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British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA)

Freedom is not given. It is earned.

The Triumph of Democracy Literary Contest – Guidelines – Students & Parents

- This literary contest is open to British Columbia students attending grades 7 through 12.
- Application and essay submissions are due on or before Friday, November 11, 2022.
- Students should submit essays – up to 1600 words – in a letter-sized (8.5" x 11") printed document.
- Applications should be printed and signed and then, along with the printed essay, mailed with sufficient postage to:*

Lt.Col. (Ret'd) Archie M. Steacy CD UE
120 East St. James Road
North Vancouver, BC V7N 1K9

INTRODUCTION

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine to challenge their Statehood and an alleged expansion by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It continues to be a hostile military operation, more appropriately referred to as War, with missiles, airstrikes and ground invasion from multiple directions. The human, physical, economic and political devastation of this War and the resulting enormity of a refugee crisis – the largest since World War II – unfold before our eyes.

CONTEST OBJECTIVE

Given this catastrophic present-day real-world experience, it is an opportune time to listen to the views of young people about War and peaceful co-existence throughout the world. The contest's objective is to inspire youth to contemplate a world – their world – without War and the significance of democracy, freedom and Remembrance.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Essay Length: Up to 1600 words

THE PAST – Historic Wars

Reflect on the past Wars of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Afghanistan, and other Wars that your culture may have experienced. Take the time to understand the human toll on life, freedoms and democracy and think about how you believe your life in Canada is better because of these selfless sacrifices.

THE PRESENT – ALLIANCES – The Russian War in Ukraine

Consider how global Nations' alliances, such as NATO, are critical in defending democracy. Think about what we lose and what we gain when Nations engage in War. Consider Canada's proud Military alliances and why and how you think this is important.

THE FUTURE – Democracy or Autocracy

It is a very critical time in history for the future of democracy. How do you believe your life is affected by living under a democracy? How might your life be affected under an Autocracy? Why is it important for Canada to have well-trained and well-equipped Military, Regular and Reserve Forces?

REMEMBRANCE – Carry Forward the Remembrance Legacy

Canada has a proud and stellar military history. Service, sacrifice and courage have established Canada as one of the best countries in the world to live. Learning about this military history and honouring it through revered Remembrance is every generation's responsibility. What is the significance of remembering Canada's Fallen and honouring Canada's Veterans? How will you accept responsibility and plan to carry forward the Remembrance Legacy?

THANK YOU, AND GOOD LUCK!

The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association would like to thank all students for participating in this critical dialogue. We wish good luck to every student and look forward to reading your inspiring submissions!

NOTE: the BCVCA general P.O. BOX does not accept large envelopes.
Please mail submissions to the North Vancouver address at the top right of this page. Thank you.