

Minister
of Veterans Affairs



Ministre
des Anciens Combattants

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P4

Message from the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs

I regret that I am unable to join you today as you mark the centennial of submarine and submariner activity in Canada. There is no doubt that submarines, and those who serve aboard them, have made and continue to make a notable contribution to Canada's war and peace time forces. Whether serving aboard Royal Navy or Royal Canadian Navy submarines, Canadians have proven time and again that we are ready, willing and able to defend peace, freedom and democracy on land, in the air, on the sea—and under it.

I would like to commend each and every member of the Submariners Association of Canada for your service. It is never any small task to put on a uniform for our armed services; I can only imagine that the prospect of doing so in the depths of the world's dark oceans would be particularly daunting. It takes a very special and brave person to undertake such an assignment and you deserve all of the thanks and praise our grateful nation can offer.

In closing, allow me to express my deep appreciation for your kind invitation. Although I am unable to be there with you in person, I assure you I am there in spirit. On behalf of the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada, it is my privilege to offer you all best wishes as you mark this important occasion.

Lest we forget.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Fantino', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Hon. Julian Fantino, PC, MP