#503 - 17665 66A Ave, Surrey, BC V3S 2A7
T: 604-575-8840 TF: 1-888-261-2211
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info@legionbcyukon.ca



November 2026

Membership Updates	Veteran Community	Branch Business

In This Month's Blazer:

Poppy Campaign & First Poppy	Important Dates	100th Anniversary Book
November Branch Anniversaries	Banner Programs in BC	Legion Foundation
Upcoming Workshops	Housing for Injured Veterans	Memo Summary



The Poppy Campaign
October 24 - November 11, 2026

Presentation of the First Poppy in British Columbia

The Presentation of the First Poppy to the Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, The Honourable Wendy Cocchia, took place on October 21st at the Government House in Victoria. The First Poppy was presented by Bob Underhill, BC/Yukon Command President, and meaningful remarks were provided by Dave Sinclair, Honourary President.





Photo Credit: Facebook Page - The Honourable Wendy Cocchia, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia.

Legion Branches Present the First Poppy





Left: #257 Seaview Centennial (Lantzville) - Vicki Jones, President, presents First Poppy to Mark Swain, Lantzville Mayor.
Middle: #71 Windermere & District (Invermere) - Lauren Scavarelli, Poppy Chair, presents First Poppy to Al Miller, Invermere Mayor; Maddi Taylor, Mayor of Canal Flats; and Susan Clovechok, RDEK Director.
Right: #51 Nelson - Bill Haire, Branch President, and Jean Nordin, Poppy Chair, present First Poppy to Janice Morrison, Nelson Mayor.






Left: #192 South Similkameen (Keremeos) - Brandon Forbes, Branch President, presents First Poppy to Garry Elliott, Keremeos Mayor.
Middle: #199 Edgewater - (Left to Right) Floyd Engdahl, Vice President; Roberta Schnider, RDEK Director; Lois Elliott, Poppy Chair; Cris Leonard, Mayor of Radium; and Noreen Madden, Branch President.
Right: #170 Castlegar - Robson: Chris MacBain, Branch President, and Jim Ingram, 2nd Vice President, present the First Poppy to Brian Bogle, Mayor of Castlegar.






Left: #244 Masset - (Left to Right) Josh Humphries, Village of Masset CAO; Barry Pages, Village of Masset Mayor; Brad McMullen, Branch President; and Casey Jarvis, Branch Poppy Representative.
Middle: #160 Comox - Al Astles, Branch President (left) and Glen Sweetman, Vice President (right) present First Poppy to Nicole Minions, Mayor of Comox.
Right: #11 Trail - Kathy Hill, Poppy Chair (right) presents First Poppy to Donna Price, Life Member and longtime supporter of the Legion.





Left: #24 Cranbrook - Tammy Richert, Branch President, presents Wayne Price, Cranbrook Mayor, and Tom Shypitka, Mayor Elect, with the First Poppy. Also pictured: MCpl Matt McCready.
Middle: #254 Whitehorse - Adeline Webber, Commissioner of the Yukon, receives the First Poppy from the Whitehorse Legion. Photo credit: Office of the Commissioner of the Yukon.
Right: #10 Nanaimo - (Left to Right) Lynn Redekopp, Poppy Chair; Jason Lott, Branch President; Leonard Krog, City of Nanaimo Mayor; George Molnar, Branch President; and Hilary Eastmure, City Councillor. Photo credit: Karl Yu, *Nanaimo Bulletin*.

Victory Square Banner Program Returns



Thank you to everyone who supported the 2026 Victory Square Banner Program! Due to the generosity of donors and sponsors, a total of 700 banners honouring Canada's Veterans were installed. These include newly-purchased banners, along with banner orders from 2024 and 2025. We warmly invite you to visit Victory Square and the surrounding streets to see the banners, which will remain in place until the end of November.

View the Map of Banners

Veteran Banner Programs in British Columbia



Communities throughout British Columbia have launched banner programs to honour Veterans. Click to learn more about each program:

Nanaimo | Esquimalt | North Vancouver
Parksville | Richmond | Port Coquitlam
Delta | Invermere | Chilliwack
Ladysmith



Pull tabs available while supplies last, at participating Legion and hospitality locations in BC.



2026 Poppy Campaign: October 24th - November 11th

November

November 1 - Announcement of National Silver Cross Mother
November 5-11 - Veterans' Week
November 8 - Indigenous Veterans Day
November 10 - Passchendaele Ends (1917)
November 11 - Remembrance Day
November 11 - First World War Ends - Armistice Day (1918)
November 14 - Birthday of King Charles III (1948)
November 18 - Battle of the Somme (1916)
November 25-27 - National Unity Conference (1925)
November 30 - Birthday of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae (1872)

December

December 1 - #GivingTuesday
December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
December 5 - International Volunteer Day
December 6 - Halifax Explosion (1917)
December 6 - National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women
December 10 - Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to UN Peacekeepers (1988)
December 19 - Queen Elizabeth II Grants Royal Patronage to the Legion (1960)
December 25 - Christmas - Stat (Legion supports Operation Santa Claus)
December 25 - Fall of Hong Kong (1941)

National Youth Remembrance Contests: Upcoming Deadlines

November 15th - Accept all submissions at the Branch Level
December 15th - Send 1st place entries to Zone Level

Upcoming Workshops

Free and open to all Legion members. Email info@legionbcyukon.ca to register.

Service Officer Virtual Drop-in Session (Online)
When: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 from 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Topics: A virtual drop-in session to ask questions and discuss any service officer related matters.

Understanding the Legion Foundation (Online)
When: Monday, November 23, 2026 from 11:00am - 11:45am
Topics: Explore the Foundation's direct support programs, how eligible Poppy Funds can help strengthen these important initiatives, and opportunities to partner with the Foundation to bring educational events, including our Wills & Estate Planning Seminar Series, to your Branch.

Youth Remembrance Contests (Online)
When: Tuesday, November 24, 2026 from 2:00pm - 3:00pm
Topics: Overview of the Youth Remembrance contests, including best practices for coordinating Branch/Zone level judging, contest guidelines, submission requirements and forms, and ways to encourage youth participation. Introduction to the new provincial Photography category.

Meeting with Branch & Zone Membership Chairs (Online)
When: Tuesday, December 1, 2026 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Topics: Membership Chairs and Legion volunteers are invited to join the Membership, Marketing & PR Committee for an online meeting. We will cover membership updates, reminders, and best practices, with a Q&A session at the end.

Branch Operations Virtual Drop-in Session (Online)
When: Tuesday, December 8, 2026 from 10:30am - 11:30am
Topics: A virtual drop-in session to ask questions and discuss any Branch operational matters, including further discussion on T1044.

Service Officer Virtual Drop-in Session (Online)
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2026 from 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Topics: A virtual drop-in session to ask questions and discuss any service officer related matters.



PCI DEVELOPMENTS
PCI-GROUP.COM
Thank You
Victory Square Banner Program 2026 Sponsor

November Branch Anniversaries:



Happy Anniversary to These Legion Branches!

#8 White Rock, #10 Nanaimo, #24 Cranbrook, #28 Cumberland, #35 Armstrong, #36 Fernie, #37 Saanich Peninsula (Sidney), #43 Prince George, #46 Revelstoke, #49 Mount Arrowsmith, #51 Nelson, #53 Cowichan (now amalgamated with Branch #191), #59 Grand Forks, #60 West Vancouver, #74 Kaslo, #76 Qualicum Beach, #176 Billy Bishop - Kerrisdale, #179 Grandview - Collingwood, #292 Trafalgar - Pro Patria, and #293 Alberni Valley - *All Celebrating 100 Years!*

#50 Burns Lake & #56 George Pearkes (Princeton) - *Both Celebrating 99 Years!*
#112 Pender Harbour - *Celebrating 96 Years!*
#141 Dawson Creek - *Celebrating 94 Years!*
#162 Lytton - *Celebrating 87 Years!*
#227 Okanagan Falls - *Celebrating 79 Years!*
#228 Hope - *Celebrating 78 Years!*



Resources for Membership Chairs



Changing Branch Rates in the Portal

The Membership, Marketing & PR Committee has created an instructional sheet for Branches increasing their membership dues in 2027. Click the button below to learn how to complete this process in the Portal and make calculations accordingly.

How to Enter Branch Rates into the Portal

Meeting with Branch & Zone Membership Chairs

Membership Chairs are invited to join the Membership, Marketing & PR Committee for an online Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00pm Pacific Time.** We will cover membership updates, reminders, and best practices, with a Q&A session at the end. To RSVP, please email info@legionbcyukon.ca.

BC/Yukon Command Membership Report: November 3, 2026

- New Memberships in 2026: 450.36% (43,289 New Members) - *Welcome, everyone!*
- Paid Memberships in 2026: 164.68% (84,552 Paid Members)
- Renewals in 2026: 80.37% (41,263 Members Renewed)



Legion Foundation
BC/Yukon Command



Vancouver Island Run for Homeless Vets Raises Over $16,000!

A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated organizers, volunteers, riders, sponsors, and supporters who helped make this year's event such a tremendous success. Bringing together motorcycle enthusiasts, Legion members, and community supporters, the annual ride continues to demonstrate the remarkable impact we can make when we come together for our Veterans.

Every dollar raised will support Veterans House Victoria, which provides safe transitional housing, counselling, and essential resources to Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

2026 Foundation Grant Recipients

Since 1997, the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon has awarded thousands of dollars in grants to local organizations. The Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2026 Foundation Grants, awarding a total of $22,400 to six deserving organizations across British Columbia.

- ALS Society of BC - Equipment Loan Program for ALS Patients
- Broadmead Care Society - Veterans Memorial Lodge Therapeutic Mattress Replacement Project
- Canadian Veterans Service Society – Veterans Food Bank
- Kootenay Social Support Society - Volunteer-Led Social Prescribing Support for Seniors in Rural West Kootenay
- RCL Branch #134 Malahat - Quilts for the Valiant
- Wishart Elementary School - Building Peace, Remembrance and Understanding in the Library Commons



A special shout-out to Wishart Elementary School for sharing their beautiful Remembrance display in the Library Learning Commons!

Through initiatives like these, the Legion Foundation is proud to continue supporting projects that support Veterans, honour service, and promote Remembrance in our communities.

Learn More about the Grants Program



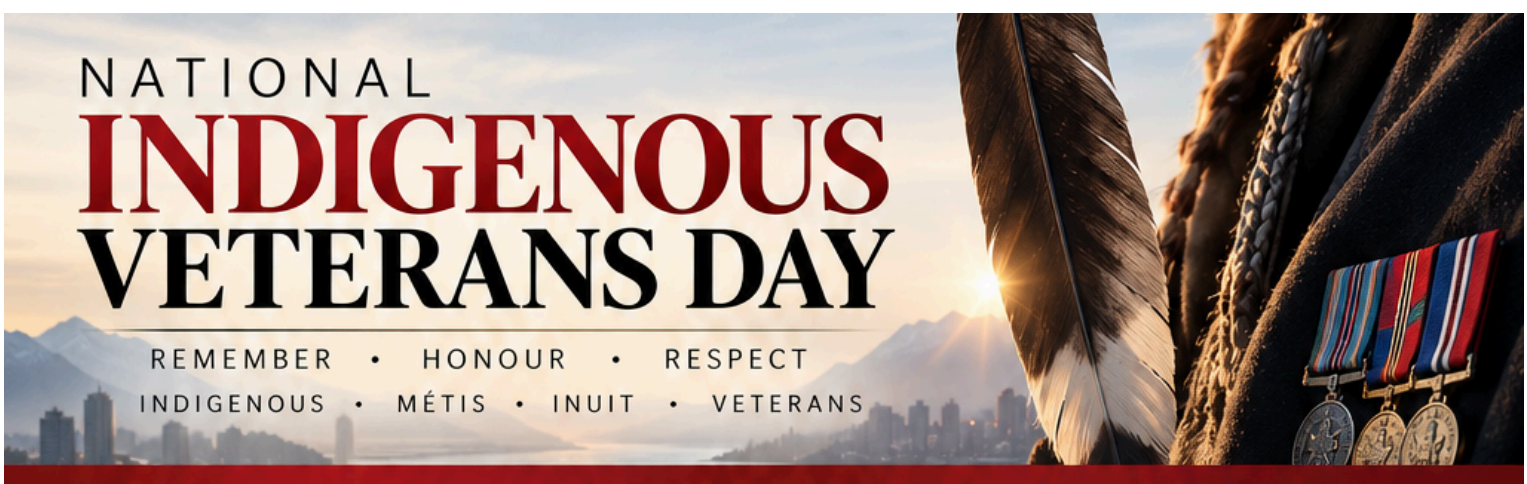
Last Chance: Support the Key Tag Program!

There's still time to support Veterans through the Foundation's annual Key Tag Campaign! Your generosity helps fund vital Veteran-focused programs across BC and Yukon, while your registered Key Tags help lost keys find their way home. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already supported the 2026 campaign!

Didn't receive your Key Tags in the mail? Request your set online with a minimum $20 donation.

National Indigenous Veterans Day Ceremony

Sunday, November 8th in Vancouver, BC



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

312 MAIN GREAT HALL
305–1560 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5N 1J8
(Arrive via Cordova Street side entrance)
Coast Salish Territory

TRADITIONAL DRESS CEREMONY PROTOCOL

ALL DRUMS WELCOME
Enlarged pictures of Veteran family members are welcome.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:00 AM — Doors Open
For Veterans, volunteers, drum groups, media, live streaming crew and helping groups. Catered lunch (BCGEU). Donations of berries and bannock welcome.

8:30 AM — Press Conference with Veterans (inside Great Hall)
Doors open for public sign in.
Volunteer registration for wreath carriers and drivers.

9:00 AM — Opening Ceremonies – 312 Main Great Hall
Speakers, Musqueam Mary Point
Squamish, Tsleil Waututh, UBCIC Territory respects.
Witness honours: VCC/ACC, Mayor, RCMP, VPD.

9:15 – 10:00 AM — Veteran Pipe Ceremony
Veterans Robert Nahanee, Jamie Thomas, Elder Harriett Prince
Indigenous, Métis, Inuit Veterans group.

10:00 AM — Order of March (Official Escort – Squamish Peace Keepers, Musqueam VPD, VPD)
Staffs, 2 Pipe carriers, Veterans, Wreath carriers, Traditional Dressed, Legions, RCMP, VPD, Unions, Schools, Organizations, General Public

Community Honour March
From 312 Main Street to Hastings – East Cambie & E Hastings Street – Victory Square Cenotaph

10:45 AM – 1:00 PM — Wreath Lay Ceremony – Victory Square Cenotaph

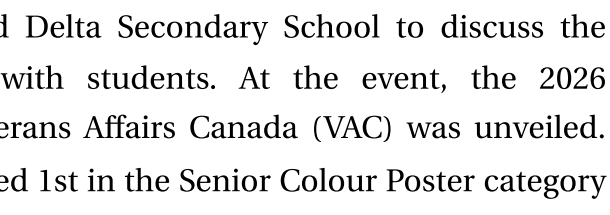
10:45 am	Musqueam welcome, open prayer, Elder salutation, Youth Veteran tribute. Veteran Victory song: Buffalo Spirit Host Drum: Sam George, Benjamin Gonzales group
11:00 am	Dignitary Salute: UBCIC, Legion Official, MP
11:11 am	Moment of Silence – Bugle, Bagpipes, Last Post

Wreath Lay Order: Mother of Veteran, National Veteran, BC Veterans, Youth Veteran, UBCIC, VAFCS, Indigenous Veteran Groups, Canada Miiitary Groups, Civilians (MPs, MLAs, Mayors, Unions, Community Groups, Schools).

12:45 pm	Closing Wreath Lay service – 4 Witnesses speakers: VCC/ACC, Mayor, RCMP, VPD. Buffalo Spirit Honour Veterans.
1:00 pm	Close Wreath Lay Ceremony

1:30 – 3:30 PM — Lunch & Community Tributes – 312 Main
Hosted by VAFCS, sponsored by BCGEU.
Meet Veterans, community tributes, Honours to Veterans.

3:30 PM — Close Ceremonies



EVERYONE WELCOME

- Community Groups
- First Nation Officials
- Legions
- Executive Directors
- Schools
- Unions and Organizations
- Families and the General Public

WREATH ORDERS

Order online at:
www.vancouverpoppyfund.org
Deadline: OCTOBER 31, 2026
When ordering, please mark for pick up Friday, November 6th by VPD for November 8th.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Wreath carriers – register 8:30 am
- Drivers for Veterans, Elders, and people with disabilities (also to VAFCS) – register 8:30 am
- Medical kit support (work with BC ambulance team)

LIVE STREAMING

9:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Media attending.

CONTACT

Kelly White 604-250-5215
kellyewhite4@gmail.com
Salish Volunteer Director, Kelly White
305-1560 East 4th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5N 1J8
Coast Salish Territory

ALL INDIGENOUS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT VETERANS
WILL BE HONOURED AND RESPECTED

Youth Remembrance Contests Winners Recognized

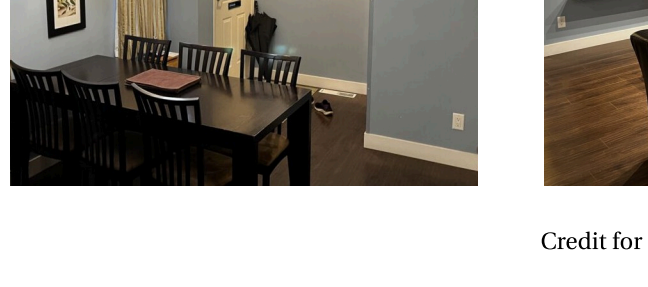


Pictured above: Veterans' Week Poster (Veterans Affairs Canada).

On October 16, Veterans visited Delta Secondary School to discuss the importance of Remembrance with students. At the event, the 2026 Veterans' Week poster from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) was unveiled. The artwork by Chelyn Han placed 1st in the Senior Colour Poster category in the 2024 National Youth Remembrance Contests.

The poster was officially unveiled by Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, along with Lynn Doucette, Persian Gulf War Veteran.

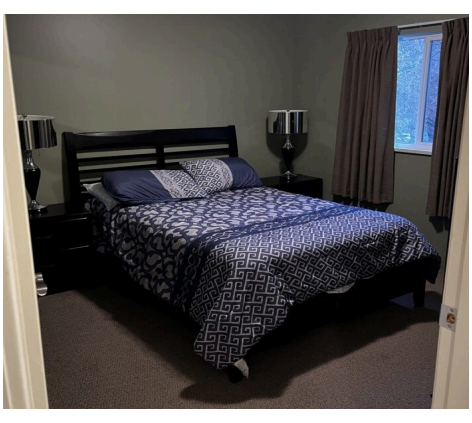
Read More on Delta Optimist



Pictured above: Posters outside the Room of Remembrance.

Winning posters from the 2025-2026 Youth Remembrance Contests are also now on display at The House of Commons of Canada. These artworks will remain up until the morning of November 12th, and will be seen by all Members of Parliament, including the Prime Minister, along with tour groups. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Winch House: A Temporary Home for Injured Veterans

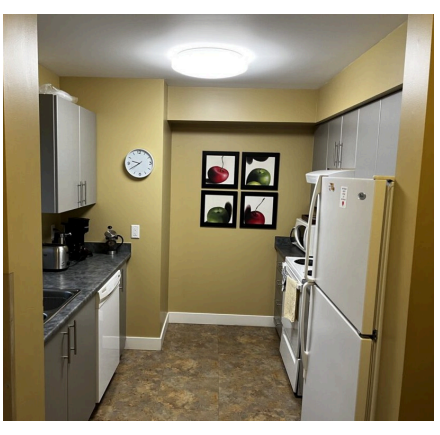


Winch House is a fully-furnished townhome at 1079 East 52nd Ave in Vancouver, providing a "home away from home" for Veterans, CAF members, and first responders to recover from injuries, including psychological damage caused by post-traumatic stress disorder. Set in a quiet, family-friendly neighbourhood, Winch House is the perfect place for honoured residents to get the help they really need. For more information, please call the BC/Yukon Command office at (604) 575-8840 and ask to speak with a Service Officer.

Learn More about Winch House







Credit for all photos: New Chelsea Society.



Now in Paperback & Digital: BC/Yukon Command 100th Anniversary Book!



BC/Yukon Command's 100th Anniversary Book is out now! Print copies can be viewed at your local Legion Branch, and a free e-Book is available to view on our website.

Read the e-Book

This commemorative publication captures the rich and diverse history of Legion Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries throughout British Columbia and the Yukon.

Branch #71 Windermere District (Invermere) Completes Community Art Project

Article by Marius Hoofd, Branch Past President



It started with a Facebook post on April 5th: “Wouldn’t it be great to make a waterfall of Poppies for Remembrance Day?” Marleen Reijers, a member of the Invermere Legion, had heard of a 2021 community art initiative in Cambridge, England, where volunteers had crocheted Poppies.

Over the coming months, Maureen and the Branch partnered with the Columbia Valley Fibre Arts Guild to host four workshops on How to Crochet a Poppy. The Columbia Valley Community Foundation funded the project with $1,000 in neighbourhood small grants, which were used to buy countless balls of red wool, crochet hooks, and cookies.

Pictured above: Maureen Reijers.

The first workshop alone saw 43 people of all ages in attendance. Soon, crocheted and knitted Poppies started pouring in, as well as donations of wool. By August, a total of 1,142 handmade Poppies were donated to the Branch. In October, the Branch received a new total of 1,971, far surpassing Marleen’s original goal. The Poppies are made of acrylic wool, making them more durable for outdoor display. Volunteers attached the Poppies to a large banner of camouflage netting using zip ties, resulting in a “waterfall.” The project was draped over the patio at the Branch.

“This has been an incredible community project, because anyone could contribute,” said Heather McLeod, a member of the Fibre Arts Guild. “It doesn’t matter how well you can crochet, because there are so many Poppies: each Poppy is absorbed into the bigger project.”

While most of the Poppies followed the same crochet pattern, each Poppy is unique with different colours, sizes, and even the number of petals. Everyone is invited to view the “Poppy Waterfall” at the Invermere Legion and admire what our community can accomplish together.





Branch #96 Merritt Hosts International Gavel Passing



In late September, the Merritt Legion hosted the International Gavel Passing, bringing together Legion members from Canada and the United States to mark approximately 90 years of friendship. A longstanding tradition, the annual Gavel Passing brings together members from three zones of Southern BC and Districts 8 and 9 of the American Legion in Washington State.

The next Gavel Passing will take place in Ephrata, Washington from September 10-12, 2027.







Read More on the Merritt Herald

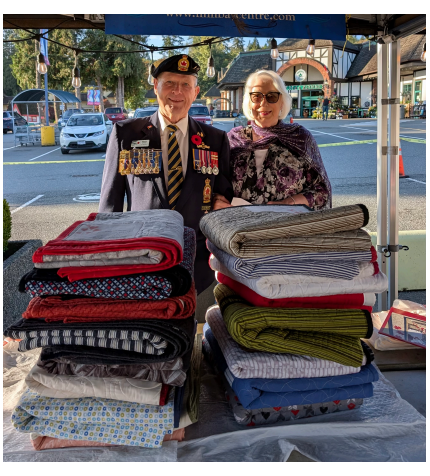
Branch #134 Malahat Supports Quilts for the Valiant

Article by Lynn Carroll, Founder, Quilts for the Valiant

On September 30, in the early morning at the Mill Bay Shopping Centre, BC, Quilts for the Valiant had an opportunity to express honour and gratitude by presenting 18 first responders (RCMP, police, paramedics, firefighters, military, and more) with "Hugs of Comfort" in the form of handmade donated Quilts made by quilters here on the Island. We acknowledge the dangers of these positions and the struggle with trauma when putting themselves in harm's way in order to keep our communities safe. Thank you all for your service.

These First Responders were participating in the Tour de Rock Cops for Kids Cancer Fundraising Bike Ride, supported by both the Legion Foundation and the Malahat Legion. The Malahat Legion presented a cheque for the fundraiser that day.

I would like to thank the Quilters, who beside myself, are Brenda George of Victoria, Gen Mundy, Barb Dickie and Joan Irving of Nanaimo whose incredible works of art have helped to make Quilts for the Valiant heartfelt heirloom treasures. A huge thanks to RCMP Sgt. Rob Webb (Ret'd) and Brenda Kuttai, who helped coordinate the distribution of Quilts to the recipients.







Pictured above, left: Dwight Grieve, BC/Yukon Command Command Vice President and Branch #134 Executive, and Lynn Carroll, Founder of Quilts for the Valiant.

Want to see your Legion Branch in the next newsletter?

Branch Executives can email photos & stories to: lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca

by **Friday, November 20, 2026!**

Memo Summary

September

58.26 - Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command Homelessness Program
59.26 - Notice of BC/Yukon Command Annual General Meeting
60.26 - Call to Host 2027 & 2028 Provincial Sports Playdowns - Deadline Extended
61.26 - OSI Special Section Programs
62.26 - Presentation of the First Poppy
63.26 - National Youth Remembrance Contests

October

64.26 - Leave the Streets Behind Initiative - Q3 2026 Survey
65.26 - Early Bird Renewal Campaign
66.26 - Poppy Campaign Update #1
67.26 - Article III Branch Level Quarterly Reporting - Q3 2026
68.26 - Tragedy at CFB Wainwright - Flags to Half-Mast
69.26 - CFB Wainwright - Donations & Support
70.26 - Respectful Workplace & Bullying and Harassment Training Resources
71.26 - Poppy Campaign Update #2
72.26 - CFB Wainwright - Flags to Full-Mast and Donation Clarification

Download Memos from Branch Corner

The BC/Yukon Command acknowledges it carries out its work on the traditional territories of Indigenous nations throughout British Columbia and Yukon.

We pay our respects to the Elders, past and present, descendants and custodians of these lands. We honour the knowledge keepers and the continuing relationships with Indigenous peoples in BC that develop through our work together. The BC/Yukon Command is grateful to the sq̓əc̓iy̓aʔɬ təməxʷ (Katzie), sc̓əwaθenaʔɬ təməxʷ (Tsawwassen), Kwantlen, Á,LEN̓ENEĆ ŁTE (W̱SÁNEĆ), Semiahmoo, S’ólh Téméxw

(Stó:lō), and Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla First Nations, on whose traditional territories we operate our main office.

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Our mailing address is:

BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion

Unit 503 - 17665 66A Avenue

Surrey, BC

V3S 2A7

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