

# 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, Clint M.

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: April 26, 2026. Winner Contacted: April 27, 2026.



#503 - 17665 66A Ave, Surrey, BC V3S 2A7  
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## The BC/Yukon Blazer

April 2026

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## Monthly Spotlight

### Fundraising for Legion Branches: Ideas and Success Stories

Looking for a fun way to raise money for your Legion Branch or local community? BC/Yukon Command's Branch Operations Advisors have created a list of fundraising ideas below. Many of these suggestions are based on successful events hosted by Legionnaires and Branches in recent years:

#### Fundraising Ideas for Legion Branches

Craft Sales  
BBQs  
Beer Gardens  
Rentals for Office Spaces  
Firewood Sales  
Bowling Nights  
Spaghetti Dinners  
Silent Auctions  
Karaoke Nights  
Pancake Breakfasts  
Spring Plant Sales  
Hosting Sporting Events  
Dessert Auctions  
Meat Draws  
Dinner & Dance Nights  
Seasonal Craft Fairs  
Scavenger Hunts  
Chili Cook-Offs  
Indoor Swap Meet  
Community Walks & Runs

Movie Screenings  
Fishing Derbies  
Sell Advertisements  
Flea Markets  
Concession Stands at Fairs  
Watermelon Tosses  
Themed Dinners  
Jam Sessions  
Line Dancing Events  
Collaborative Cookbooks  
Used Sports Equipment Sales  
Community Skit Nights  
Fear Factor Nights  
Trivia Nights  
Comedy Nights  
Theatre Variety Shows  
Burger & Brew Nights  
50/50 Draws  
Charity Spotlight Nights  
Cardboard Boat Race  
Legion Gift Packages

Cards Night  
Bottle Drives  
Hall Rentals  
Garage Sales  
Sports Tournaments  
Tomato Can Curling Nights  
Snow Golf Tournaments  
Talent Shows  
Bake Sales  
Fashion Shows  
Afternoon Teas  
Fundraising at Canadian Tire  
Corn Roasts  
Open Mic Nights  
Paint & Sip Workshops  
Escape Rooms  
Fish & Chips Nights  
Themed Raffle Nights  
Community Gardening Contests  
Lawn Games & Festivals

Click the button below to download the full list of Fundraising Ideas for Legion Branches:

[Fundraising Ideas for Branches: Full List](#)

### Fundraising Success Stories by Legion Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries

#### Branch #56 George Pearkes - Princeton



For over 20 years, the George Pearkes - Princeton Legion has hosted Ladies' Diamond Dinner. This event, organized by gentlemen of the Branch and local community, is one of the best fundraisers hosted by the Branch. At the Ladies' Diamond Dinner, the Branch hosts giveaways, where attendees can win jewelry and other prizes of over \$2,000 in total value. "The ladies absolutely love this event, and the 120 tickets usually sell out very quickly," wrote Karen Wittich, Branch Secretary.

#### Branch #96 Merritt



In February, the Merritt Legion participated in the Coldest Night of the Year Drive. For the annual drive, new and returning teams can create an account online, walk together, and raise funds. In 2026, the national fundraising goal was exceeded at 104%.

The Branch donated a total of \$1,162 to the Nicola Valley Food Bank. The cheque was presented by Bill McNeal, Keven Norman, and Veteran Brian Dustin.

#### Branch #134 Malahat



Pictured above: \$4,603 donated to Wounded Warriors BC by the Malahat Legion.

Year	Meat Draw	Poppy	Creative
2025	\$28,500	\$17,500	\$13,740
2024	\$32,975	\$16,500	\$7,669
2023	\$26,025	\$21,500	\$7,305
2022	\$26,375	\$21,000	\$4,710
2021	\$7,700	\$11,000	\$4,589

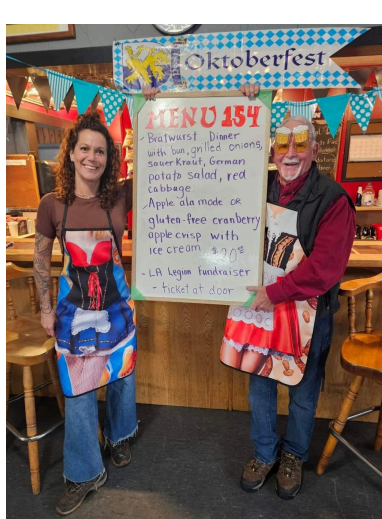
Pictured above: Charity donations from 2021 - 2025 by the Malahat Legion.

In addition to weekly meat draws and the annual Poppy Campaign, the Malahat Legion raises funds through creative ventures, as seen in the final column of the above report. One popular initiative, typically held twice per year, is the outdoor vendor market. Held in the Branch's backyard from 10am to 1:30pm, local vendors rent tables for \$25 or double parking lot spaces for \$30. During winter, this event becomes an indoor Christmas market. Raising nearly \$2,500 in 2025, these events drew strong community participation.

Online auctions have proved to be another successful fundraiser. Typically lasting one week, the auction invites members and local businesses to donate items such as quilts, framed art, and household treasures, which are photographed, priced, and posted on an app hosted by the Malahat Branch's website. The event concludes with automatic winner notifications, and payments are collected the following weekend. The online auction typically raises over \$1,000 each time.

These efforts by the Malahat Branch "continue to engage members, attract new supporters, and channel vital funds to a diverse range of charities and programs that enrich both Veterans' lives and the wider community," wrote Jeff Lydiatt, Branch Secretary. Funds raised through these innovative initiatives are donated to charities such as Cops for Cancer - Tour de Rock, the Military Police Fund for Blind Children, and Wounded Warriors Canada.

### Ladies Auxiliary #154 Quadra Island



The Quadra Island Ladies Auxiliary hosted a successful Oktoberfest Fundraiser at the Legion Branch on October 19, 2024. The event brought community members together to enjoy a delicious bratwurst dinner, complete with German potato salad and red cabbage. Homemade desserts included a choice of Heidi's famous apple pie a la mode, or Karen's gluten-free cranberry apple crisp with ice cream. The evening was filled with warmth, great food, and community spirit, highlighting the Auxiliary's ongoing dedication to support the Legion and bringing the community together.

### Branch #201 Pemberton



Photo: Pique News Magazine

Through Sunday Meat Draws, the Pemberton Legion made a generous donation of \$750 towards the Grade Seven Grad Trip for graduates of Signal Hill Elementary School. The Class of 2026 is excited to explore Camp Latona on Gambier Island.

[Read Pique Magazine's Full Article](#)

### Branch #281 Port McNeill



The Port McNeill Legion's annual firewood-cutting fundraiser makes thousands of dollars towards essential expenses. Every year for close to 20 years, a small army of volunteers from the Port McNeill Branch and local community band together on weekends, cutting and splitting enormous loads of firewood. Funds raised go towards the high cost of liability insurance, hydro and utilities, school bursaries, and Veterans' programs supported by the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon.

Over the years, logging companies on the north island have donated large amounts of firewood logs. These logs are then bucked into firewood-sized pieces by a monster-sized wood processor, donated by another local logging company. When the weekend is over, 100 to 200 loads of firewood are delivered to the community, and the Branch will have raised over \$15,000. "This is our Legion's way of supporting our community with a necessary firewood supply for their winter warmth, build a wonderful cooperative working party, while also helping us give to local projects and Veterans' programs," wrote Kathy Slack, Branch Secretary and Treasurer.

### Branch #217 Salmo



For over a decade, the Salmo Legion has collected returnable bottles and cans from the Shambhala Music Festival, returning them for a deposit. By collaborating with the Festival on this annual summer project, the Branch has successfully collected over \$100,700 to-date. "Doing this has enabled us to focus our energies on fundraising for community and youth groups, as well as the Poppy Campaign, instead of trying to keep the lights on," wrote Stephen MacDonald, Past President.

### Branch #288 Westbank



In September 2025, the Westbank Legion hosted a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for members and friends. Organized by mother-and-daughter team Denise and Petula Pettman, the event aimed to cover the cost of upgrading the television and sound system at the Branch.

The dinner proved to be a huge success, with all 140 tickets selling out in less than one week. To accommodate, the Westbank Legion scheduled two separate seating times. Thanks to members and volunteers who donated their

skills, and supplies, costs to put on the spaghetti dinner were kept to a minimum.



## April

### Month of the Military Child

**April 1** - Royal Canadian Air Force Founded (1924)

**April 3** - Good Friday - *Stat*

**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)

## May

**May 3** - Battle of the Atlantic (1945) - *1st Sunday*

**May 3** - John McCrae Wrote "In Flanders Fields" Poem (1915)

**May 4** - Royal Canadian Navy Founded (1910)

**May 4-10** - Mental Health Week (Canadian Mental Health Association)

**May 5** - Liberation of the Netherlands (1945)

**May 8** - Victory in Europe Day (1945)

**May 10** - Mother's Day

**May 15** - First Edition of *The Legionary* (1926)

**May 15** - International Day of Families

**May 18** - International Museum Day

**May 18** - Victoria Day - *Stat*

**May 19** - Canadian Army Founded (1855)

**May 21** - National War Memorial Unveiled (1939)

**May 22-31** - Memorial Cup

**May 23** - RCMP (1873)

**May 25** - Ypres (1915)

**May 26** - US Memorial Day

**May 28** - Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (2000)

**May 29** - Remise du premier insigne de la Légion au Gouverneur général

**May 29** - International Day of UN Peacekeepers (1948)

**May 31** - End of South African (Boer) War (1902)

## Upcoming Branch Training

### **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).



## April Branch Anniversaries



- #65 Clayoquot Sound - *Celebrating 99 Years!*
- #96 Merritt & #98 Enderby - *Celebrating 98 Years!*
- #119 Port Moody - *Celebrating 95 Years!*
- #155 Greenwood - *Celebrating 87 Years!*
- #176 Billy Bishop-Kerrisdale - *Celebrating 81 Years!*
- #194 Clinton - *Celebrating 80 Years!*
- #232 Texada Island - *Celebrating 77 Years!*
- #244 Masset - *Celebrating 73 Years!*
- #276 Slocan Valley - *Celebrating 52 Years!*



## Membership Resources for Legion Branches

**Flyers, Brochures, Social Media Posts, and more!**

**Visit Marketing & PR on Branch Corner.**

Looking for a poster on Legion membership? A ready-made social media post for your Branch? Or a brochure outlining Legion membership benefits?

All the above resources and more can be downloaded from Branch Corner's [Marketing & Public Relations](#) webpage.

Looking for something more specific? Reach out to the BC/Yukon Command office at [info@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:info@legionbcyukon.ca) with your request, and we can create a custom-made flyer for your Legion Branch!

### **BC/Yukon Command Membership Report: March 26, 2026**

- New Memberships in 2026: 206.65% (19,772 New Members) - *Welcome, everyone!*
- Paid Memberships in 2026: 112.20% (57,381 Paid Members)
- Renewals in 2026: 73.54% (37,609 Members Renewed)



**Legion Foundation**

BC/Yukon Command

**Tickets on Sale!**

**FUNdraising Dinner**

**Saturday, April 11th**  
6:00pm - 9:00pm  
Aldergrove Legion

### **FUNdraising Dinner: Saturday, April 11th**

The Legion Foundation is excited to officially launch Foundation FUNdraising Dinner, taking place at the Aldergrove Legion. This event promises to be a fun evening in support of Veterans across British Columbia and the Yukon.

Guests will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, program presentations, entertainment, a silent auction, and plenty of time to connect with fellow Legion members and community supporters who care deeply about the Foundation's mission.

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

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

The Foundation also welcomes those interested in volunteering for such events to fill out the online Volunteer Interest form. Select "event set-up" when filling out the form, and the Foundation team will reach out to you shortly: <https://legionbcyukonfoundation.ca/volunteer/>

[Purchase a Dinner Ticket](#)

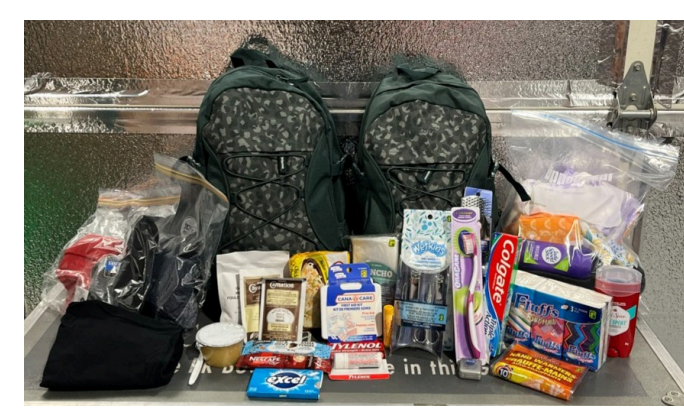
### Spring Spectacular 50/50 Raffle

The Spring Spectacular 50/50 Raffle is now LIVE! The deadline is midnight on Sunday, April 19, 2026.

Tickets are 1 for \$10, 3 for \$20 and 8 for \$50 and can be purchased online by clicking the button below. All proceeds will go to support the "Leave the Streets Behind" program, providing Comfort Bags and Apartment Kits to Veterans in need.



[Purchase a 50/50 Raffle Ticket](#)



### 30 Comfort Bags Packed in March!

Last month, the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command packed 30 Comfort Bags as part of the "Leave the Streets Behind" program. These backpacks will now be distributed to Veterans in need throughout British Columbia and Yukon. Thank you to everyone who has supported this impactful program.

Each Comfort Bag is thoughtfully prepared to provide immediate support for Veterans who are awaiting housing or are not yet ready for housing. The backpacks contain essential items such as clothing, toiletries, and small food provisions. They are also personalized with gender-specific necessities, including feminine hygiene products where appropriate. Importantly, every backpack contains contact information for the local Legion Branch Service Officer, ensuring Veterans have a direct connection to additional supports and resources in their community.

This program exists because of the generosity of individuals who have chosen to prioritize support for vulnerable Veterans. Their contributions allow the Foundation to meet people where they are, providing practical essentials during a critical time of transition. Thirty backpacks may seem like just a number, but behind each one is a Veteran who will receive not only basic personal items, but also a reminder that they are not forgotten.

## How to Apply for a Veteran Licence Plate



Image from ICBC Website

A common inquiry we receive at the BC/Yukon Command office is how to apply for a Veteran licence plate.

**Veterans in British Columbia** can apply for a Veteran licence plate by visiting [ICBC's website](#) or by going to [BCVCA's website](#). **Veterans in the Yukon** can the process by visiting [Yukon.ca](#).



## Youth Remembrance Contests Update

Winner packages have been shipped from the BC/Yukon Command office to Branches who participated in this year's Youth Remembrance Contests. Please reach out the Command office if your Branch has not received their package by Wednesday, April 15th: (604) 575-8840.

## Stories from Branches in BC and the Yukon:

### Branch #7 Britannia Celebrates Eight Ball Victory



Congratulations to the Britannia Legion team, winners of the Eight Ball Championships at the Zone Level.

The team will represent the South Vancouver Island Zone during the Provincial Championships in Aldergrove later this month.

Congratulations again to Curtis Beach, Craig Walters, Andrea Wilson, and Mark Hernas!

### Branch #11 Trail Hosts 100th Anniversary Tea

On February 14th, the Trail Legion held an old-fashioned Afternoon Tea in celebration of their 100th Anniversary. The local 531 Trail Squadron of The Royal Canadian Air Cadets and Trail Ambassadors volunteered their time for setting up and serving guests. The afternoon was very successful, with over 120 people in attendance.



## Branch #20 Nakusp Honours President

On March 9, before a nice turnout of friends and family on a cold afternoon, Harvey Truax of the Nakusp Legion was honoured with a Quilt of Valour (QOV) at the Nakusp Cenotaph. Cindy Poznikoff of Kimberley, representing the Kootenay Region of QOV, awarded the Branch's longtime president with the handmade Quilt, designed and quilted by one or more of the hundreds of volunteers from across the country.

In her presentation, Cindy Posnikoff shared more about President Harvey Truax's story— that he had wanted to join the military when he was sixteen years old, but his mother had said no. As for the Navy, Posnikoff said Truax didn't want to wear bell-bottomed trousers, choosing to serve in the army instead. Truax served on United Nations peacekeeping missions in both Egypt and the Golan Heights.

Quilts of Valour are presented in order to "recognize an individual's service and sacrifice to Canada." The first Quilts were presented in 2006 to injured soldiers who served in Afghanistan.



## Branch #96 Merritt Congratulates Volunteer of the Year

Recently, the Merritt Centennials junior hockey club held their annual Awards Night, where Merritt Branch President Alphonse L'Abbe proudly presented the Volunteer of the Year Award to the team's cook.



## Branch #242 N. Thompson Valley - Barriere Hosts Valentines Dinner



On February 14, the N. Thompson - Barriere Legion hosted Valentine's Dinner, where the menu consisted of baron of beef, potatoes, carrots, and freshly-baked buns, which were appreciated by everyone in attendance.

The dinner was organized by Linn Buker, Executive Member of the Branch. Live music and country line dancing was also enjoyed by all.

That same month, the Branch invited members and guests to a Super Bowl LX party, complete with food and prizes. In March, the Branch held additional events, such as an Honours & Awards Dinner, Easter Meat Draw, and Wing & Trivia Night.

Pictured above: Invitation from Branch #242's Facebook Page.

## 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

### 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

### March

- 20.26 - Legion Sports Update
- 21.26 - Submission Deadline Reminder: 100th Anniversary Book (March 13, 2026)
- 22.26 - Upcoming Training Sessions: March & April 2026
- 23.26 - Funding Opportunity: 100th Anniversary Commemorative Projects
- 24.26 - 2026 Dominion Convention Reminders
- 25.26 - Moneris: Preferred Pricing for Legion Branches
- 26.26 - Centenary Whisky: Bravo Zulu

[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 s̓q̓əciyaʔł̓ t̓əməxʷ (Katzie), sc̓əwaθenaʔł̓ t̓əməxʷ (Tsawwassen), Kwantlen, Á,LEÑENEÇ ŁTE (WSÁNEĆ), 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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