



BC/Yukon Command

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For Immediate Release

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Post-Remembrance Ceremony Events Cancelled at Legion Branches

BC/Yukon – The COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving in BC. The number of cases are increasing precipitously with the highest recorded case count to date in BC (425) reported yesterday. Although we cannot predict what the situation will look like next week, cases across all regions in the entire Province are trending upward. For this reason, the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) has recommended cancelling all indoor events or gatherings planned for November 11th.

For the best interest of our Veterans, members, and their families BC/Yukon Command has asked all legion branches to cancel any events planned following your November 11th commemorations and insist that all branches remain closed for the day. Small outdoor ceremonies with limited participation that follow the PHO's requirements have been deemed as reasonable to hold and can go ahead as planned.

At this time, we have no new information to share regarding the status of Remembrance Day in the Yukon territory. Branches in the Yukon have been asked to communicate with their health authority for guidance if they are unsure on how to proceed.

“The days and weeks ahead bring much uncertainty; while it pains me to ask our Command to take such drastic action, it is our duty to do our part to keep our Veterans, members and communities safe,” Val MacGregor, President, BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Even though branches will be closed on November 11th, we know many small outdoor ceremonies are planned across the Command. Although we cannot come together as we normally would, we can still take the time to remember those who have given their lives for the Canada we enjoy today on the 11th, and encourage others to do the same. We ask you to pause, remember and watch a local ceremony either on TV or on a local legion branch Facebook page.

We will remember them.

Backgrounder

To learn more about the BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion, visit 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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