

# Find the Poppy!

Enter to WIN!

Locate the black & white Poppy, hidden in this Blazer, for the chance to win a \$50 prize! Click the button below to enter.



Enter the Contest

Find the hidden Poppy in this month's Blazer for the chance to win up to \$50 worth of gifts from the Poppy Store!

Congratulations to last month's winner, Brian S.

Contest Details: No purchase required. Fill out the four-question survey and enter to win by clicking the button above. One entry per email address.

Deadline: March 22, 2026. Winner Contacted: March 23, 2026.



#503 - 17665 66A Ave, Surrey, BC V3S 2A7  
T: 604-575-8840 TF: 1-888-261-2211  
F: 604-575-8820  
info@legionbcyukon.ca

## The BC/Yukon Blazer

March 2026

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## Bravo Zulu: BC/Yukon Command's Centenary Whisky



On March 3rd, BC/Yukon Command celebrated the launch of Bravo Zulu, the official Centenary Whisky for the province. The whisky, a Malted Rye grown entirely in British Columbia, was produced by Tumbleweed Spirits Distillery.

Craig Thomson, Command Immediate Past President, led the first toast of Bravo Zulu. BC/Yukon Command Senior Officers, along with the Zone Commander and several Branch Presidents of the South Okanagan & Similkameen Zone, celebrated the release of the first commemorative item of BC/Yukon Command's Centenary Year. The term, "Bravo Zulu," is a military term meaning, "Well done." The expression is commonly communicated through flag signals by The Royal Canadian Navy, congratulating sailors on their good work. The name suggestion for the Centenary Whisky came from Randy Stewart, Command Service Officer for Vancouver Island.

For every bottle of Bravo Zulu purchased, Tumbleweed Spirits Distillery will make a donation of \$20.00 to BC/Yukon Command. The initial run of 1,000 bottles also includes a unique serial number on the back. Legion Branches interested in purchasing Bravo Zulu are encouraged to [contact the distillery](#) to inquire about a bottle with a serial number matching their Branch.

Purchase a Bottle of Bravo Zulu

Pictured below, from left to right: Glenn Hodge, Command Treasurer; Brenda Thomson, Command Chair; Mike Patterson, Owner of Tumbleweed Spirits Distillery; Michelle Courtney, Command Executive Director; Bob Underhill, Command President; and Craig Thomson, Command Immediate Past President and Centenary Committee Chair.



The launch of Bravo Zulu took place at the distillery in Osoyoos, BC, where Mike Patterson, Owner and General Manager, shared how the limited-edition whisky was made. "We have the hottest aging temperature in Canada, so our whiskies are now classified as double-aging," Mike explained. "The desert-aging, or the heat, is what really matures a whisky, makes a whisky smooth, and gives it the deep colours." Bravo Zulu, a 3.5-year desert-aged blend and Alpine Rye, was charred in a white oak barrel, which has the ideal grain structure for expanding and contracting. Those participating in the first toast of the Centenary Whisky were very pleased with the taste.

Tumbleweed Spirits Distillery has been in business for nearly ten years, working with other local organizations such as the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation and the Memorial Ribbon Society to create other memorable whiskies, all sourced, bottled, and distilled in BC.

# DISTILLERY & TASTING BAR



## Important Dates



### March

- March 3** - World Hearing Day
- March 8** - International Women's Day
- March 9** - Commonwealth Day (RCEL Support) (2nd Monday)
- March 12** - Canada's Military Mission in Afghanistan Ends (2014)
- March 30** - Battle of Moreuil Wood (1918)

*Lapsed Member Reminders*

### April

#### Month of the Military Child

- April 1** - Royal Canadian Air Force Founded (1924)
- April 4** - NATO Accord Signed (1949)
- April 9** - Battle of Vimy Ridge (1917) - *Legion flags lowered to half-mast*
- April 10** - The Great War Veterans' Association of Canada Formed (1917)
- April 19-25** - National Volunteer Week
- April 25** - Anzac Day
- April 25** - Battle of Kapyong (1951)

## Upcoming Branch Training

#### **Branch Operations Drop-in Session (Online via Zoom)**

**Date & Time:** Monday, March 23, 2026 (6:00pm – 6:30pm PST)

A virtual drop-in session to ask questions and discuss any Branch operational matters.

#### **New Poppy Bursary Application Training Session (Online via Zoom)**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 (10:00am - 11:00am)

Learn how to fill out the new form, along with guidelines and next steps in the process.

#### **Centenary Information Session (Online via Zoom)**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (6:00pm – 7:00pm PST)

Overview of national and provincial Centenary initiatives.

#### **Liquor Due Diligence Requirements (Online via Zoom)**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, March 31, 2026 (10:00am – 11:00am PST)

Overview of liquor regulations, practical tips for preparing for liquor inspections, and guidance on barring individuals.

#### **Service Officer Virtual Drop-in Session (Online via Zoom)**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 (1:00pm - 2:00pm PST)

A virtual drop-in session to ask questions and discuss any service officer-related matters.

#### **Finance Virtual Drop-in Session (Online via Zoom)**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, April 7, 2026 (1:00pm - 2:00pm PST)

A virtual drop-in session to ask questions about your Branch's 2025 Audited Financial Statements and submission.

#### **Poppy Campaign: Best Practices (In-Person)**

**Date & Time:** Sunday, April 12, 2026 (1:00pm - 2:30pm PST)

**Location:** Branch #265 Aldergrove (26607 Fraser Highway, Aldergrove, B.C.)

Overview of planning and delivering a Poppy Campaign, including managing supplies, volunteer and community engagement, and best practices for coordinating a Remembrance Day ceremony.

#### **Branch Operations Virtual Drop-in Session (Online via Zoom)**

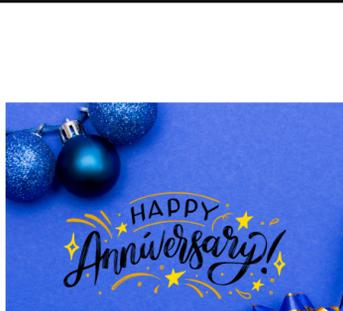
**Date & Time:** Monday, April 20, 2026 (10:00am - 11:00am PST)

A virtual drop-in session to ask questions and discuss any branch operational matters.

### How to Register

All workshops are free and open to all Legion members. To register, please email [info@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:info@legionbcyukon.ca) to confirm your spot. If you have any questions, or would like to suggest an idea for a future training topic, please contact the BC/Yukon Command office directly at (604) 575-8840 or via email [info@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:info@legionbcyukon.ca).

## March Branch Anniversaries



- #62 Salmon Arm - *Celebrating 100 Years!*
- #6 Cloverdale & #57 Mission City - *Celebrating 99 Years!*
- #61 Delta-Ladner & #97 Oliver - *Celebrating 98 Years!*
- #118 North Vancouver - *Celebrating 95 Years!*
- #134 Malahat District - *Celebrating 92 Years!*
- #171 Ladysmith - *Celebrating 82 Years!*
- #177 Mount Pleasant - *Celebrating 81 Years!*
- #220 Queen Charlotte & #211 Bowser & District - *Celebrating 79 Years!*
- #259 Vavenby & District - *Celebrating 67 Years!*
- #265 Aldergrove - *Celebrating 63 Years!*
- #274 Fraser Lake - *Celebrating 55 Years!*
- #289 Tsawwassen - *Celebrating 32 Years!*



## Membership Renewal Reminders

## Social Media Graphics for Branches



The Membership, Marketing & PR Committee has created new graphics for Branches to post on social media. These new images, themed around Spring and St. Patrick's Day, encourage membership renewals and invite those interested to join the Legion for free this year.

Download these images by visiting the Marketing & PR webpage on Branch Corner, or by clicking the button below.



Renew your membership today.  
We look forward to seeing you!



Social Media Posts for Spring & St. Patrick's Day

### BC/Yukon Command Membership Report: March 5, 2026

- New Memberships in 2026: 167.86% (16,049 New Members) - *Welcome, everyone!*
- Paid Memberships in 2026: 102.42% (52,343 Paid Members)
- Renewals in 2026: 71.01% (36,294 Members Renewed)

Well done, Branches and Membership Chairs! Our percentage for both New and Paid Memberships is 1st in the country. We encourage Branches to continue reaching out to members who have not yet renewed, encouraging them to return and celebrate the Legion's 100th Year.



Legion Foundation  
BC/Yukon Command

**SAVE THE DATE**

**LEGION FOUNDATION DINNER**

JOIN US FOR A **FUNraising DINNER**

Come and enjoy a great evening in support of Veterans

**\$55 per person**

- Delicious Buffet Dinner
- Silent Auction
- Program Presentations
- And more to enjoy throughout the evening

**Saturday, April 11**

- Event Start: **6:00 pm**
- Program Begins: **6:30 pm**
- Aldergrove Legion

**Legion Foundation**  
BC/Yukon Command

Proceeds raised will support Veterans and Veterans-serving organizations and programs across BC and the Yukon.

### Save the Date:

#### Foundation FUNraising Dinner

The Legion Foundation's "FUNraising" Dinner will take place at Branch #265 Aldergrove on **Saturday, April 11**. This event promises to be a fun evening in support of Veterans across British Columbia and the Yukon. Guests will enjoy a buffet dinner, silent auction, meaningful program presentations, entertainment, and plenty of time to connect with fellow Legion members and community supporters who care deeply about the mission of the Legion Foundation.

The event is open to everyone who wants to stand behind our Veterans and the work of the Foundation. Bring a friend, invite your Branch members, and help fill the room with people who believe in supporting those who served.

[Click here to purchase a ticket!](#)

If you happen to own a business, or know someone who might like to support the Foundation's silent auction for the event, please reach out to [Erin.McDonald@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:Erin.McDonald@legionbcyukon.ca).

The Foundation also welcomes you to submit a Volunteer Interest Form for events such as these. Anyone interested can follow the link and select "event set-up." The Foundation team will then follow up with you shortly: <https://legionbcyukonfoundation.ca/volunteer/>

### March is Make it Monthly!

A monthly donation is one of the most powerful ways to support the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command. Ongoing contributions give the Foundation stability to plan ahead, invest in future projects, and respond when Veterans and seniors need them most. Consistent support means greater impact.

As a thank you, all new monthly donations of \$5 or more will receive a beautiful Canada flag lapel pin. Your steady support helps ensure we are there today, and for the future.



[Become a Monthly Donor Today](#)

### A Successful Launch of The Legion Foundation Seminar Series

Last week, the Foundation was pleased to welcome more than 50 attendees to the inaugural Seminar Series event, held at Branch #6 Cloverdale. The Wills & Estate Planning session, presented by Ken Volkenant, Lawyer & Partner at [Volkenant Law Group](#), generated thoughtful discussion and strong engagement from those in attendance. The session delivered practical learning and meaningful takeaways for individuals considering how best to organize their affairs and plan for the future.

The Seminar Series will continue to expand across the province, with upcoming sessions planned for the Victoria region this Spring and Kelowna in Fall 2026. The Foundation looks forward to bringing these informative opportunities to more communities in the months ahead.

To stay informed about news and events with the Legion Foundation, [subscribe to the Foundation's newsletter](#) and [follow the Foundation's Facebook page](#).



### Victory Square Banner Program Sponsorship Luncheon



Past sponsors and local organizations are invited to attend an upcoming luncheon about the 2026 Victory Square Banner Program, where they will be among the first to learn about this year's program, new sponsorship benefits, and how to offer support:

### **The Banner Program Luncheon**

Friday, March 27, 2026

1:00pm – 3:00pm

At the Mt. Pleasant Legion

(2655 Main Street, Vancouver, BC)

Please RSVP to Lindsay Petrie, Marketing & Communications Assistant, by Friday, March 13, 2026 to reserve your seat: [lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca)

The Victory Square Banner Program originated in 2024 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory Square Cenotaph. For the past few years, photos of Canada's Veterans have been featured on hundreds of banners in Vancouver throughout October and November, serving as powerful symbols of gratitude and remembrance. Last year, the program expanded to display a total of 600 banners.

The Victory Square Banner Program Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers working in tandem with BC/Yukon Command, aims to bring the program back every year for as long as possible. This year, the Committee's fundraising goal is \$65,000, which will cover costs of installation, removal, and pole rental fees.

*Please note that while new banners aren't yet available to order, the Committee hopes to launch the order page for new banners later this spring. To sign up for updates, please visit:*

<https://legionbcyukon.ca/banner-program/>

[Learn More about the Banner Program](#)



### **Funding Opportunity: 100th Anniversary Projects**

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has launched a dedicated funding stream for community engagement projects that honour the Legion's 100th Anniversary (July 17, 2026). Up to \$25,000 per project is available, and approved projects must be completed by July 31, 2026. The deadline to apply is **May 1, 2026**. Click the button below to learn more.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

### **Spring Building & Safety Reminder**



As we head into the warmer months, it's a good time for Branches to do a quick spring walk-through of the building and grounds. A few hours of basic maintenance can help prevent bigger issues down the road, keep everyone safe, and ensure your Branch is ready for a busy season. Consider organizing a Spring Cleanup Day, with a call for volunteers.

A little attention now helps keep your branch safe, welcoming, and running smoothly all year. If you have any further questions, please contact your Branch Operations Advisor.

#### **Safety Checklist:**

- Check roof, gutters, drainage, foundation, and walkways
- Test fire extinguishers, alarms, emergency lighting, and AEDs
- Restock and review first aid kits
- Replace HVAC filters and look over electrical/mechanical systems
- Test sump pumps (if applicable)
- Deep clean aamin areas and check furniture for safety
- Review kitchen and bar areas for cleanliness and compliance
- Update maintenance logs and safety records
- Confirm insurance details and required inspections

### **100th Anniversary Book Submissions Due March 13, 2026**



As a reminder, the deadline for Branches to submit photos and articles for BC/Yukon Command's 100th Anniversary Book is March 13th. For full submission procedures and guidelines, please refer to Memo #01.26.

At the very least, the Centenary Committee asks Branches to please email BC/Yukon Command with a photo of their Branch.

To request an extension of 1-2 weeks, please email [lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca) with your request.

### ***Stories from Branches in BC and the Yukon:***

#### **Branch #192 South Similkameen Celebrates**

#### **Cribbage Champions**

Congratulates to Paul Herchak and Bill Katcher, Doubles Team Cribbage Champions of the South Okanagan & Similkameen Zone! Paul and Bill will represent their zone later this month at the Provincial Championships, taking place at the Maple Ridge Legion.



### **Branch #256 Mount Benson Recognizes Longtime**

#### **Legion and Ladies Auxiliary Member**

*Article by Kim Rogers, Branch Media/Public Relations Chair*

The Mount Benson Legion and Branch President George Molnar welcomed a very special guest at the Branch's New Year's Day Levee: 100-year-old



Isabel Haines, a Life Member, whose dedication to the Legion spans decades and provinces.

Isabel joined the Ladies Auxiliary in 1967 and quickly became known for her steady leadership and deep commitment to service. While originally an East Coaster, her Legion journey took her to Vancouver's Mount Pleasant Branch, where she served an extraordinary 10 years as Branch President— remarkably, while she was already in her 90s.

During her presidential tenure, Isabel attended 11 Legion conventions, travelling across the country in the spirit of fellowship and advocacy. The most meaningful journey took her back to her roots: all the way to her hometown of St. John's, Newfoundland, a trip that reflected both her love of the Legion and her enduring connection to home.

Married to a Navy man who passed away in 1973, Isabel has continued to honour his service through her own lifelong commitment to the Legion community. Her contributions have not gone unrecognized. Over the years, she has received numerous honours, including the Meritorious Service Medal— one of the Legion's highest distinctions— and notably, the second-to-last level of recognition.

Now, at 100 years young, Isabel is still looking ahead. She is hopeful that one day she may also receive the Palm Leaf Medal for exceptional and continued service.

Her presence at the Branch's New Year's Day Levee was more than ceremonial— it was a living reminder of the values The Royal Canadian Legion stands for, and of the remarkable impact one dedicated member can have over a century of life.

## Branch #288 Westbank Congratulates Youth Remembrance Contest Winner



The Westbank Legion is proud to recognize this year's Branch winner, ten-year-old Reese Woodworth.

Reese shared that her inspiration came from the Remembrance ceremony at her school. During the moment of silence, she reflected on the sacrifices made by members of the military and everything they have done for our country. That moment became the foundation for her artwork.

Her poster features the Peace Tower at Canada's Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, surrounded by Poppies and other flowers. The Poppies serve as a powerful symbol of Remembrance, honouring those who served and those who gave their lives in service to Canada.

The Westbank Legion congratulated Reese on her achievement of creating a thoughtful and meaningful poster and presented her with a cheque for \$50.00.



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## Want to see your Legion Branch in our next newsletter?

Branch Executives can email photos & stories to: [lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca)

## Memo Summary

### January

- 01.26 - 100th Anniversary Book - Call for Submissions (Deadline: March 13, 2026)
- 02.26 - Veteran Services Committee & Community Contact List
- 03.26 - Poppy Assessment and Poppy Fund Statement Submission Reminder
- 04.26 - Leave the Streets Behind Initiative - Q3 & Q4 Survey
- 05.26 - Article III Branch Level Quarterly Reporting Q4 - 2025
- 06.26 - Valentines for Vets
- 07.26 - Branch Elections Reporting
- 08.26 - Upcoming Training Sessions - February & March 2026
- 09.26 - Centenary Membership Processing - Important Updates
- 10.26 - Centenary Grant Application

### February

- 11.26 - 2025 Audited Financial Statements - Deadline April 30, 2026
- 12.26 - Charitable Gaming License Reminders and Updates
- 13.26 - Youth Remembrance Contest Results
- 14.26 - 2026 Dominion Command Convention
- 15.26 - 2026 Branch Insurance Subsidy
- 16.26 - Tumbler Ridge
- 17.26 - New Provincial Poppy Bursary Application Forms
- 18.26 - Ladies Auxiliary Updates
- 19.26 - Donations for Tumbler Ridge Branch

[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 s̓qəciyaʔt̓ təməxʷ (Katzie), sc̓waθənaʔt̓ təməxʷ (Tsawwassen), Kwantlen, Á,LEŃENEÇ 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.

## SPONSORED BY



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**Our mailing address is:**

BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion  
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