



APR 14 2014

PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

April 9, 2014

Dear Mayor Bratina:

I am pleased to inform you about the Government of Canada's efforts to mark the end of our country's military mission in Afghanistan with a National Day of Honour on May 9th.

This will be a special celebration of Canadian patriotism. His Excellency, the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, issued a Proclamation designating the National Day of Honour as an opportunity to celebrate the strength and resolve of our men and women in uniform, their families and the many communities they call home.

A National Ceremony will occur on Parliament Hill with veterans of all branches of the Canadian Armed Forces and their families. This will be an occasion to pay tribute to the fallen, the sacrifices of the wounded and the special burden borne by military families. The day will also recognise the contributions of Canadian law enforcement and civil society. Members of the public and students will be invited to honour the legacy of these heroes with a national moment of silence.

However, to make this day a truly national commemoration, we need your help. We would ask that you encourage your municipal council to mark the day by observing a concurrent moment of silence. Your assistance in encouraging municipal officials to participate in community events staged at Royal Canadian

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Legion branches, local military facilities or schools would also be helpful. We also hope to see strong participation from you and your officials.

Our goal is to honour the end of a generational mission that affected almost every community in Canada. The tremendous respect our soldiers have earned through their courageous efforts has been evident from coast to coast to coast. May 9 will be the culmination of these tributes and a special opportunity to salute the fallen, honour our serving members and veterans and celebrate the strength of our country's remarkable military families. These heroes deserve our unwavering support and everlasting respect.

As we undertake this work, my office would be pleased to offer assistance. We want to extend our full support to all efforts aimed at making the National Day of Honour an unprecedented success to this historic occasion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Harper" clearly distinguishable.