



Dominion Command

Public Service Announcements

The Royal Canadian legion's Dominion Command has produced four public service announcements that are intended to inform Canadians about the Poppy Campaign (2) and our work in communities across the nation (2).

The first two Public Service Announcements are about our Poppy Campaign and are designed for use between October 29 and November 10 while the remaining two are for use at any other time during the year.

We do need your help in getting this information to the general public. Your assistance will ensure the perpetuation of Remembrance, a Canadian ideal that we and our predecessors have espoused for more than 80 years.

Last year alone the economic impact on the communities in which the Legion operates was over \$350 million. And this has been accomplished without fanfare because service is important to the organization's members who donate millions of volunteer hours and dollars per year to charities and other programs in the community as well.

The Legion plans to keep on working to build better and stronger communities and you can help by airing these public service announcements and by letting us know that you have by simply faxing a play sheet or no cost invoice with any comments.

Please help us continue the Legion's work in the memory of the more than 117,000 Canadian men and women who died to preserve our way of life. We will remember them.

Scholarships & Bursaries Program

The Royal Canadian Legion offers scholarships and bursaries which are administered by the 10 regional Commands of the Legion.

The scholarships are awarded for scholastic achievements and the criteria to apply vary from province to province. Please note that not all commands award scholarships.

Some bursaries are awarded from the Poppy Trust Accounts to students who are children or grand-children of Canadian ex-Service persons who are in need of this assistance.

They may be awarded at any stage of a college or university program. Other bursaries are awarded from other Legion funds and the criteria are established by the relevant commands.

For more information on the these programs in your province or territory, please contact the Royal Canadian Legion branch nearest you or the command office of the Legion in the province or territory where you live.



Canadians killed in Afghanistan

Sixteen Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed since the Canadian military deployed to Afghanistan in early 2002.

- April 17, 2002: Sgt. Marc D. Leger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard A. Green and Pte. Nathan Smith were killed by friendly fire when an American fighter jet dropped a laser-guided 225-kilogram bomb on the soldiers during a training exercise near Kandahar. All served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group.

Oct. 2, 2003: Sgt. Robert Alan Short and Cpl. Robbie Christopher Beerenfenger were killed and three others injured when their Iltis jeep struck a roadside bomb outside Camp Julien near Kabul. They were from the Third Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment.

- Jan. 27, 2004: Cpl. Jamie Murphy died and three soldiers were injured by a suicide bomber while patrolling near Camp Julien in an Iltis jeep. All were members of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

- Nov. 24, 2005: Pte. Braun Scott Woodfield, Royal Canadian Regiment, was killed in a traffic accident involving his light-armoured vehicle (LAV III) northeast of Kandahar. Three other soldiers suffered serious injuries.

- Jan. 15, 2006: Diplomat Glyn Berry was killed and three soldiers injured by a suicide bomber in Kandahar. They were patrolling in a G Wagon.

- March 2, 2006: Cpl. Paul Davis died and six others were injured when their LAV III collided with a civilian taxi just west of Kandahar during a routine patrol. The soldiers were with the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

- March 5, 2006: Master Cpl. Timothy Wilson of Grande Prairie, Alta., succumbed to injuries suffered in the LAV III crash on March 2 in Afghanistan. Wilson died in hospital in Germany.

- March 28-29, 2006: Pte. Robert Costall was killed in a firefight with Taliban insurgents in the desert north of Kandahar. A U.S. soldier and a number of Afghan troops also died and three Canadians were wounded. Costall was a member of 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton.

- April 22, 2006: Four soldiers were killed when their armoured vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb near Gombad, north of Kandahar. They were Cpl. Matthew Dinning, stationed at Petawawa, Ont.; Bombardier Myles Mansell, based in Victoria; Lieut. William Turner, stationed in Edmonton, and Cpl. Randy Payne of CFB Wainwright, Alta.

- May 17, 2006: Capt. Nichola Goddard, a combat engineer with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery and Canada's first female combat death, killed during battle against Taliban forces in the Panjwai region, 24 kilometres west of Kandahar.

Lest We Forget



A Time To remember



We as Canadians find ourselves in tumultuous times – we are, once again, playing a key role on the international stage. Canadian soldiers, proud young men and women all, have answered the call of duty and have willingly put themselves in harm's way in the name of peace and freedom. And, sadly, some of them are paying the ultimate price.

In this day of instantaneous media communication, we here at home are made to feel that we know them personally – we see their faces on the evening news, and watch as their families share their grief with the nation. And as a country, we mourn each one of them, individually and collectively.

I was disturbed to hear Royal Canadian Legion, Dominion Command representative Bob Butt in a CBC Radio interview regarding the Legion's stand on the Peace Tower flag, and whether it should be lowered to half-mast each time we lose another precious soldier. Mr. Butt stated that the Legion stands by the one-day-a-year lowering of the flag on Remembrance Day as an adequate observance of all the sacrifices by Canadian military personnel, from day one to present.

The Legion, he says, feels that one day of remembrance is sufficient. And yet, Dominion Command President Mary Ann Burdett, in a report printed in the current issue of the Zone F1 publication, "The Coalition", stated "The Royal Canadian Legion...has two major priorities – the care of our veterans, and the perpetuation of Remembrance."

It seems to me that this statement is in direct conflict with Mr. Butt's remarks, and this contradiction is, I believe, at the core of the internal problems of The Royal Canadian Legion. If remembrance is one of the prime objectives of this venerable organization, should it not encourage Canadians to take immediate heed of the sacrifices being made, and allow all of us to grieve in a timely fashion.

Thank God, we are not embroiled in a large-scale war, where daily casualties numb the mind in their magnitude. Each of our brave young soldiers who have died in recent months deserve, I believe, individual acknowledgement – their families need to know that their countrymen join them in mourning their loss, and a national gesture like lowering the flag on the Peace Tower in Ottawa at the time of each soldier's death is, I believe, not only proper, but obligatory.

While the battle may be far away, and the purpose perhaps misunderstood, nonetheless, when a flag-draped coffin is carried across the tarmac and the salutes are made, Canadians have the right, and the duty, to share in the mourning, and our government owes each of us, and the fallen, the requisite national symbol – a flag, red and white and proud, flying respectfully at half-mast.

Belinda Wilson
Youth Education Chairman
Branch 238
Fenelon Falls, Ontario



Don't those damn Taliban know that we are kindly and benign Peacekeepers of the World? Well no. Not this time.

One of Canada's sustaining myths is that we are a peaceable kingdom, and that even when our armed forces are dispatched on gruesome missions abroad, they will be recognized as spreading goodwill and not be harmed. The ideal of our national will appears pretty threadbare these days, as our troops, on their usual mission of saving infidels from themselves, are being greeted with primitive axes buried in their skulls. And worse: we appear destined to spend the next decade trying to bring civility to a country that no one, not the mighty armies of the old U.S.S.R., or even the mighty U.S.A. have been able to tame.

Increasingly, Canadians are demanding to know what we have done to deserve this. If Capt. Trevor Greene had been wearing a blue, United Nations helmet, this would never have happened. We don't start wars, harbour any territorial ambitions, and are merely in Afghanistan to be noble and righteous. Don't they damn Taliban realize we are kindly and benign Peacekeepers to the World?

Well, no. This time, we drew the short straw. We are out there charged with cleaning up Kandahar, the lethal southern province of the rogue nation that housed al-Qaeda terrorists, the deadliest of Islamic jihadis. We have been sent to Afghanistan as the command wedge of a NATO search and destroy contingent assigned to bring peace, order and good government to a country that consists mainly of impenetrable mountain ranges and poppy farms, still occupied by the same people who brought us 9/11. When Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier described the enemy as "murderers and scumbags who detest our freedoms and want to break our society," he was only stating the facts. Lucky us, that we at last found a military man who doesn't sound or act like Dr. Phil.

While a few wishful souls are still caught up in the image of Canadians as leading the free world in distributing chewing gum to innocent youths, it has been a very long time since we really were the world's peacekeepers. The deliberate inattention of Canadian governments to maintain viable armed forces that could field credible numbers of effective peacemakers is far behind us. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was asked how he rated national defence among his priorities, he shrugged: "Oh, about 14th, just behind pig subsidies." That attitude was not new. Back in the 1930s, when our cavalry regiments began switching from horses to tanks, they were so short of funds they had to simulate the new vehicles by using burlap-covered frames mounted on motorcycles, which were later switched to Chevrolets clad in sheet metal, painted khaki.

The dedication of our armed forces is beyond question; much of their equipment is beyond salvage. The problem is that our armed forces have managed to do so much with so little that our politicians have come to assume they can do almost anything, with almost nothing. We rank a pathetic 36th in the size of our military presence on UN missions, about the same as Guatemala.