

The Embassy of Canada to the Netherlands  
Her Excellency L. Helfand  
Sophialaan 7  
2514 JP The Hague  
The Netherlands

Emmeloord, Noordoostpolder, The Netherlands  
May 5th, 2020

**Expression of our gratitude for the liberation of Noordoostpolder**

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Dear Ms. Helfand,

Canada and The Netherlands have a long and strong relationship, derived from a hard-fought and shared history. Today, May 5th, it is 75 years since the Netherlands were liberated. We are thankful we have lived in freedom since then.

**Lest we forget**

On May 4th we paused to reflect how our allies, including many Canadians, made the ultimate sacrifices to liberate us from Nazi occupation. We will never forget that more than 7,500 Canadians gave their lives in the effort to free our country, and we will be forever grateful.

**We pray for peace and justice**

Canada and The Netherlands share this freedom. Peace and justice cannot be taken for granted. Freedom gives us responsibility. We thank God for the freedom we have. And we pray for peace and justice for all people suffering from violence and oppression.

**We express our gratitude to the Canadians who liberated Noordoostpolder**

Canadians had an essential role in the liberation of our township, the Noordoostpolder. Our polder was new land, conquered from the sea (Zuiderzee). The new fertile bottom of the sea gave future for many people. New lives were built in our Noordoostpolder. We flourish, thanks to freedom which was given to us. Special thanks to the Canadian battallions Queens Own Rifles and La Chaudière, who liberated us on April 17th, 1945.

Hereby we, municipal councillors of the Noordoostpolder, express our utmost respect and gratitude to all the Canadians who liberated us.

Yours sincerely,

Gerda Knijnenberg-Alblas  
Hendrik Jan Lambregtse  
Hilde Versprille  
Matthias Lasscher  
Sjoerd de Boer  
Tobias van Dijk  
Yosef Mahmoud

*Municipal councillors of the Christian Union – Reformed Political Party of Noordoostpolder  
(ChristenUnie-SGP Noordoostpolder)*