



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Alistair MacGregor

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT - COWICHAN-MALAHAT-LANGFORD

Parliamentary Office
519 Confederation Building
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Duncan Community Office
101-126 Ingram St.
Duncan, BC V9L 1P1

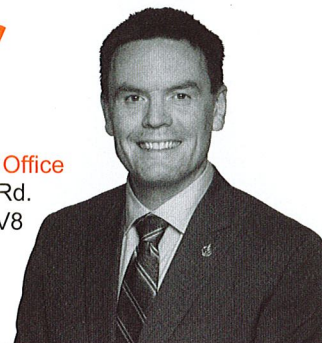
Langford Community Office
3202B Happy Valley Rd.
Langford, BC V9C 2V8

Ottawa Tel.: 613-943-2180

Community Office Toll Free Tel.: 1-866-609-9998

Email: Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca

Web: alistairmacgregor.ca



Global Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0G2

October 26, 2017

To The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Last year was the 100th anniversary commemoration of the battle of Vimy Ridge, a battle that was a defining moment for our country and that saw 3,598 Canadian soldiers killed and another 7,000 wounded. Of those killed, many were never found or given the burial they deserve. Forty-four of those were from the 16th Canadian Infantry Battalion, who were temporarily buried together in Crater CA40 on the battlefield and were never moved to an official cemetery after the war. The 16th Canadian Infantry Battalion is perpetuated by The Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) who are based near my riding on Vancouver Island.

Norm Christie, a military historian who used to work for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, has been leading a campaign to locate Crater CA40 and the find evidence of the remains of these soldiers. If the remains are found, Norm will then have the Commonwealth War Graves Commission exhume the bodies and finally provide the burial that Canadian soldiers deserve.

Norm has been working with the local municipal government and area farmers, however a representative of the regional government in Lille, France, has put a stop to digging claiming that Norm failed to apply for permission to dig. There is now a question whether or not the regional government will ever give him permission to continue this laudable work.

I ask you to please reach out to the French government and encourage them to work with Norm. Our fallen soldiers deserve to be finally put to rest.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alistair MacGregor, MP
Cowichan-Malahat-Langford

Cc : Norm Christie

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