



BC/Yukon Command

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## **BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion Receives Much Needed Funds for Veterans and their Families**

**BC/Yukon** – Earlier today, the BC Provincial Government released a statement providing new relief funding for Legion branches in BC. This will help ensure our branches can continue to provide essential services to our veterans and their families, and community services across BC.

Like many in the food and beverage industry, Royal Canadian Legion branches in BC have been navigating this challenging economic crisis. The updated public order for Food and Liquor Serving Premises released on April 21, 2021 directly affected Legions, but they did not receive access to the Government aid provided to the “industry” through the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant because of their non-profit status.

The 143 Legion branches within BC raise over \$2.5 million for veterans and their families through the annual poppy campaign. Branches also raise and distribute additional funds throughout the year giving back over \$1 million to their local communities in BC.

The BC government issued funding of \$1.5 million to assist our branches and ensure the sustainability of our mission. These funds will be received by BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion and be distributed based on need.

“We are thankful to Premier Horgan and the BC Government’s commitment to honour and remember our veterans and their families by supporting the sustainability of our entirely volunteer-led branches,” responds Val MacGregor, President of the BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion.

“As June 6, the annual date when we remember D-Day and the Invasion of Normandy approaches our 47,000 members in BC and Yukon are especially encouraged that we can continue our mission,” states Val MacGregor, President of the BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion.

## Backgrounder

To learn more about the BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, visit [www.legionbcyukon.ca](http://www.legionbcyukon.ca)

Fast facts about the Royal Canadian Legion:

- The Legion is a fundraiser for veteran and senior affordable and assisted living housing in BC.
  - Over 4,500 units in 70 facilities
- The Legion Poppy Campaign raises around \$2,500,000 per year for services and support in BC
  - Grants for Veterans and their families in need
  - Veteran transition programs
  - Comforts for Veterans and their spouses who are hospitalized and in need
  - Support to Cadet units
  - A network of Branch and Command Service Officers across the province
  - Donations for disaster relief
  - Promotion and administration of Remembrance activities
- The BC/Yukon Legion Foundation gives more than \$500,000 a year to support veterans and strengthen communities
  - Research and treatment of trauma and PTSD
  - Cockrell House provides shelter, food and support services to Veterans who are homeless or under-housed
  - The Veterans Transition Network provides group-based counselling and transition programs to help military members to overcome barriers to their transition to civilian life
  - Medical and other equipment for seniors' care
  - Veteran programs like the Vancouver Island Compassion Dogs
- The branches in BC/Yukon Command raise \$1.2 Million/year through gaming which is re-invested in community programs
- The Legion holds contests for youth with cash prizes
  - Poster and Literary
  - Video

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