

# November 8<sup>th</sup> is Indigenous Veterans Day



National Indigenous Veterans Day honours the contributions and sacrifices of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis service members. Since 1994, this day has honoured over 200 years of continued military service by members of Canada's Indigenous communities.

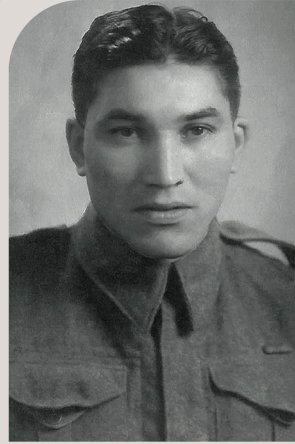
National Indigenous Veterans Day honours the spirit of reconciliation and calls on all Canadians to make efforts to better understand the roles Indigenous veterans have played and continue to play in Canada's military.

## Did You Know?



Tommy Prince is one of the most-decorated Indigenous war veterans in Canada—he served in both the Second World War and the Korean War. Despite his service, Prince faced post-war hardship and discrimination back in Canada and dedicated much of his life to the fight for equality and Indigenous rights.

Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada



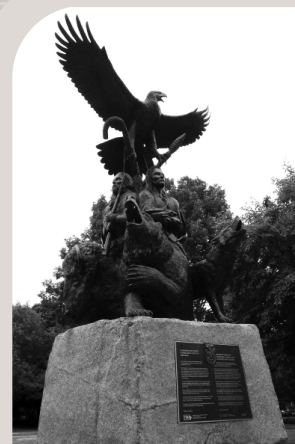
Indigenous soldiers like Métis Charles Tomkins served as code talkers in the Second World War—soldiers who spoke Cree developed a coded system based on their language for disguising military intelligence. The Allies' enemies were never able to break the code.

Photo: Shirley Anderson, Canadian Encyclopedia



Edith Anderson Monture was a school nurse from the Six Nations reserve near Brantford, Ontario. She joined the U.S. Medical Corps in 1917 and tended soldiers in a military hospital in France during the First World War. Monture was the first Indigenous woman to become a registered nurse in Canada and to gain the right to vote in a Canadian federal election.

Photo: Veterans Affairs Canada



Despite challenges such as travelling long distances to enlist and facing racism, an estimated 12,000 Indigenous people fought in the two world wars. The National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa commemorates the contributions of Indigenous peoples in all Canadian war and peacekeeping operations.

Photo: Tamra Thomson, Great War 100 Reads

## Resources

[Greater Victoria School District Indigenous Education Department: Remembrance Day](#)

[Government of Canada Indigenous Veterans](#)

[Historica Canada: Indigenous Peoples and Twentieth-Century Canadian Military History](#)