

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, Lynn G.

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: May 25, 2026. Winner Contacted: May 26, 2026.



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The BC/Yukon Blazer

May 2026

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Victory Square Banner Program: Banner Orders Open Now



In 2024, the Victory Square Banner Program originated to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Victory Square Cenotaph. Each year since then, 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.

We are excited to announce that the Banner Program has officially returned for 2026, and banner orders are now open to the public. Spaces are limited and available on a first-come,

first-served basis, and banner orders can be placed from now until **June 30, 2026**. Those who ordered a banner in past years have the option to re-display their banner in 2026 for a donation of \$75 by this date.

Order a Banner or Make a Donation

In the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day, these banners will be proudly displayed in Victory Square and the surrounding areas as a tribute to those who have served. At this time, banners will remain the property of BC/Yukon Command to be used for future projects such as these.

The program has received an overwhelmingly positive response since it began two years ago. Every year, the Banner Program Committee looks forward to receiving phone calls and emails from those who were able to see the banner of their relative, friend, or hero on display in Vancouver.

"For the descendants of Veterans, it's an incredible tribute to our parents, our grandparents, and our relatives that have served," said Mandy Shintani, Chair of the Japanese Canadian War Memorial Committee. "I hope that it also inspires people to be more curious and to find out more about these war-time stories that they have within their own families."

The Banner Program Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers working in tandem with BC/Yukon Command, ANAVETS, and The Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society (CCMMS), aims to bring the program back every year for as long as possible. "My hope for the Banner Program is that it continues and grows," said Teresa Mew, Vice President and Treasurer of the CCMMS, "And that it becomes an educational program as well as a program to remember and honour the Veterans so that their stories can live on, and that people will always appreciate the freedoms that they have and the sacrifices that were made in the past for them."



Pictured above: Bob Underhill, BC/Yukon Command President, shares more about the Banner Program at a recent luncheon.

Thank you to our sponsors for bringing this year's program to life!



Legion Centenary

100th Anniversary Book: Urgent Request to Legion Branches

Last Chance

Article Submissions DUE June 1st



Letter from Craig Thomson,
Command Centenary Committee Chair

BC/Yukon Command Branches:

In preparing for events to celebrate The Royal Canadian Legion's 100th birthday, BC/Yukon Command has been working on projects to highlight Branches within BC and the Yukon. For example, this year, we have 36 Branches celebrating their Centenary in 2026, and another 24 Branches celebrating their 100th birthday in 2027.

In addition, BC/Yukon Command has been working with government officials and suppliers to host events and create new products celebrating our Centenary. One project developing at the Command-level is a commemorative anniversary book featuring all 145 Legion Branches across British Columbia and the Yukon. Our dedicated staff member, Lindsay, has put in a lot of time and effort into coordinating this project so we can show off and celebrate every Legion Branch this year.

To date, less than 50% of Branches have submitted material for the book, and we highly encourage more Branches to participate in this initiative. Comrades, this is your book – your book to showcase and show off your Branch and share more about your history, accomplishments, and challenges, and recognizing your members.

We have extended the final deadline for submissions to June 1, 2026, in hope that every Legion Branch will respond with something for the book, even if it is just a photo of the outside of your building. It doesn't take much time to take a quick picture of your Branch and email it to BC/Yukon Command at info@legionbcyukon.ca.

This is a once-in-our-lifetime publication, meant to serve as a legacy of your Branch and our Command for the next 100 years. As a vision, I would hope that 100 years into the future, Legion Branches will compare their 200th milestone year to our 100th year.

Comrades, please take a few minutes of your time to make a submission to this project. The time spent will be well-served when you see the final results of the work Lindsay and her team will produce.

In comradeship,

Craig Thomson
Chair, Command Centenary Committee

Pulling together to Support our Veterans.

Legion 100 1926-2026

bcic Available as of June 15th while supplies last, at participating Legion and Hospitality locations in BC. Must be 19+ to play.

When you gamble, use your GameSense 19+

Pull tabs available June 15, 2026 while supplies last, at participating Legion and hospitality locations in BC. Learn more in the June edition of the BC/Yukon Blazer!



Dominion Command Convention Reminders:

- May 29, 2026 - Credential Certificates Due
- June 26, 2026 - Nominations for Office Due

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 Founded (1873)
- May 25 - 2nd Battle of Ypres Ends (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)

June

- PTSD Awareness Month and Pride Month
- June 4 - Miracle at Dunkirk (1940)
- June 6 - Normandy Invasion (D-Day) (1944)
- June 7 - Canadian Armed Forces Day - 1st Sunday of the Month
- June 21 - Father's Day
- June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 27 - Canadian Multiculturalism Day





- #22 Summerland, #52 Kamloops, #254 Whitehorse, and #291 Richmond - *Celebrating 99 Years!*
- #1 Dawson City - *Celebrating 98 Years!*
- #102 Fort St. John - *Celebrating 97 Years!*
- #107 Chase - *Celebrating 96 Years!*
- #122 Golden - *Celebrating 95 Years!*
- #150 Bowen Island - *Celebrating 90 Years!*
- #198 Alert Bay, #199 Edgewater, and #201 Pemberton - *Celebrating 80 Years!*
- #239 Pender Island - *Celebrating 74 Years!*
- #254 Whitehorse - *Celebrating 69 Years!*
- #256 Mount Benson and #257 Seaview Centennial-Lantzville - *Celebrating 68 Years!*
- #266 Valemount - *Celebrating 63 Years!*



Legion Membership

Important Updates for Membership Chairs



Centenary Membership Processing

As of mid-April, Branch Membership Chairs are able to update all membership categories directly in the Member Services Portal, and this now includes Centenary members.

An updated video on processing Centenary memberships on the Portal can be viewed by clicking the button below. The new sections on updating membership categories can be found at timestamps 3:58 and 15:13.

[Updated Video - Centenary Membership Processing](#)

Zoom Meeting for Branch & Zone Membership Chairs

The Membership, Marketing, & PR Committee is hosting a Zoom meeting for Branch & Zone Membership Chairs on Tuesday, May 12th at 10:00am PST. During the meeting, the committee will answer questions and discuss important updates regarding Centenary memberships, renewals, and best practices. Chairs and other executives can register their attendance by emailing info@legionbcukon.ca.

Membership Renewal Reminder

As of this month, nearly 25% of Legionnaires across British Columbia and the Yukon have not yet renewed their membership. The Membership, Marketing & PR Committee would like to encourage Branches to continue reaching out to those who are not yet up-to-date.

BC/Yukon Command Membership Report: April 30, 2026

- New Memberships in 2026: 262.11% (20,081 New Members) - *Welcome, everyone!*
- Paid Memberships in 2026: 124.81% (63,871 Paid Members)
- Renewals in 2026: 75.80% (38,790 Members Renewed)



Veteran Community



Legion Foundation
BC/Yukon Command

A Night of Camaraderie and Support

The Foundation FUNdraising Dinner, held on April 11 at Aldergrove Legion, was an outstanding success. More than 80 guests joined us for an evening of good company, connection, and celebrating the accomplishments of the Legion Foundation. Attendees enjoyed a memorable night filled with

socializing, auction fun, an engaging partner presentation, and meaningful conversations with people who believe in supporting our Veterans.

A heartfelt thank you to the Aldergrove Legion for hosting the event, and to all of their dedicated volunteers who helped make the evening such a success. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this special fundraiser. We look forward to bringing this wonderful event back again in 2027!

Sponsor Spotlight

We are proud to recognize [Fleetwood Villa Retirement Residence](#) for their generous support as our Dessert Sponsor for the FUNdraising Dinner.

The Legion Foundation invites everyone to learn more about Fleetwood's welcoming community by attending their Open House on Saturday, May 2, from 1pm to 4pm.

[Click here](#) to visit their website.



50/50 Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Vivian S. of Maple Ridge, winner of the Spring Spectacular 50/50 Raffle, who won \$2,245!

The Legion Foundation thanks everyone who participated. They look forward to the next draw and wish all their supporters the best of luck!

Seminar Series on Vancouver Island: Wills & Estate Planning

Registration Open Now! Join the Legion Foundation on Tuesday, June 2 at the Trafalgar-Pro Patria Legion for a **FREE** seminar focused on the essentials of Wills, Estate Planning, and Incapacity Planning.

Take part in an engaging, in-person experience designed to help you plan with clarity and confidence. The Wills & Estate Planning Session brings together curious learners who want to protect what matters most and leave a meaningful legacy for their loved ones and community. Learn from trusted professionals, ask questions, and discover how thoughtful planning today can shape the future.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and take the next step toward building your lasting legacy. This session is open to both Legion and Non-Legion Members, and all are welcome.

[Register for the Seminar Series](#)



Anzac Day: Australian and New Zealand Remembrance Day

On April 23, 2026, an Anzac Day Ceremony was held at the Victory Square Cenotaph in Vancouver, BC. Deano Opperman, Vancouver/Burnaby Zone Commander, and Stephen Tresidder, Vancouver Poppy Fund Administrator, attended the event and laid a wreath on behalf of BC/Yukon Command.

April 25th is Anzac Day, the National Day of Remembrance in Australia and New Zealand. On this day, we honour and remember the brave soldiers who fought and gave their lives for our freedom in the First World War. We pay tribute to the sacrifices made by the Anzacs and all those who have served our country in times of war and conflict.



Photo Credit: Corporal Brandon Lin of The Royal Westminster Regiment.

Veteran Spotlight: Dale L. Sheehan

Submitted by Comrade Necole Belanger



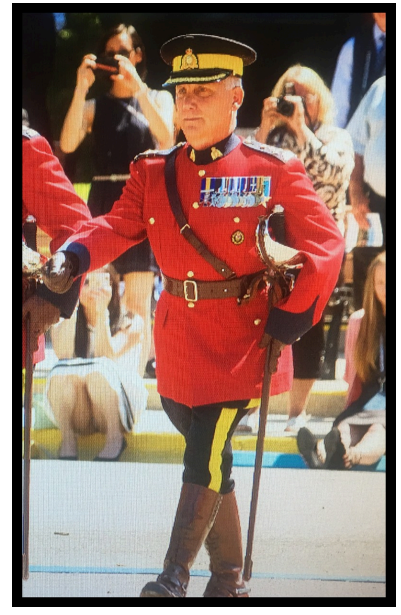
In April 2026, the Westbank Legion recognized their Veteran of the Month: Dale L. Sheehan, Assistant Commissioner (Retired) of The Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In his 35 years in uniform, Dale has served in several provinces across Canada, as well as internationally. He was also seconded to the former Yugoslavia with the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces Civilian Police Division (CIVPOL).

Dale served as Director General, Chief Superintendent of the RCMP Learning and Development Branch. His responsibilities included all RCMP National Training programs, Tactical and Technical Training, Canadian Law Enforcement Training and International Training.

He has served as an Adjudicator and Mediator and sat on several national and international board of directors, including the Canadian Association of Police Educators, INTERPOL Group Of Experts Police Training, Canadian Police Knowledge Network, RCMP Quarterly Editorial Board, and Intellectual Property Management Board.

In October 2008, Dale was appointed as INTERPOL's first Director of Police Training and Development. He was posted in Lyon, France, and Singapore for eight years. Based on his expertise in Police Training, Dale has been asked to review police training and capacity building for over 125 countries, and currently an international consultant.

In addition to all of the above, Dale is also a published historian, having co-authored the Canadian bestseller, *Behind the Badge: History of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police "Depot" Division*. Dale co-edited the published books, *Police Organization and Training* and *Match-Fixing in International Sports*.



This amazing Veteran is the recipient of the St. John's Ambulance Medal, the Canadian Peacekeeping Medal, United Nations Protection Force Medal, Canada 125 Medal, Saskatchewan Centenary Medal, Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, Columbia Police Medal, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Long-Service Medal, and the Member of the Order of Merit. When asked about his extensive career, Dale stated that one of the best benefits of serving in the RCMP was the opportunity to experience living and working in dozens of communities Canada-wide, and because of that he still has friends across the country.

Dale has been a member of the Legion for the past 41 years. He chose to retire in West Kelowna to be closer to family and enjoy the spectacular quality of life in the Okanagan.



National Youth Remembrance Contests: Winners from BC/Yukon Command

Our sincere congratulations to all National Youth Remembrance Contest winners of BC/Yukon Command!



3rd Place:
Senior Colour Poster
Chaelyn Han
#142 West Point Grey



2nd Place:
Intermediate Colour Poster
Elyn Han
#142 West Point Grey



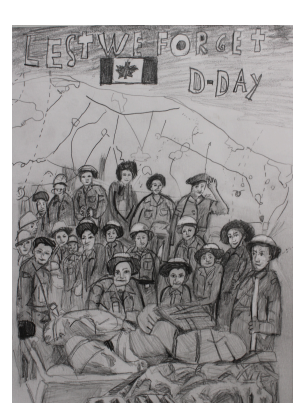
1st Place:
Junior Colour Poster
Ziyu Candice Li
#60 West Vancouver



2nd Place:
Primary Colour Poster
Eleanor Robertson
#140 Sechelt



3rd Place:
Intermediate B&W Poster
Colyn Feng Li
#148 North Burnaby



3rd Place:
Primary B&W Poster
Bowen Shao
#291 Richmond

[Read Stephanie Sujic's Poem](#)

3rd Place:
Junior Poetry
Stephanie Sujic
#91 Prince Edward

Fraser Valley Zone Recognizes Volunteer Judges

In April, three volunteers who assisted with judging poetry entries for the provincial Youth Remembrance Contests were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation. Certificates were presented by Doug Hadley, Fraser Valley Zone Commander, to volunteers Jessica Harris, Ashley Sturtevant, and Jayne Pilot.



Gary Peters, 1st Vice President of BC/Yukon Command, Receives Highest Honour

On April 11, 2026, Gary Peters, 1st Vice President of BC/Yukon Command, was awarded the Palm Leaf to the Meritorious Service Medal. The award was presented by Command President Bob Underhill during the Spring Provincial Executive Council Meeting.

The Palm Leaf is awarded to Legion members who have previously received the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM). The MSM, created by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1991, recognizes a military deed or activity that was performed in a highly professional manner. The Palm Leaf recognizes further outstanding service for achievements equal to or exceeding those which earned the comrade the MSM.



Stories from Branches in BC and the Yukon:

Branch #8 White Rock Hosts Luncheon

In early April, the White Rock Legion was honoured to host the Veterans and residents of both the George Derby Centre and Brock Fahrni Pavilion for a fun social luncheon with music entertainment.



Branch #49 Mt. Arrowsmith Presents Centenary Medal

Recently, the Mt. Arrowsmith Legion presented the Legion's 100th Anniversary Medal to their executive committee. Congratulations to everyone!



Photo 1



Photo 2

Photo 1 - Pictured above, from left to right: Roger Marcenuik, Sgt.-At-Arms; Achim Sen, CVI Zone Commander; Rod Wilkins, President; and Ken Griffith, 2nd VP and Medal Recipient. **Photo 2** - Pictured above: Roger Marcenuik, Sgt.-At-Arms; Klaus Mueller, Executive; Loan Cupboard; Shirley Bénard; Sam Esopenko, Past President; Nils Adamsson, Executive; Shona Rowe, 1st Vice President; Charmaine Ross, Service Officer; Shirley Généreux, Secretary; Dave Dollis, Executive; Rod Wilkins, President; John Ladd, Executive; and Ken Griffith, 2nd VP. Not pictured: Sue Wilson, Executive; and Sue Hodges, Executive.

Branch #52 Kamloops Awards Life Membership

Congratulations to Brenda Thomson, BC/Yukon Command Chair and Secretary of the Kamloops Legion, for being awarded Life Membership!



Pictured above, from left to right: Gord Sands, Branch Vice President; Brenda Thomson, Branch Secretary; and Mike Young, Branch President.

Branch #97 Oliver Congratulates Winner of Youth Remembrance Contests



In April, the Oliver Legion congratulated Gavin Baerg, who won 3rd Place in the provincial Youth Remembrance Contests for his Black & White poster, in the Intermediate Category.

Estelle Pavan, Oliver Branch President, presented Gavin with a congratulatory letter, certificate, and tablet prize. The presentation ceremony took place at Gavin's school, where his teacher and classmates also congratulated Gavin on his winning piece.

Congratulations, Gavin!



Branch #288 Westbank: March Madness

Submitted by Necole Belanger, Branch President

On March 6th, the Westbank Legion celebrated International Women's Day with a Soup & Sandwich Lunch. The event was held in honour of the Westside Health Network Society, a non-profit whose mission is to enhance the wellness of seniors through volunteerism, education, referral, and social programs in the West Kelowna and Peachland area. Through ticket sales and generous gifts from the local community, the Branch managed to raise \$1,535 for the Westside Health Network Society.



Pictured above: Branch Treasurer Ron Newmann presents a cheque to Shaz Burchell, Westside Health Network Society Volunteer.



Pictured above, from left to right: Tina Amaral, Deb Brown, & Necole Belanger.

On March 14th, the Branch's dart players travelled to Vernon to participate in the annual Rutland Valley Dart Shoot. Tina Amaral, Deb Brown, and Necole Belanger took first place in the women's division with a record of nine wins and two losses. Necole Belanger recorded the highest double out, scoring 60 points to take the win in one of their toughest matches.

On March 17th, Phillip Hartman made his first official visit to the Westbank Legion – his home Branch – as South Okanagan & Similkameen Zone Commander. Upon arrival, he was met with the Westbank Legion's flag party. In addition to his duties as Zone Commander, Hartman actively assists the Branch with bookkeeping and acts as a mentor to the new Branch President. That day, Hartman assisted with presenting a 50-Year Service Medal to Orland Delong, Branch Membership Chair and Sergeant-at-Arms.

Later that day, members were treated to a three-course St. Patrick's Day meal prepared by Chef Stefan Pimenta of Poppy Catering. Hanna Vorlicek, Events Committee Chair, decorated the Branch and themselves in St. Paddy's Day colours, and prepared green cupcakes and cookies for the occasion.



Pictured above: Zone Commander Phillip Hartman visits the Westbank Legion (left, middle). Branch Sgt-At-Arms and Membership Chair, Orland Delong, receives 50 Year Medal (right).

The following day, the Westbank Legion hosted Sub-Lieutenant Emmerson Wakefield, a Naval Warfare Officer from The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN). SLt Wakefield was taking part in the RCN's Hometown Series, focusing on raising maritime awareness through in-person engagements. This visit presented a meaningful opportunity to share naval deployment experiences, career stories, and bridge any gap between West Kelowna, the Navy, and the broader maritime industry. SLt Wakefield has returned home to West Kelowna after a successful and extended deployment in the Arctic and the Pacific aboard the HMCS Max Bernays.

To end the month of March Madness, the Westbank Legion hosted Saturday Night Bingo on March 21st. There, Jodie Whitelaw was presented with a Certificate of appreciation for providing all bingo players with beef jerky from her family's local business, Pioneer Meats.



Pictured above: Hanna Vorlicek, Events Committee Chair.



Pictured above: Sub-Lieutenant Emmerson Wakefield visits the Westbank Legion.

Branch #291 Richmond Announces Veteran Banner Program

Nominate a Veteran for a Street Banner

This fall, veterans from Richmond will be honoured on street banners displayed throughout the city. Recognize their sacrifice and service to our community and country by nominating someone who deserves this honour.

To mark the 100th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion, the Richmond Legion has partnered with the City to launch Richmond's Veteran Street Banner Program. Submissions are now open!

Banners of eligible Veterans will be displayed throughout the City Centre from October 1 to December 1, 2026.

The deadline to apply for a banner for Richmond's Veteran Street Banner Program is **May 24, 2026**.

For full details, including submission requirements, please click the button below.

[Richmond Veteran Street Banner Program](#)

Want to see your Legion Branch in the next newsletter?

Branch Executives can email photos & stories to: lindsay.petrie@legionbcyukon.ca by **Friday, May 22, 2026**.

Memo Summary

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

April

- 27.26 - Vimy Ridge Day
- 28.26 - 2026 Legion Provincial Golf Tournament
- 29.26 - Article III Branch Level Quarterly Reporting Q1 - 2026
- 30.26 - Leave the Streets Behind Initiative - Q1 Survey
- 31.26 - Legion Charity Baseball Tournament
- 32.26 - Victory Square Banner Program - Applications Open

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 sq̓əciyaʔł təməxʷ (Katzie), sc̓əwaθenaʔł təməxʷ (Tsawwassen), Kwantlen, Á,LEŃENEŃ 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:

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