

# THE HONOURABLE YONAH MARTIN



## Senator's Message

Happy New Year! Bonne année! 새해 복 많이 받으세요!

As we begin a new year, the year of the Tiger, we are filled with a sense of hope and wonder for what the new year will bring. We pause to remember the past year and all those who have sacrificed to bring us to where we are today. 2021 was a historic year as we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong and the Battle of Hill 355 during the Korean War, and the 55th anniversary of Canada Bulgaria diplomatic relations. It was also a year with many challenges for Canadians and people around the world as we continued to navigate our way through the global pandemic. Many lost loved ones, jobs, businesses, homes and their livelihood. We learned to cope with new realities, and embraced a new sense of courage in the face of uncertainty. I would like to express my continued thanks and deep appreciation to our health care and front line workers, who are working tirelessly to keep us safe, and all those who serve in uniform each and every day, who protect our communities and help rebuild them in times of need. To everyone who has stepped up to help

family, friends, neighbours, and communities - Thank you! My thoughts are also with my fellow British Columbians who were affected by the tragic flooding. Together, we will continue to support one another and help those in need to recover from their losses. The intense fall Parliamentary sitting came to an end after dealing with various pieces of legislation, supply and COVID-19 support bills. When we reconvene in the new year, my dedicated staff and our office, as part of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the Senate and the House, will work dedicatedly to ensure that the voices of all Canadians are heard. As we celebrate this first day of 2022, our office vows to continue to serve Canadians to the best of our abilities and look forward to commemorating the milestones of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, specifically the Battle of Hill 355 for the Royal Canadian Regiment later this year. Please do not hesitate to contact our Office should you have any inquiries. Wishing you renewed health and prosperity in 2022. Stay safe and God bless you.

~Senator Yonah Martin

*Happy New Year!*

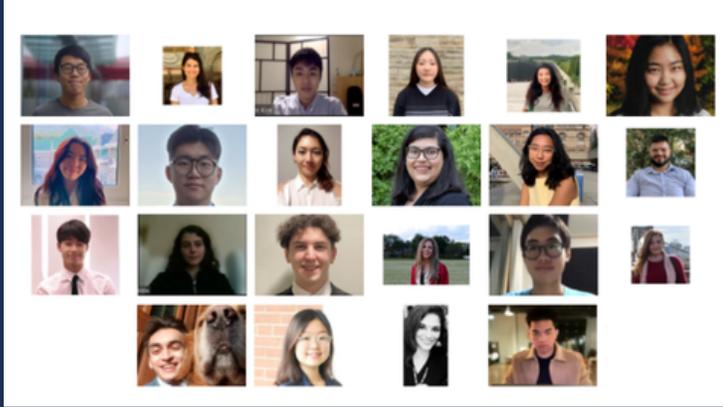
## Historic & Productive Year

2021 was a historic year for the Korean War veterans as the 2nd year of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War years (June 25, 2020 to July 27, 2023) continued. Commemorations of the 70th anniversary of the historic Battle of Kapyong, a heroic battle for the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI); and the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Hill 355, a heroic triumph for the Royal 22nd Regiment (Van Doos), took place in April and November respectively. The commemorative ceremony and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Hill 355 and the courageous efforts and victory for the Royal Canadian Regiment (The RCR) will take place in October 2022 as part of the #KoreanWarForgottenNoMore 70th anniversary multi-year campaign. Though the 2021 federal election resulted in another minority government for Canada, as the re-acclaimed Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Senator Martin continued her work alongside her



Senate and House colleagues to hold the government to account. Senator Martin participated in many virtual and in-person events (following health protocols) throughout 2021. Over the course of the fall sitting of the 44th Parliament, she visited classrooms (virtually) through SENgagge; participating in the Equal Voice Daughters of the Vote Panel; met with Fraser Valley Metis Association leaders; delivered keynote remarks at town halls, campus clubs and other community events; and hosted and attended virtual commemorative ceremonies with Veterans, Ambassadors, dignitaries and community leaders from across Canada, as well as participated in wreath-laying ceremonies at various sites. Among her international activities as a Senator and as Co-Chair of Canada Korea Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, Sen. Martin welcomed the ROK Navy training cruise ship in Victoria, BC and delivered the keynote speech aboard their naval destroyer. In August 2021, she was acclaimed as Chair of the Overseas Korean Politicians Council; and welcomed Chairman Sung-Kon Kim (of Overseas Koreans Foundation) on his official first visit to Vancouver, BC. It was a busy and productive year for Senator Martin, serving constituents, supporting organizations and individuals in various regions of Canada, and deepening Canada's relations with Korea, Bulgaria and other countries through her bilateral and multi-lateral work.

# Virtual Parliamentary Internship Program



In September, Senator Martin launched the first virtual Parliamentary Internship Program. The internship program, with support and in partnership with various Korean Canadian communities across Canada, was established since 2011. Regional selection committees call for applicants early in the year and through a rigorous selection process, choose one (or more) interns for the annual program. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Senator Martin created a virtual internship program for 22 outstanding interns who became the Class of 2021. The virtual program allowed for more interns to be selected, and created opportunities for other communities (Bulgarian, Ismaili and Filipino Canadian communities) to take part in the program. In addition to completing three comprehensive workshops (on Communications,

Constituency Work and Policy & Legislation pertaining to life and work on Parliament Hill), the class heard from a range of presenters with depth and breadth of experiences and expertise in their respective professional roles. Presenters included - Member of Parliament Jamie Schmale (MP of Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Brock & Shadow Minister of Indigenous Services), Senator Peter Boehm, Parliamentary Budget Officer Yves Giroux, past Chair of the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal David Thomas, Ambassadors, Clerk Assistant and former Head Page of the Senate Artour Sogomonian, and former interns who are currently working for the Government of Canada or provincial governments as public servants or political staffers. The interns were also tasked with a major project, allowing them to gain experience working in a parliamentary setting. Senator Martin would like to thank all of the communities for their dedication in making the 2021 Virtual Parliamentary Internship a success and for empowering the next generation of leaders. She would also like to congratulate the Class of 2021 interns who are now joining the esteemed group of Parliamentary Interns (since 2011). Please view the document "Our interns: Where are they now?" in the LINKS section to read about the Class of 2021 interns and their predecessors.

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## LINKS

[2022 NATIONAL CALENDAR](#)

[OUR INTERNS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?](#)

[STATEMENT: BATTLE OF HILL 355](#) [FR](#) [EN](#)

[STATEMENT: 55TH ANNIVERSARY](#) [EN](#) [FR](#)  
[KOREAN CANADIAN STORIES](#)

