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## **British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association (BCVCA)**

*Freedom is not given. It is earned.*

### **The Triumph of Democracy Literary Contest – Guidelines – Teachers**

- 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 TEACHERS**

**Essay Length: Up to 1600 words**

##### **THE PAST – Historic Wars**

Students should reflect on the past Wars of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Afghanistan, and other Wars that their culture may have experienced. They should take the time to understand the human toll on life, freedoms and democracy and consider how they believe their life in Canada is better because of these selfless sacrifices.

##### **THE PRESENT – ALLIANCES – The Russian War in Ukraine**

Students should consider how global Nations' alliances, such as NATO, are critical in defending democracy. They should consider what we lose and gain when Nations engage in War. They should consider Canada's proud Military alliances and why and how they feel this is important.

##### **THE FUTURE – Democracy or Autocracy**

It is a very critical time in history for the future of democracy. How does the student believe their life is affected by living under a democracy? How might their 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. Students should reflect on the significance of remembering Canada's Fallen and honouring Canada's Veterans. How will they accept responsibility and plan to carry forward the Remembrance Legacy?

#### **THANK YOU!**

The British Columbia Veterans Commemorative Association would like to thank all teachers for guiding student participation in this critical dialogue. We wish good luck to every student and look forward to reading their 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.**