



Rachel Blaney

Member of Parliament
North Island-Powell River

March 18, 2022

The Hon. Lawrence MacAulay
Minister of Veterans Affairs
Via email: minister-ministre@veterans.gc.ca

Dear Minister,

I write with concern about the proposed condominium development on Juno Beach, France. It is my understanding that a French developer plans to build a 70-unit condominium on the beach, just meters away from the Juno Beach Centre, and that the Centre has spent the past couple of years fighting this development in court.

The Juno Beach Centre is a sacred space to Canadians and to all global citizens who visit the museum. This space has been set aside to honour the sacrifice of Canadian soldiers who fought bravely and successfully to protect our rights and freedoms. It is a reminder of the cost of war and the importance of protecting peace. It has seen more than a million visitors since it opened in 2003.

In his testimony of April 18, 2021, Don Cooper, the President of Juno Beach Centre Association, said to the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, "The Juno Beach Centre is crucial to Canada's commemorative efforts in Europe. It is not simply a museum about war. It's a place for testimonies and life stories. It's a historic site, interpretative centre and memorial combined."

I urge you Minister, and your government, to remind your counterparts in the Government of France, about the significance and importance of Juno Beach. You must relay to them that this is place where all people of the world gather to collectively remember D-Day, June 6, 1944, as one of the most significant events in the history of the modern world. This sacred space is not meant for a condominium development. It would be a grave injustice to the families of the Canadian soldiers who sacrificed their lives, as well as a mark of disrespect to the sacredness of the site to build condos on the beach next to the Centre.

Canadians need you to work diligently with the appropriate French Ministers to repeal the decision to build condominiums on Juno Beach.

As the website, savejunobeach.ca states, "Lest we forget has to be more than empty words."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blaney".

Rachel Blaney, MP
NDP Critic for Veterans Affairs

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