/Spring 2017 session was June 1, 2017.

## Quote

*I wish to thank the Honourable Kathleen Wynne wholeheartedly for her kind Message of Recognition to our Canadian, Allied Merchant Navy, and American Merchant Marine Veterans. The Premier's support, and that of other bodies of government, highlights the efforts of our predominantly forgotten seafaring women and men from both WWI and WWII. This also encourages the inclusion of our veterans in the community of services that allow us to enjoy the lifestyle available to us today.*

– Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, President, MNCTP

## Related Links:

### Messages of Gratitude from Canada's Party Leaders:

- [The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau](#)  
Prime Minister of Canada—2016
- [The Right Honourable Stephen Harper](#)  
Prime Minister of Canada—2014
- [The Honourable Tom Mulcair](#)  
Leader of the NDP—2016

### Messages of Gratitude from a Lieutenant—Governor and Premiers

- [Her Honour, Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan](#)
- [The Honourable Paul Davis, former Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [The Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia](#)
- [The Honourable Brian Gallant, Premier of New Brunswick](#)
- [The Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta](#)

## Contact Information:

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**From:** [Kathleen Wynne](#)  
**To:** [ouellettes123@bell.net](mailto:ouellettes123@bell.net)  
**Subject:** An email from the Premier of Ontario  
**Date:** May-31-17 8:18:28 AM

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Thank you for your correspondence in which you share your statement regarding the Allied Merchant Navy and the American Merchant Marine. I have also noted your comments on Bill 130, Merchant Navy Veterans Day Act, 2017.

I applaud you and your colleagues at the Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP) for recognizing the vital wartime contributions of the Allied Merchant Navy and the American Merchant Marine. I believe we should all take time to remember the achievements of veterans - in times of war, military conflict and peace - and to recognize that we owe much of our personal freedom to their service and sacrifice.

Thank you again for bringing the work of the MNCTP to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario

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The Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1



La première ministre de l'Ontario

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative, Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1A1

February 17, 2016

Mr. Stéphane Ouellette  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP)  
906-470 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1R 7W9

Dear Mr. Ouellette:

Thank you for taking the time to send your letter regarding MNCTP's initiatives to honour veterans of the Canadian and Allied Merchant Navies, and the American Merchant Marine. I appreciate your keeping me informed of MNCTP's activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the vital role that Canadian merchant mariners played in the First and Second World Wars and to pay tribute to their tremendous courage and resilience. We should never forget what they did for us or the sacrifices they made in the name of freedom.


I regret to say that, as Premier, I am unable to proclaim awareness weeks or days of recognition — a process that is undertaken through the passage of a Private Member's Bill. As Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) have the authority to introduce such bills, you may wish to bring your request to the attention of Yasir Naqvi, the MPP representing the riding of Ottawa Centre. You may contact Mr. Naqvi using the following information:

Mr. Yasir Naqvi, MPP  
Ottawa Centre  
Constituency Office  
109 Catherine Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2P 0P4  
Email: [ynaqvi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:ynaqvi.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)  
Telephone: 613-722-6414  
Fax: 613-722-6703



Once again, thank you for contacting me — and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Wynne  
Premier