



Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Annual Report

Standing Committee on Veterans affairs 2006-2007 Annual Report

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Standing Committee on Veterans affairs 2006-2007 Annual Report

Hon. Alfie MacLeod
Speaker
House of Assembly
Province House
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, I am pleased to submit the 2006 / 2007 Annual Report of the committee for the First Session of the Sixtieth General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA
(Digby - Annapolis)
Chair
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Halifax, Nova Scotia
2007

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Foreword

Although there is no written mandate for the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, the report was written with the understanding that the Committee be established for the purpose of considering matters pertaining to the Royal Canadian Legion and Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces.

The report is written under individual topics outlining the concerns and issues brought forward from each group / organization.

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ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

September 21, 2006

WITNESSES

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs had, at this juncture, discussed what witnesses/topics to bring forward.

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs had also chosen to name the vice chair of the Committee.

References to, and within, this transcript can be found on the Nova Scotia Government Web Site at: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard//comm/va/va_2006sep21.htm

CANADIAN YOUTH REMEMBRANCE SOCIETY

October 12, 2006

WITNESSES

Canadian Youth Remembrance Society

Mr. Patrick Milner - Chairman

Fresh Advertising

Mr. Jamie Bailey – President

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was to have the Canadian Youth Remembrance Society present their business plan to the Province through the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs and to present specific projects in which they would like to include the Province with the support of the Committee.

MOTIONS

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs has unanimously agreed to lend its support to the Society by way of

“asking the province to explore funding opportunities which support the organizations’ objectives”.

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for additional documentation at this meeting.

CANADIAN MERCHANT MARINE NAVY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

November 9, 2006

WITNESSES

Canadian Merchant Marine

Navy Veterans Association

Captain Earle Wagner, Rt'd , Chair

Captain Donald McAlpine, Rt'd

Mr. Max Zwicker, Rt'd

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was to discuss issuing a Medal of Honour for Merchant Navy Veterans as well as on concerns and issues regarding of the current Merchant Navy.

MOTIONS

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs unanimously agreed to send a formal request to

“the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada to formally recognize the Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans with a distinctive service medal”.

DOCUMENTATION

There were no requests for additional documentation at this meeting.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA – ATLANTIC REGION

December 14, 2006

WITNESSES

Veterans Affairs Canada

Atlantic Region

Ms. Krista Locke – Regional Director General

Ms. Jane Hicks – Acting associate Regional Director General

Ms. Susan Whitehouse – Acting Regional Director, Client Services

Mr. Paul Brown – District Director, Nova Scotia

Ms. Lorraine Gailey – Regional Director, Communications

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was to obtain an update on the new Veterans Charter and its programs that were initiated in April of 2006.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made during this meeting.

DOCUMENTATION

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs requested and received the following documentation:

- Statistics on the number of Atlantic Canadian Veterans from various wars and conflicts.

References to, and within, this transcript can be found on the Nova Scotia Government Web Site at: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/va/va_2006dec14.htm

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION,
NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT COMMAND**

January 18, 2007

WITNESSES

Royal Canadian Legion

Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command

Mr. Jack Hatcher – Treasurer

Mr. David Blanchard – 1st Vice-President

Mr. Roger Purcell – Zone Commander

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was on enforcement of the Remembrance Day Act and the concerns of the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command.

MOTIONS

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs supports the issue of the Royal Canadian Legion, Nova Scotia/Nunavut command and unanimously passed the following motion:

“That the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs submit a letter to the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Department of Justice and any other agency and/or department deemed appropriate, requesting enforcement of the Remembrance day Act”.

“ In addition the Standing Committee favourably requests that an awareness campaign be initiated in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion to educate the business community and the general public on the Remembrance Day Act.”

DOCUMENTATION

There was no additional documentation requested by the Committee during this meeting.

References to, and within, this transcript can be found on the Nova Scotia Government Web Site at: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard//comm/va/va_2007jan18.htm

NOVA SCOTIA NO. 2 CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

February 8, 2007

WITNESSES

Black Cultural Centre

Dr. Henry Bishop – Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was to discuss the Nova Scotia No. 2 Construction Battalion and other issues related to this historic group.

NOTE:

Due to unforeseen circumstances the membership of the Standing Committee did not reach quorum. The meeting was rescheduled to March 8, 2007.

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NOVA SCOTIA NO. 2 CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

March 8, 2007

WITNESSES

Black Cultural Centre

Dr. Henry Bishop – Executive Director

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was to discuss the Nova Scotia No. 2 Construction Battalion and other issues related to this historic group.

MOTIONS

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs entertained two motions. The first was in regard to funding:

“that the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs write to the Premier of Nova Scotia requesting not only the endorsement of the annual No. 2 Construction Battalion reunion, but to also urge the provincial government to financially support the initiative”.

The second was in regard to education:

“that the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs encourage the Department of Education to review, and consider including the book “For My Country” as part of the history curriculum in Nova Scotia Schools.”

DOCUMENTATION

There was no additional documentation requested by the Committee at this meeting.

References to, and within, this transcript can be found on the Nova Scotia Government Web Site at: http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/hansard/comm/va/va_2007mar08.htm

MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

April 12, 2007

WITNESSES

Military Family Resource Centre

Ms. Colleen Calvert – Executive Director

Ms. Myrna Stewart – Staff Member

MATTERS OF DISCUSSION

The focus of the meeting was to obtain an overview of the Military Family Resource Centre and its program and support initiatives for the families of Canadian Forces members.

MOTIONS

There were no motions made by the Standing Committee at this time.

DOCUMENTATION

There was no additional documentation requested by the Committee during this meeting.

STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION

All of which is respectfully submitted to the House of Assembly
This _____ day of _____, 2007

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA (Chair)
(Digby-Annapolis)

Mr. Keith Bain, MLA
(Victoria –The Lakes)

Mr. David A. Wilson, MLA
(Sackville-Cobequid)

Mr. Pat Dunn, MLA
(Pictou Centre)

Mr. Percy Paris, MLA
(Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank)

Mr. Chuck Porter, MLA
(Hants West)

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
(Clare)

Mr. Gordie Gosse, MLA
(Cape Breton Nova)

Mr. Manning MacDonald, MLA
(Cape Breton South)

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Committee Membership

During the 1st Session of the 60th General Assembly of the House of Assembly, the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs was comprised of the following members:

Mr. Stephen McNeil, MLA (Chair)
(Annapolis)

Mr. David A. Wilson, MLA
(Sackville-Cobequid)

Mr. Keith Bain, MLA
(Victoria-The Lakes)

Mr. Percy Paris, MLA
(Waverley-Fall River-Beaver Bank)

Mr. Pat Dunn, MLA
(Pictou Centre)

Mr. Wayne Gaudet, MLA
(Clare)

Mr. Chuck Porter, MLA
(Hants West)

Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA
(Digby-Annapolis)

Mr. Gordie Gosse, MLA
(Cape Breton Nova)

Effective July 20, 2007 Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA (Digby-Annapolis) replaced Mr. Stephen McNeil, MLA (Annapolis) as chair of the Committee. As well, Mr. Manning MacDonald, MLA (Cape Breton South) replaced Mr. Harold Theriault, MLA (Digby-Annapolis) as a member of the Committee.

Committee Meetings

The Standing Committee has been meeting on Thursdays since its establishment, and all meetings are open to the public. During the 1st Session of the 60th General Assembly the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs met on the following dates.

September 21, 2006
October 12, 2006
November 9, 2006
December 14, 2006
January 18, 2007
March 8, 2007
April 12, 2007

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Transcripts

Transcripts of the Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Committees Office, 3rd Floor, Dennis Building, 1740 Granville Street, P.O. Box 2630 Station M, Halifax, NS B3J 3N5 or from the Legislature web-site:

http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/veteran_affairs.html

Reports

All reports of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to the Committee members for consideration. Once the report is finalized it is then distributed to the following:

To the Speaker, all members of the Committee, government House Leader and Opposition Leaders, all witnesses who appeared before the Committee, the Legislative Library, Legislative Libraries in all provinces and territories, and all provincial caucuses. The report is also available to the general public upon request through the Legislative Committees Office and on the Legislature's website at the following address:

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/COMMITTEES/index.html>

Acknowledgements

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs wishes to extend its gratitude to the following:

The Canadian Youth Remembrance Society; Canadian Merchant Marine Navy Veterans Association; Veterans Affairs Canada – Atlantic Region; Royal Canadian Legion – Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command; Dr. Henry Bishop – Executive Director of the Black Culture Centre and Representatives of the Military Family Resource Centre.

For their time and cooperation, special thanks is extended to Mr. Robert Kinsman, Manager of Hansard; Hansard Staff; to Mr. Jim MacInnes, Co-ordinator of Legislative Television; Legislative Television Staff; Mr. Michael Laffin, Co-ordinator, House of Assembly Operations; House of Assembly Staff; and to Ms. Margaret Murphy, Legislative Librarian and Library Staff.

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