



Keith and Gail Wilson

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, Surrey BC
Email: .

October 14, 2011

Rt. Hon Mr. Peter Mackay
Minister of National Defence
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Mackay

Re: Canada's 150th Birthday - 2017

Canada will celebrate its 150th birthday on July 1, 2017. In 1967, Canada's 100th birthday, the military proudly participated in that celebration through Tattoo 1967. The Tattoo travelled across Canada and thrilled Canadians from coast to coast with over 300 years of military history. The reason for this letter is to propose that the military produce another Tattoo for 2017.

The planning for Tattoo 1967 took years to put together and since 2017 is only a few years away, it's not too early to start the planning process and that is why I'm writing to you now. For Tattoo 1967 there were historic uniforms to research as the Tattoo covered some 300 years of Canada's history; the French Garrison of 1665, the British Garrison of 1782, the Boer War of 1899 – 1902 to name only a few. Needless to say there were countless other plans to contemplate such as the location for rehearsals, mode of transporting the personnel across the country again to name only a few more considerations.

I participated in the Canadian Armed Forces Tattoo 1967. A wonderful event and something the armed forces were proud to present the memories of which have stayed with me all these years. I was a member of the then Royal Canadian Engineers Band stationed at CFB Chilliwack and was assigned to the Tattoo in February of 1967. I arrived at Picton, Ontario in February of that year to start rehearsals and finished my assignment in September of the same year after nearly 150 performances across Canada. A tattoo on the scale of Tattoo 1967 has never been duplicated.

To save some expense in putting together Tattoo 2017 the same scenes, costumes and uniforms from Tattoo 1967 could be reused if still available thus eliminating the need to start from scratch. By using the scenes from Tattoo 1967, there would only be two scenes that would need updating, the modern band scene music and the updating of the military's roll from 1967 UN service to 2017 including our roll in Afghanistan. There's a link (Tattoo 2017) on the top of my web page at <http://tattoo67.com/index.html> which discusses some of these considerations in putting together another Tattoo. Reusing Tattoo 1967 scenes, etc. is one of those considerations.

My web page is dedicated to those who participated in that great "show" and is a collection of pictures, newspaper articles, Tattoo music, videos, etc. I'm sure you'll agree after reviewing my web page and especially reading some of the newspaper articles that Tattoo 1967 was an unprecedented success and was loved by Canadians proud to see their military in such a fine performance.

I think it would be a wonderful experience for Canadians to once again see the military history of Canada unfold before their eyes as they did in 1967, some 44 years ago. This would be a wonderful way for the Armed Forces to participate in Canada's birthday in 2017.

I look forward to your response to my proposal. Should you wish to call me direct, my phone number is 604-411-1111.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Wilson (Sgt. retired)

Surrey, BC

cc Nina Grewal, MP Fleetwood/Port Kells

Chief of Defense Staff
General Walter Natynczyk