



April 20, 2020

K. O'Connell, City Clerk  
B. Zeinabova, Deputy City Clerk  
Executive Committee of Council  
City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way,  
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2  
Email: [clerk@burnaby.ca](mailto:clerk@burnaby.ca) (c/o Vikolina Vracar)

Dear Executive Committee of Council:

Re: Community Grant for Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society \$2,500.00  
File: 2410-20-6

As requested in your letter of October 9, 2019, our Society is providing an Interim Activity Report on the programs and activities carried out to date by the Dutch Liberation 2020 Canadian Society based on grant monies received from the City of Burnaby.

"Celebrating Liberation with a Promise" an Education Program:

The Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation program "Celebrating Liberation with a Promise", produced for elementary teachers and students, reached more than 1400 classrooms. Teachers who registered to take part in the program received a box of 75 tulip bulbs and a teacher resource package. The package contained lesson materials to support the planting of tulips with history lessons focused on WW II and the liberation of the Netherlands by Canadians with emphasis on the tulip as a symbol of friendship. Refer to attached copy of teacher package: "Celebrating Liberation with a Promise".

Due to COVID-19, now students are learning on-line and teachers are using the blooming tulips to connect historical happenings with current events. Students are making videos with tulips, writing a poem supported with a picture of a tulip and/or writing stories about the impact of war with the connection to the tulip; some of these will be posted on our website [www.dutchcanada2020.ca](http://www.dutchcanada2020.ca) in the coming weeks.

"Canadian Liberator" Tulip Planting Project:

Hundreds of thousands of "Canadian Liberator" tulip bulbs were planted throughout the Lower Mainland by branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, cities, private and corporate sponsors, landscapers, and citizens. The goal to decorate the town red to honour the men and women who helped liberate the Netherlands was immensely successful. The red "Canadian Liberator" tulips are now blooming throughout British Columbia as a

visual reminder of the sacrifices made by veterans and Canadian families 75 years ago to end the Second World War in Europe. Refer to attached news release of April 16, 2020.

Program to honour and to say “Thank You Canada” via a Liberation Candlelight Tribute Commemoration Service:

Unfortunately COVID-19 has taken “the wind out of our sails” of some liberation activities. Across British Columbia, over 44 RCL branches were preparing to host candle vigils on May 2, 2020 to commemorate and to thank Canada and its families for the liberation efforts that took place in the Netherlands in 1945. Public gatherings with a reception and special commemoration services were enthusiastically being coordinated by numerous Legion communities. During the week of April 20, 2020, Legions were expecting receipt of their box of supplies to support their Commemoration Services for May 2, 2020 including liberation wreaths especially prepared by the Society, commemorative candles from the Netherlands, printed resource materials from Veterans Affairs Canada and vases of blooming tulips. Due to COVID-19, the Candlelight Tribute is cancelled for now but at the discretion of legion branches, the Commemoration Service may be resurrected at a future date.

“Faces to Graves” a program in the Netherlands:

Reaching back to Europe and linking with “Faces to Graves” gave the Society a most worthwhile purpose. “Faces to Graves” is seeking support from Canadian families to write stories and send a picture of their loved one who died serving Canada in WW II and is buried at a Canadian war cemetery in either the city of Holten, Bergen op Zoom, or Groesbeek. The Association is seeking the support of Canadian families to help in the creation of a digital memorial file of all soldiers buried in either of these cemeteries. The organization is supported by Branch Number 005 of the Royal Canadian Legion in the Netherlands. Attached is a copy of the “Faces to Graves” pamphlet.

Communication and Media Program:

The Society sought professional assistance in the creation of a logo and hired a webmaster to design a website and to maintain it. The Society prepared a PowerPoint slide presentation for sharing at City Council meetings. Newspaper articles, news releases to the media, connections with BC educators, public presentations, and direct contact with branches of the Legion and the Port Moody Heritage Society (Port Moody Station Museum) helped in giving the Society momentum and a creditable community presence.

The collaborative working relationship the Society created with the Vancouver Parks Board through the Victory Square Liberation committee was another monumental show of confidence in the reputation of the Society. The emotional and respectful outcome of the committee’s work was the creation and design of a Storyboard of 14 panels with photographs telling the story of the Liberation of the Netherlands. Unfortunately, this project is now also on hold due to the immediate printing demands by the City of Vancouver for COVID-19 signs.

The Society was working with representatives of Mountain View Cemetery and the City of Vancouver and the police department and military personnel to host a Candlelight Tribute Commemoration Service at Mountain View Cemetery on May 2, 2020. Support

and participation for this Service was also being received from Vancouver TV Branch No. 44, Grandview-Collingwood RCL Branch No. 179, North Burnaby RCL Branch No. 148, and South Burnaby RCL Branch No. 83. The work to coordinate the Candlelight Tribute was in the final planning stages by the Mountain View Liberation Committee until word came that this service too could not proceed as planned due to COVID-19. Costs to host committee meetings were also incurred.

All these aforementioned programs were made possible through the support of grant monies received from the City of Burnaby for which the Society has been truly grateful.

With the conscientious work of numerous volunteers for more than 2 ½ years; disappointingly, the Society feels a real loss. The planned projects and programs consumed hundreds of hours of volunteer time, expended a lot of financial and material resources, without the opportunity to reap the final joy in thanking Canada as a Society at a Candlelight Tribute scheduled for May 2, 2020!

Tulip bulbs were planted by Van Noort Bulb Co. Ltd. on behalf of the Society in fall 2019. In turn, blooming tulips would be available for display at Candlelight Tribute Services. Sadly the Candlelight Tribute Services planned for May 2, 2020 will not take place due to the Coronavirus lock down. Bouquets of tulips originally planned for display at Candlelight Tribute Services are now going to be presented to veterans and seniors in care homes and to front line workers in the health care sector this week. The gesture is intended to thank veterans for their service, to bring delight to seniors living in care homes and to show honour to medical staff at care homes who are working tirelessly amid COVID-19. Refer to attached news release of April 21, 2020

At this time, the Society would like to acknowledge that all final accounting will be complete in November. The City of Burnaby will receive a copy of our expenditures as per the grant by the end of the calendar year.

Sincerely,



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cc: Councillor, S. Dhaliwal, City of Burnaby

cc: Bryan Lutz, Coordinator, Marketing and Communications, RCL BC/Yukon Command