



# MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)



## NEWS RELEASE

### MANITOBA DECLARES MERCHANT NAVY AWARENESS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

**Today** – Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, President and Chief Executive Officer, Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP), joined Mr. Scott Johnston, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba (Assiniboia), and Manitoba's Special Envoy for Military Affairs in commemorating Merchant Navy Awareness week.

In both the First and Second World Wars, the Merchant Navy acted as a lifeline to Canada's troops overseas, playing a crucial role in the war efforts. Merchant Mariners carried the desperately needed personnel, equipment, food, fuel, and ammunition to Europe and around the world.



The 2020 commemoration proclamation was also made by the Honourable Scott Fielding, Minister of Finance, Province of Manitoba. The Minister was joined by Mr. Jon Reyes, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba (Waverley), and Manitoba's (then) Special Envoy for Military Affairs, CO Colin Stewart, and PO1 / M1 Robert Verhoef of HMCS CHIPPAWA.

Over 25,000 voyages were executed during the Second World War. Merchant Mariners understood the dangers of wartime shipping. They displayed bravery and great commitment to duty, while knowing that they were prime enemy targets. By the end of the Second World War, more than 1,700 members had been killed or lost at sea.

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PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

# PROCLAMATION

## MERCHANT NAVY AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS** many members of the Canadian Merchant Navy made the ultimate sacrifice to help defend the freedoms that all Canadians enjoy, and
- WHEREAS** the Canadian Merchant Navy was the lifeline during the First and Second World Wars, bringing supplies to our troops overseas; and
- WHEREAS** the Canadian Merchant Navy transported millions of tons of food, petroleum, ammunition and troops across the oceans of the world; and
- WHEREAS** they accomplished this task through perils of U-boat attacks, air attacks, mines and storms; and
- WHEREAS** the ratio of casualties was greater than any other branch of the Canadian Armed Forces.
- WHEREAS** the Government of Canada in 2003 did proclaim September 3 Merchant Navy Remembrance Day in honour of their contribution and sacrifice to our country.

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN THAT I, Scott Fielding, Minister of Finance, do hereby declare the first week in September, as:**

### MERCHANT NAVY AWARENESS WEEK

In an effort to raise awareness of the Canadian Merchant Navy in Manitoba.

Honourable Scott Fielding  
Minister of Finance

