

SAMPLE LETTER

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Harjit S. Sajjan, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP
Minister of National Defence
101 Colonel By Drive,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K2

Dear Minister Sajjan,

I am an author who has researched, written and spoken about No. 2 Construction Battalion on several occasions (see attachment). Additionally, I was a member of the unit's Centennial Planning Committee in 2015 and 2016, organized by the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia (BCCNS) and attended all the major events during the battalion's centennial year. On March 28, I watched with great interest the virtual ceremony about your government's intent to apologize to the descendants of members of the battalion.

I particularly noted your request for individuals to share their ideas about ways to formally commemorate that apology. In the spirit of your request, I have a few proposals for your consideration, some of which I am sure are already being discussed (see attachment).

I served inside the "system" as a Regular Force officer for 37 years, plus another 10 as an Honorary Colonel, so I know that often the immediate response to suggestions from outside is one of finding reasons not to implement them, rather than considering how to put them into effect. I hope that my sincere and heartfelt suggestions do not simply become part of the "not-invented-here" syndrome and dismissed.

I believe that these suggestions will provide a stimulus for some of the ways to properly acknowledge, commemorate and remember No. 2 Construction Battalion, as well as to honour the formal apology from the Government of Canada.

I will be very interested to learn of your response to these suggestions.

Sincerely,



John Boileau
Col (Ret'd)

Attachments: 2

cc:

The Premier of Nova Scotia
The Commander 5th Canadian Division
The President Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia