



MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)

NEWS RELEASE

**BILL 130, MERCHANT NAVY DAY ACT, 2017
JUNE 1, 2017, DEADLINE TO PASS
AT QUEEN'S PARK**

MAY 31, 2017

Today – Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, President and CEO, MNCTP, strongly encouraged Canadians to support the Pan—Canadian and International Recognition of September 3 as 'MN Day' Initiative by persuading the Province of Ontario to pass Bill 130, *Merchant Navy Day Act, 2017*, by **June 1, 2017**.

On May 5, 2017, Mr. Jim Wilson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey, Ontario, introduced Bill 130, *Merchant Navy Veterans Day Act, 2017*. If passed, this Bill will designate September 3 in each year as Merchant Navy Veterans Day in the Province of Ontario.

The Act of Parliament of Canada, Bill C-411, *An Act to establish Merchant Navy Veterans Day*, establishing September 3 as the National Day of Recognition for the Canadian Merchant Navy, received Royal Assent on June 19, 2003. The United Kingdom recognized September 3 as Merchant Navy Day in 2000 and Australia followed in 2008.

The 2015—2016 AMNPCC Phase I: Pan—Canadian and International Recognition of September 3 as 'MN Day' Initiative resulted in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia proclamations declaring September 3 as Merchant Navy Day for their respective provinces. It was discovered that British Columbia made a declaration in 2002, and was revived as a result of the AMNPCC initiative.

To mark the 150th Anniversary of Confederation, in an act of solidarity and effort to unite our nation coast—to—coast through a common understanding of our history, the MNCTP and her partners are requesting that the remaining provinces and territories follow in the leadership roles of the aforementioned provinces by September 3, 2017. The remaining provinces/territories are: North West Territories; Nunavut; Yukon; Alberta; Ontario; Québec; New Brunswick; Prince Edward Island; and Newfoundland and Labrador.



Quote

“The MNCTP and her partners believe that a pan—Canadian and international recognition of our Allied Merchant Navy and American Merchant Marine, under common veterans’ and maritime themes, will encourage the building of closer relations, a sharing of democratic traditions, and social values, across our communities, provinces/territories, and other nations of the world. Indeed, the sacrifices and contributions made by our veterans form the very bedrock on which our democratic institutions are built, and provides us with the freedoms so many of us take for granted today.”

– Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, President and CEO, MNCTP

Quick Facts

- On September 3, 2013, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, and the Honourable Thomas Mulcair, were the first Canadian Party Leaders to officially recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the Canadian, Allied Merchant Navy, and American Merchant Marine as the mainstay of the Allied Forces victories in both WWI and WWII.
- On September 3, 1939, the United Kingdom and France declared war on Germany. As an immediate act of retaliation, the passenger ship SS Athenia was torpedoed and sunk by a German U—boat in the northwestern sector of Ireland. She was carrying 1,103 passengers, including 500 Jewish refugees, 469 Canadians, 311 Americans, 72 British citizens, along with 315 of her crew. However, 98 passengers and 19 of her crew were killed. Fifty-four were Canadians, including Stewardess Hannah Baird, and 28 were American citizens. The first casualties of WWII were Canadian and American civilians.

Associated Links

Merchant Navy Veterans Day Act, 2017 Introduced at Queens’ Park on May 5, 2017:

- [Wilson introduces Merchant Navy Day Act, 2017](#)
- [Bill 130, Merchant Navy Veterans Day Act, 2017](#)
- [Introduction of MN Bill Video \(on YouTube\)](#)

Act of Parliament of Canada and Existing MN Provincial Proclamations:

- [Bill C-411, An Act to establish Merchant Navy Veterans Day](#)
(Parliament of Canada Act—June 23, 2003)
- [Merchant Navy Day Proclamation by the Province of Nova Scotia](#)
(September 3, 2016)
- [Merchant Navy Day Proclamation by the Province of Manitoba](#)
(September 3, 2015)
- [Merchant Navy Day Proclamation by the Province of Saskatchewan](#)
(September 3, 2015)
- [Merchant Navy Veterans Day Proclamation by the Province of British Columbia](#)
(October 11, 2002)

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

Select MNCTP—AMNPCC Media Coverage:

- [Merchant Navy Day proclaimed to honour Canadian sailors](#)
September 3, 2016—The Chronicle Herald, Halifax, N.S.
- [CTV's Matt Woodman shares the story of one Maritime merchant mariner, Earle Wagner](#)
September 3, 2016, CTV News Atlantic, Halifax, N.S.
- [CTV Atlantic: Merchant Navy vet Norman Crewe](#)
September 3, 2016, CTV News Atlantic, Halifax, N.S.
- [Merchant Marine vets honoured](#)
September 4, 2015, The Enterprise Bulletin, Collingwood, ON
- [Canada Merchant Navy veterans honoured](#)
September 4, 2015, Moose Jaw Times Herald, Moose Jaw, SK

Contact Information

- Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP)
Mr. Stéphane Ouellette
President and Chief Executive Officer
Tel: 1-613-716-4137
E-mail: alliedmerchantnavy@bell.net
Website: www.alliedmerchantnavy.com