### Report from National Education Coordinator, May 2015

**Writing Contest**

Thank you to Sheila Forsyth for running the writing contest this year. I have provided the list of winners, and the entire list of submissions. She also has suggestions about the entire process which I look forward to reviewing for next year.

We need to start now to find a new writing contest coordinator. Any suggestions for a person in Prairie Region? I will email them directly to invite them to take this on but it would help if a good person came to mind. I see this as a way to involve someone who perhaps hasn’t already done a lot of heavy lifting, to “give them the gift of doing” as someone from my church once called it.

**Veterans Stories**

From January: Videos can be found everywhere. Some are of veterans themselves telling parts of their story. Some are biographical. I want to find a good place to include these links. The biographies can’t be posted with the veterans stories but we should still work them in. For example, Yves Chevarie posted this one about his grandfather: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYxCXaxhb1g&feature=youtu.be>

Harvey Churchill, son of a veteran, posted his father’s diary on a Facebook Group called Hong Kong Veterans Tribute Page. I asked him to send it to Jim so we could add it to our Veterans Stories, and I can add it to my list of stories to translate.

* Jim, please tell me whenever a new story is added so that I can add it to my translation plan.
* I still need to figure out where to add these links.

**Social Media**

Teens don’t use email and they are leaving Facebook (that’s for their parents – it’s OLD); now they are using tumblr, twitter, etc. We need a social media strategy for our educational programs. I need fresh-out-of-teacher’s college volunteer, (or a student teacher will do), to design a proposal for how we might move into this space.

* I’ve asked Cheryl Petherick, ex-writing contest judge, for names of possible interested volunteers.
* No news from Cheryl. I have an idea to try out this summer. The current climate with Teacher strike actions in Ontario has made me rethink how to approach this.

**Teachers Zone**

From January: Cheryl Petherick, Ontario high school teacher, liked my idea for a new contribution to the Teacher Resources section specifically for an assignment or lesson using "One Soldier's Story".

* I’ve just asked her to confirm her interest and target it for Nov 2015.
* No news from Cheryl.

From January: Melodie M from Prairie Region, a drama and social studies teacher, asked me how she could help at the AGM in 2013. I asked her to consider how the Opening Protocol could be turned into a classroom activity, perhaps to open Remembrance Day ceremonies. She seemed to like the idea.

* Juliet, could you approach Melodie and find out if she is still interested? I sent her an email to follow up in early 2014 but no response. It’s possible that my email is going into her spam or junk folder.
* No news.

From January: Jim has noticed some coding irregularities; I need to check in with Andrea on her progress.

* Andrea Chan has left this post. She is moving back to Winnipeg, started a new job, and is planning her wedding. I want to advertise for this role, but Jim has said he’ll have more time this summer and with the translation of the TZ over, he is willing to take this back.

**The newsletter**

Every issue I provide an article.

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