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HONOUR. RESPECT. REMEMBER.

Good Evening and Welcome to Education in Burnaby

I begin by acknowledging and thanking the Coast Salish Nations of Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish on whose traditional territories we teach, learn, and live.

It's been seventy years since the Second World War ended. It's a stark reminder of the passing of time and how each day we should be grateful for the freedoms afforded to us in this country of Canada.

So it is both our honour and our duty to pay tribute to the veterans and those lost in former wars, including many students who had once attended Burnaby schools. It's also a time to recognize our current Canadian Armed Forces members who serve Canada by defending its values, interests and sovereignty at home and abroad and contribute to international peace, security and human rights.

Today, tributes took place in each school in our District and many of us had the opportunity to participate in their respectful Remembrance Day ceremonies. What is incredible is that many of these assemblies have been orchestrated by our students. They may be young, but they honoured our veterans and those lost, in a multitude of meaningful ways – through song, dance, poetry, and their actions - the sacrifice that was made so that our rights and freedoms were protected, including the right to an education.

South Slope Elementary/BCSD students paused to reflect in sign, song and spoken word with the theme "Peace is in our Hands." I encourage you to take the time to watch their touching video on the District website and see their thoughts about peace and hear the beautiful voices of the South Slope Choir.

It was also heartwarming to see students from Armstrong Elementary and Cariboo Hill Secondary participate in what has become an annual symbolic field of flags project. They joined George Derby Centre residents - many of whom are veterans of the Korean War and the Second World War – placing small Canadian flags in the ground in front of the Centre. **Let us never forget.**

**Harman Pandher, Vice-Chair
Burnaby Board of Education**