



News Release

For immediate release
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Canadian delegation to honour Canada's fallen and veterans of the Korean War, explore educational exchanges and strengthen bilateral ties

Coquitlam, BC - British Columbian Senator Yonah Martin, Superintendent of Schools (S.D. 43) Patricia Gartland, Chair of the Board of Education (S.D. 43) Judy Shirra, and City of Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart will be traveling to Korea with the aim to deepen Canada Korea relations through highlighting the legacy of Canada's Korean War Veterans; expanding relations with Coquitlam's sister city in Korea, Paju City; and exploring new educational partnerships for S.D. 43.

The timing of the delegation's visit is to coincide with the "Turn Toward Busan" program, which includes a ceremony of remembrance on November 11th at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery of Korea (UNMCK) where nearly 400 Canadians are buried. Over 26,000 Canadian volunteers answered the call and 516 paid the ultimate sacrifice to give the fledgling nation of South Korea a chance to enjoy the liberties and peace that Canada enjoyed. "It is a very important component of our national culture and our education system that our students understand and recognize the importance of Remembrance Day and the contributions made by Canada's Korean War Veterans," said Patricia Gartland, Superintendent of Schools for S.D.43.

The delegation will participate in the Remembrance Day ceremony in Busan, Korea, alongside a delegation of veterans of Canada and other nations; and also visit the site of the historic hockey games that were originally played on the frozen Imjin River in Paju City. Since 2010, an annual hockey game, the "Imjin Classic," has been played in Ottawa between two Canadian regiments that served in the Korean War in honour of this special legacy. Meetings will take place to discuss the proposed Imjin Classic 2018, the year of the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, to take place alongside the Winter Olympics in Korea.

The delegation will hold several meetings with municipal, business and educational leaders to broaden current and foster future partnerships between Coquitlam and Paju and other districts within Gyeonggi Province, the sister province of BC. "I take pride in the fact that the City of Coquitlam is home to the largest Korean community in Western Canada," said Mayor Richard Stewart. "Our Sister City relationship with Paju, South Korea fosters ongoing opportunities to further grow business, investment, and international education relationships that benefit Coquitlam's Korean community as well as our city as a whole."

Coquitlam is the fifth largest municipality in British Columbia and a choice destination for international students. S.D.43 (which encompasses Coquitlam, Port Moody, Port Coquitlam, Belcarra and Anmore) is recognized as a leader in the field of international education. The economic spinoffs for the region are substantial.

“SD43 is proud to be part of the delegation to deepen Canada Korea relations through highlighting the legacy of Canada's Korean War Veterans, and to enhance our community and school district partnerships,” said Judy Shirra, Chair of S.D.43’s Board of Education.

Senator Martin expressed that “It is an honour to be able to attend the Turn Toward Busan Ceremony on behalf of all Canadians who lost their loved ones during the Korean War. Through this trip, we hope to further strengthen Canada Korea’s deep friendship, built on the foundation of the blood, sweat and tears of our veterans.”

Canadian Delegation’s Trip to Korea

- Hon. Yonah Martin, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and Chair of the Canada Korea Inter-Parliamentary Group
- Patricia Gartland, Superintendent of Schools of S.D. #43
- Judy Shirra, Chair of Board of Education of S.D. #43
- His Worship Richard Stewart, Mayor of Coquitlam, BC

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