

Royal Canadian Legion - 100 Years of Service to Canada

Since 1926, the Legion has stood with Veterans, honoured the Fallen, and strengthened communities across the country.

Story courtesy legion.ca

Celebrate the Legion's Centenary

2026 is a historic year for the Legion — 100 years of service, community impact, and Remembrance. Throughout the year, we're launching special initiatives, sharing stories from our past, and hosting events that bring Canadians together. From local Branch activities to national programs, there are many ways to take part, honour our legacy, and help shape the Legion's future.

OTTAWA, ON, 17 July 2026 – The Royal Canadian Legion proudly commemorated its 100th anniversary at the National War Memorial in Ottawa today, joined by invited dignitaries, Veterans, Legion members, and the public. Incorporated on July 17, 1926, the country's largest Veteran support and community service organization recalled highlights of its history of Remembrance. From chartering giant steamships so Veterans could attend the unveiling of Vimy Memorial in France in 1936, to the repatriation of an Unknown Soldier to Ottawa, ON in 2000, and to St. Johns, NL in 2024.

"We also remember those who were angered and saw a great

need for support and advocacy," said Berkley Lawrence, Legion Dominion President, referring to the era in the wake of the First World War. "It is they who founded the Legion to ensure that Veterans were cared for and remembered. Not only then, but in the future."

A past winner of the Legion's annual Youth Remembrance Contest, which is held in collaboration with the Legion National Foundation, recited her emotional poem called "A place set for you," about losing a loved one in the line of service. Sara Butts' poem grew from her experience listening to soldiers while volunteering during the National Poppy Campaign.

"Though I lost you to freedom, to honour, to the fight... You live on in my heart, my son, my endless light," her last two lines read.

During the ceremony some of Canada's youth carried in a personalized Canadian Remembrance Torch bearing the Legion's name, and an impressive Hercules aircraft made a special flyover, another highly symbolic gesture in honour of the Legion's anniversary.

An afternoon reception held at Ottawa's City Hall for invited guests included remarks thanking

the Legion's many collaborators and supporters, the sharing of some examples of its work over the decades, and an update on its burgeoning growth over the past few years.

A highlight was the unveiling of a vibrant new Canada Post stamp to commemorate the Legion's century of service. Canada Post CEO Doug Ettinger thanked Veterans in attendance for their service, and the Legion for its work over the decades. Later, City of Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe also acknowledged the Legion's contributions and presented a special framed proclamation naming July 17, 2026 as "Royal Canadian Legion Centenary Day" in Ottawa. The Legion is headquartered in Canada's capital.

Along with Legion Dominion President Berkley Lawrence, Minister McKnight filled out a sticky note with a message as part of the Legion's "Don't Forget to Remember" initiative, which invites people to share thoughts of Remembrance. These sticky notes will eventually be creatively incorporated into artistic renditions of Canadian Veterans to be displayed in public and shared online later this year.



Guests enjoyed delicious Legion 100 anniversary cake to top off the day's special celebrations. Around the country, branches also held local events from dinners to train tours, with more activities planned as the anniversary year continues!

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2026 is the Legion's Centenary year and one of the exciting ways we're celebrating is by partnering with Ford Dealers of Canada to offer every Legion Member three chances to drive away in a brand-new Ford F-150 STX! Start by renewing your Membership and you'll be automatically entered. After you renew, you can add two more chances by shopping and donating! Visit legion.ca/promotions/winbig

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