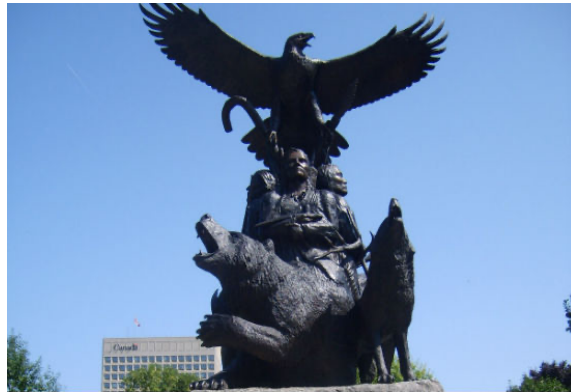


Land Acknowledgement – November 2023



Indigenous Veterans of WW1



National Aboriginal Veterans Monument

Welcome	Our land acknowledgement honours the sacrifices of Indigenous peoples who participated in the war efforts of Canada.
Treaty	We acknowledge our presence within this land that is the ancestral home of the Wendat, Anishinaabeg Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and which is still the home for many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful as we learn to grow in our relations with all Indigenous people. .
General Comment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In Indigenous communities where health and education levels were advanced, virtually every eligible man joined the armed forces. The overwhelming support for Canada's war effort — shown through enlistment, contributions to war charities and labour in wartime industries — demonstrated Indigenous people's willingness to assume their responsibility in the crisis facing Canada.2. Due to the poverty and diseases on reserves, hundreds and perhaps thousands of Indigenous people were unable to pass medical examinations for military service.3. In the First World War more than 300 status Indians died... Hundreds of others were wounded, many of whom died soon after the war. In addition, disease took a heavy toll. The isolation of many Indigenous communities meant that immunity to some diseases was low.4. At the end of the Second World War, Indian Affairs reported that 3,090 status Indians had participated in the war. This did not include non-status Indians, Inuit and Métis soldiers. It is estimated that 12,000 Aboriginal people served in the two world wars and the Korean War.5. Despite the many decades of poverty brought about by life on a reserve, restrictive government policies and the additional hardships induced by the absence of most able-bodied men who had left to join the armies, Indigenous communities felt compelled to contribute to various war funds. One of the most outstanding WWII examples of Indian generosity came from Vuntut Gwitchin Band known before as Old Crow Band, Yukon. Old Crow Chief Moses walked from his home into Alaska, carrying the community's winter furs. After selling them, he walked back

	<p>to the nearest RCMP post and handed over some \$400 to be donated to the orphan children of London, England. Old Crow then raised more money for the Russian Relief Fund and for the relief of Chinese victims of the war.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Status Indians who joined the military were given enfranchisement rights when they enlisted. However, when Status Indian veterans returned from the Second World War they learned the enfranchisement rights meant they had lost their Indian Status which included living on a reserve with the benefits guaranteed under the Indian Act. Five years after the end of the Second World War, Canada entered the Korean War and several hundred Indigenous Canadians participated in this conflict. At least one Indigenous Canadian soldier participated in the Vietnam War. In 1994, Manitoba was the first province to recognize November 8th as Aboriginal Veterans Day. It was not until 1995 - fifty years after the Second World War - that Indigenous Peoples were allowed to lay wreaths at the National War Memorial. The National Aboriginal Veterans War Memorial was unveiled in Ottawa in 2001. On June 6, 2005, the 61st anniversary of D-Day, twenty Indigenous veterans of the Second World War were honoured at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery in France, near Juno Beach. At least 33 Indigenous soldiers are buried at the Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery. Today, a diverse contingent of more than 1,200 First Nations, Inuit and Métis people serve with the Canadian Armed Forces, representing many distinct cultures and over 55 dialects.
Personal Question	(Pause) How does this Land Acknowledgment encourage you to take action this month?
Club Commitment	(Pause) Our CFUW Mission Statement commits us to strive to promote equality, social justice and lifelong learning. That includes working towards truth, healing, justice and reconciliation. Please join in this action to increase your understanding of the Land Acknowledgement.

Note: Information courtesy of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc.

Interested in Learning More? Check out:

Indigenous Veterans – the history of Indigenous veterans in Canada including the history through the wars, personal stories, the Canadian Rangers, the Code Talkers and more. - <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/indigenous-veterans>

Indigenous Veterans – Equals on the battlefields but not at home - <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/indigenous-veterans>

14 Facts you may not know about the contributions of Indigenous Veterans - <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/14-facts-you-may-not-know-about-contributions-of-indigenous-veterans>

Michelle Good – Five Little Indians - <https://www.harpercollins.ca/9781443459181/five-little-indians/>

Michelle Good - Truth telling - <https://www.harpercollins.ca/9781443467810/truth-telling/>