



# MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)



## NEWS RELEASE

### MANITOBA DECLARES MERCHANT NAVY AWARENESS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

**Today** – Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, President and Chief Executive Officer, Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP), joined the Province of Manitoba in commemorating Merchant Navy Awareness week.

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

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.

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.

#### Quote

*"I am so proud to have been a part of this event today, to declare the first week of September as Merchant Navy Awareness Week in Manitoba. Ordinary citizens chose to risk their lives for the peace and freedom of others and on this 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, let us always remember the bravery and sacrifices of our Canadian Merchant Navy."*

– Mr. Jon Reyes, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba (MLA), Waverley, and Manitoba's Special Envoy for Military Affairs

#### Associated Links

- [Merchant Navy Historical Sheet | Veterans Affairs Canada](#)
- [Valour at Sea – Canada's Merchant Navy | Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

#### Contact

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