



**Whitehorse Legion**  
**503 Steele Street**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2E1**

Minister of Education

01 November 2019

**CANADA REMEMBERS**  
**COMMEMORATIVE SCHOOL PROJECT**

The Honourable Tracy McPhee

The Whitehorse Legion (Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254) would like express its dissatisfaction with the handling of the Canada Remembers Commemorative School Project documentary DVD series.

It was brought to the Legions attention that these DVDs could not be located in Christ the King School and Holy Family School in Whitehorse on 30 October 2019 by the staff who wanted to use them. It was later confirmed that Selkirk School had also not received their copy. The presentation of this series was made to you at Selkirk School on 28 August 2019, with the guarantee that they would be distributed immediately to all Yukon Schools. This would ensure that Teachers would have these DVDs available prior to the Remembrance season leading up to Remembrance Day 2019.

It should also be noted that in early July 2019, the Department of Education was very insistent that the covering letter from the Legion be completed as soon as possible so that it could be included with the packages. It was decided by the Department of Education after consultation with the Whitehorse Legion that the distribution of these packages should wait until after the official presentation. Due to scheduling conflicts, the presentation had to be delayed to 28 August. The Legion letters were completed on 17 July 2019 but postdated to 28 August for immediate distribution after the presentation.

The Whitehorse Legion purchased 25 sets at a cost of \$9,225.25 and the producers, Thomega Entertainment Inc. of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan donated another 28 sets at an additional value of \$10,332.28 for a total cost of \$19,557.53. Promoting Remembrance is one of the primary functions of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Whitehorse Legion embraces this whenever we can. It was confirmed by your Executive Assistant on 31 October with the Deputy Minister's office with the Department of Education that there was some delay in



~~“For those who leave never to return.~~

**For those who return but are never the same.**

**WE REMEMBER.”**

sending them and they still had them. It is now the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and with only four teaching days left before Remembrance Day; schools will not receive them in time for use this year.

Countless hours were spent by volunteers at the Whitehorse Legion in securing the funding and approval for these DVDs so that they would be available this year in time for the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day 2019. It is very disheartening to learn that a \$20,000 investment is still sitting waiting to be distributed and that teachers are looking for them.

This project has proudly provided students across Canada with historical knowledge and an emotional insight into the service and sacrifice of our Veterans. It was our sincere hope that these documentaries would reach schools throughout the Yukon and inform students this year and for generations of students for many years to come. These videos show the achievements and sacrifices of Canadian men and women. There are many Veterans residing in the Yukon and many of First Nation ancestry.

The Whitehorse Legion is very displeased and was saddened to learn of this situation. It is hoped that the Canada Remembers DVD series will be available for Yukon schools to implement in time for the 2020 Remembrance season.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Mewett, CD  
President  
Whitehorse Legion (Branch 254 BC/Yukon Command)

CC: Kate White, NDP  
Wade Ischenko, Yukon Party

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