



**Legion Remembrance banners at the National War Memorial site in Ottawa**  
**Spring/Summer 2025**









## National Remembrance Day Ceremony

Some of the most visually symbolic elements of Canada's National Remembrance Day Ceremony organized by The Royal Canadian Legion are the Veterans' parade and colourful marching contingents.

The playing of The Last Post, the two minutes of silence, and the playing of the Lament and Rouse are emotional tributes to the fallen.

The Act of Remembrance is read in English, French and an Indigenous language.

A Royal Canadian Airforce CF-18 aircraft flypast, and a 21-gun salute also punctuate the solemn occasion.

Among dignitaries and community representatives, a highlight is the presence of Canada's National Silver Cross Mother named yearly by the Legion.

She places a wreath on behalf of all mothers and families who have lost a child in the line of duty.



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The Legion acknowledges the support of Veterans Affairs Canada with this display.







## Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: History

The Unknown Soldier was interred at Canada's National War Memorial on May 28, 2000.

The Tomb was crafted using a Legion design based on the altar at the Vimy Memorial in France.

Canada's Unknown Soldier was exhumed and repatriated from the Cabaret Rouge Cemetery near Vimy Ridge in France.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police with mounted horses and a vintage gun carriage escorted the soldier from lying in state at Parliament to the final resting place.

The tombstone of Canada's Unknown Soldier was donated to the Canadian War Museum where it remains displayed in Memorial Hall.



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## Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: History

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier symbolizes Canada's nearly 7,000 unknown soldiers whose bodies were buried during the First World War but whose identities remain unknown. Some 20,000 have no identifiable grave.

The idea to bring an unknown soldier home originated with Veterans from The Royal Canadian Legion's Dominion Command in Ottawa.

The Legion pressed on with determination to establish the tomb as a year 2000 millennial project and committed significant financial resources to this dream.

It later welcomed and was grateful for the assistance of the Canadian government and community partners, who provided additional crucial support.

The moving tribute to Canadian sacrifice became a reality.



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# Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: Meaning

At the end of Canada's yearly National Remembrance Day Ceremony, it has become tradition for people to remove their lapel Poppy and place it on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as a powerful symbol of gratitude.

By day's end, countless Poppies adorn the tomb, blanketing it in bright red and creating a stunning visual display of Remembrance.

Some people place special messages or words of thanks at the tomb, representing widespread feelings of thankfulness that surround the sacred site on that day, and throughout the year.

## The Act of Remembrance

They shall not grow old,  
as we that are left grow old;  
Age shall not weary them,  
nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun  
And in the morning  
We shall remember them.

— Originally excerpted from  
"For the Fallen" by Laurence Binyon.



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more information

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monument commémoratif  
guerre : Le Souvenir  
monument du jour de Souvenir du Canada à lieu  
monument de l'Armée commémoratif de guerre  
un véritable et puissant symbole  
pour nous tous  
Un hommage canonisé de vertueuses  
et d'actes héroïques aux sacrifices  
opérés par les militaires canadiens  
pour la liberté et la justice  
nous les à assurer la sécurité des lieux  
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plus d'information  
pour en savoir plus  
visitez le site  
www.legion.ca









# Monument commémoratif de guerre : Le Souvenir

La Cérémonie nationale du jour du Souvenir du Canada a lieu chaque 11 novembre au Monument commémoratif de guerre situé à Ottawa.

La cérémonie est organisée et dirigée par La Légion royale canadienne.

Des dizaines de milliers de Canadiens se rassemblent sur le site pour se souvenir.

Dans le cadre de la cérémonie, des vétérans, des représentants de la communauté et des chefs de gouvernement déposent des couronnes de fleurs au pied du Monument.

Du mois d'avril au mois de novembre, deux sentinelles en tenue de cérémonie de la Garde de cérémonie du Canada sont en faction devant le Monument commémoratif de guerre du Canada et le site voisin de la Tombe du Soldat inconnu.

Les sentinelles se relaient pendant la journée, sept jours sur sept.

Le Programme national de sentinelles, en plus de rendre hommage aux sacrifices consentis par les militaires canadiens (hommes et femmes confondus), voit aussi à assurer la sécurité des lieux.



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La Légion tient à remercier la contribution d'Anciens Combattants Canada à la réalisation de cette présentation.







# National War Memorial: History

Canada's National War Memorial in Ottawa stands as a permanent testament to all those who have given their lives in service to the country.

The Memorial was originally unveiled in 1939 and dedicated by King George VI to commemorate Canadians who fell during the First World War (1914 – 1918).

Since then, its meaning has grown to encompass all fallen Canadian service men and women from all subsequent wartime and peacekeeping missions.

The Memorial features 22 bronze figures who represent the 11 branches of the Canadian Armed Forces that took part in the First World War.

At its apex, the Memorial's statues represent peace and freedom.

The National War Memorial regularly serves as a location for deep reflection and gratitude throughout the year.

It stands on the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation.



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