



**JENNIE
STEVENS**

MPP St. Catharines
Députée provinciale de St. Catharines

October 2, 2025

Royal Canadian Legion Branches

RE: Making Remembrance Day a Statutory Holiday in Ontario – Request for Feedback and Support

Dear Legion Presidents, Executive Teams and Members,

As the MPP for St. Catharines and the Official Opposition's Shadow Minister for Veterans, Legions & Military Affairs, I am writing to share with you a Private Member's Bill that I will be introducing this fall. This bill is deeply personal to me - not only in my capacity representing Veterans across Ontario, but also as a mother with a son serving in the Canadian Navy. Ensuring that we properly honour our veterans and military families is near and dear to my heart.

The purpose of this bill is to formally recognize *November 11th, Remembrance Day*, as a statutory holiday in Ontario. Currently, **Ontario is one of only three provinces that does not recognize November 11th as a statutory holiday**. It is time that we bring our province in line with the rest of Canada. If passed, this new bill would:

- Include Remembrance Day as a public holiday, ensuring employees are entitled to a paid day off.
- Ensure retailers and businesses are closed on November 11th, allowing families and communities the opportunity to attend local ceremonies.
- **Require every school to hold a dedicated Remembrance Day service on the last school day before November 11th.**
- **Mandate the inclusion of Remembrance Day as a topic in both elementary and secondary school curriculums**

By making these changes, this bill ensures that students, families, and workers have the ability to fully participate in local ceremonies and meaningfully engage in acts of remembrance. **It also guarantees that all schools across Ontario will recognize and teach the importance of Remembrance Day in a consistent and meaningful way.**

I know first-hand how Royal Canadian Legions across Ontario dedicate enormous time and effort to organizing November 11th ceremonies. Yet too many students, educators, and workers

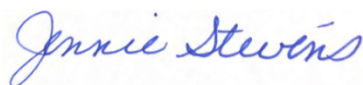
cannot attend because Ontario does not provide a statutory holiday, and families cannot afford to take the day off from work. This legislation would finally bring Ontario in line with the rest of Canada, giving our communities the opportunity to properly honour those who served and continue to serve.

As we continue drafting this bill, I want to ensure the voices of Ontario's Legions are heard. I would greatly appreciate your feedback, whether in writing or through a meeting that includes myself and your local MPP. Written feedback is also welcome.

To RSVP for a meeting, kindly email **JStevens-QP@ndp.on.ca** or call my office at **905-935-0018** by **October 15th, 2025**.

Your partnership is essential in ensuring this bill reflects the values and priorities of veterans, families, and communities across Ontario.

Sincerely,



Jennie Stevens, MPP for St. Catharines
Shadow Minister of Veterans, Legions & Military Affairs