

# THE HONOURABLE YONAH MARTIN



## Senator's Message

Greetings from Ottawa! Salutations d'Ottawa! 오타와에서 인사드립니다!

During the month of May, we paused to learn about and celebrate the contributions of Canadians of Asian descent throughout our history and to this day. We owe so much to the 1st generation of immigrants who have made Canada their home. Sincere thanks to the pioneering leaders of our community whose courage, tireless efforts and unwavering love have ultimately resulted in the successes of their children and grandchildren as exemplary citizens of Canada. I honour the lives of the late Lee Sung Kim and Kye Soon Kwon, my own parents who immigrated to Canada in 1972 - their sacrifice and determination have been my guiding spirit. Our family has been so moved by your love and prayers, kind messages and beautiful wreaths and floral arrangements after the passing of my mother on May 2nd, 2021. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. June is Deaf-Blind Awareness Month in Canada, which is the result of a motion that I had the honour of introducing back in 2013. There is a significant number of Canadians that live with deaf-blind challenges. Statistics Canada reports

that there are approximately 69,700 Canadians over the age of 12 living with the dual disability of deaf-blindness or a combination of both vision and hearing losses that limit their everyday activities. By raising awareness for those who live with deaf-blind challenges in their lives; we recognize the resiliency and strength that deaf-blind individuals face every day. June is anticipated to be another busy month as we begin with the Global Day of Parents (1st), Father's Day (20th) and the 71st anniversary of the breakout of the Korean War to name three. The legislative agenda is full for committees and in the Chamber as the end of the Spring sitting draws near; but as always, my staff and I look forward to serving you and we continue to pray for your health and safety.

~Senator Yonah Martin

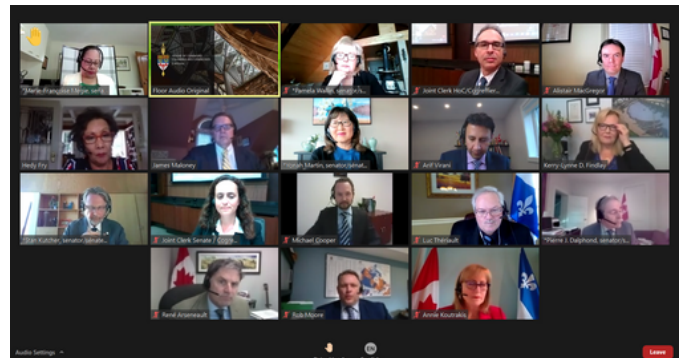
## Meetings & Events

May was another productive month! Senator Martin attended a special announcement with Ontario Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, his caucus colleagues, and partnering community organizations on their anti-Asian racism educational initiative. She also attended an informative and important discussion with TransLink Mayors council and BC Caucus. She bid farewell to Consul General Tae-In Chung as he concludes his post as Consul General in Toronto. In Parliamentary news, the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) met for the first time on May 17th. Senator Martin has been elected as Senate Joint Chair for this important committee that will be reviewing important issues and topics relating to MAiD, such as palliative care in Canada, advance requests, protection of Canadians with disabilities including mental illness and access for mature minors. Senator Martin also continued her work on various committees, including the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence where Bills such as C-228, An Act to establish a federal framework to reduce recidivism is being reviewed. She is honoured to be the Senate sponsor for MP Richard Bragdon's PMB (C-228) which received broad support in the House of Commons.

[Click here for full gallery](#)



Farewell to Consul General Tae-In Chung



Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying

## In remembrance of the historic Battle of Hill 187

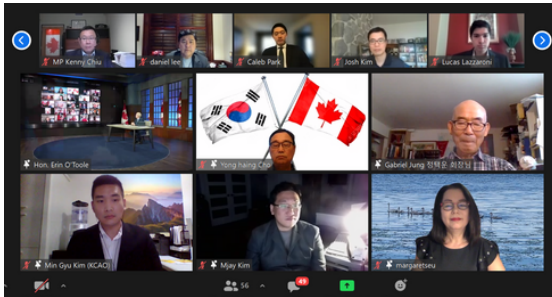
"May 2nd and 3rd marked the 68th anniversary of the Battle of Hill 187 during the Korean War. Shortly after their arrival in Korea in 1953, the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment took over the defences of Hill 187. Canadian patrol led by Lieutenant Gerry Maynell was attacked by over 400 Chinese assault troops. The rest of the Battalion, who lost contact with Maynell's patrol, had to fight to defend their positions for two days until the Canadian position was finally overrun. In spite of the heaviest losses in a single battle during the Korean war, the Battle of Hill 187 became known as the 'forgotten battle in a forgotten war'. Canadian censors did not want the news of the casualty rates getting out, so the engagement was largely unreported, and the stories of the sacrifices and heroics would be largely forgotten. 26 Royals paid the ultimate sacrifice, 27 Royals were wounded and seven were taken as prisoner. Hill 187 remains part of the proud and enduring legacy of The Royal Canadian Regiment and is enshrined in their motto of courage, chivalry and dash..."

We will remember them. Nous nous souviendrons d'eux. 우리는 그들을 기억할 것입니다.

[LINK TO FULL SPEECH](#)



## Virtual Asian Heritage Month Event



Senator Yonah Martin and Member of Parliament Nelly Shin, co-hosted a virtual Asian Heritage Month event with special guest, the Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition, The Honourable Erin O'Toole and members of the national Korean Canadian community, on Wednesday, May 19, 2021. The strains and challenges of the past year have brought many issues to light, including the social ill of racism. The virtual event sought to shine a light on the deep-rooted friendship between Canada and Korea through a history of Canadian sacrifice on the Korean Peninsula since 1888 and during the Korean War 70 years ago. The Hon. Erin O'Toole also acknowledged concerns raised by the Federation of Korean Canadian Associations (representing 26 regional associations) about the rise in anti-Asian incidents and sentiments. Sen. Victor Oh; Members of Parliament Kenny Chiu, Marc Dalton, Tracy Gray, Alice Wong; and MPP Stan Cho also participated in a show of solidarity and support to the community. They listened to the comments and concerns of the community, and made a commitment to work together to find solutions.

[Click here for full gallery.](#)

"Canada is home to a **vibrant national Korean Canadian community**, and we are standing on a firm foundation built by Canadian missionaries, Korean War veterans and pioneering leaders of the Korean Canadian community. As beneficiaries of this legacy of service and sacrifice, it will be up to me and others who love Canada and Korea, to **reject all and any anti-Asian racism and discrimination**. I encourage my fellow Korean Canadians to **remember our deep-rooted history and our clear sense of belonging within the diverse and beautiful tapestry of Canadian society**. Together, we will persevere!"

~Senator Yonah Martin

### SPEECHES



**3RD READING SPEECH ON  
BILL S-223: AN ACT RESPECTING  
KINDNESS WEEK**



**2ND READING SPEECH ON  
BILL C-228, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH  
A FEDERAL FRAMEWORK TO  
REDUCE RECIDIVISM**



**ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH &  
TRIBUTE TO KYU TAE KIM  
(김규태 대표님)**



**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JIN SOO  
(STEVEN) LEE (고 이진수 회장님)**

### LINKS

[VIRTUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST](#)

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