



# Valour Canada

## **Remembrance Day Package**

This package is designed to facilitate planning and presentation of a Remembrance Day event.

### Learning Objectives:

- ✚ Recall and commemorate lives lost during war.

**VALOUR  
CANADA**



**CONNECTING  
CANADIANS  
TO THEIR MILITARY  
HERITAGE**

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- Valour Canada

## Remembrance Day Package

The following package was created by Valour Canada to assist educators and facilitators of learning with the implementation of a Remembrance Day event or ceremony. The instructions below are merely a rough outline and can be amended or changed to meet situational needs.

### 1. Introduction

Provide students with an overview of Remembrance Day. Below are some starting questions to initiate discussion:

- What is Remembrance Day?
- What/who are we remembering?
- Why is Remembrance Day in Canada on November 11?
- What does the red poppy signify?

Additional upper level thinking questions:

- To what extent are war memorials sites of memory?
- In what ways has the memory of Canada's military history been constructed? Is there any group of people excluded?
- How has art, poetry, and literature contributed to Canada's war memory and Remembrance Day events?

Videos and online documentaries can also be used to start a discussion.

### 2. Poem

In 1915, John McCrae penned *In Flanders Fields*, one of the most well-known poems written during the First World War. Recite the poem, giving students a few moments to comprehend the significance of its words and overall meaning.

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

A PowerPoint presentation can accompany the recital, or it can be read by students with no visual aids. For a list of additional Remembrance Day poems, please visit [Veterans Affairs Canada](http://Veterans Affairs Canada).

### 3. Acts of remembrance

Think of ways in which, as a community, you can make a difference in the lives of current serving soldiers or can draw attention to the history of Remembrance Day in Canada.

Students may:

- Write a letter to a serving soldier. For more information, visit [Write to the Troops](#).
- Watch videos/documentaries in class about soldiers who served in the First or Second World War, Korea, in Rwanda, and/or Afghanistan. Visit [Valour Canada's YouTube](#) page for a selection of videos.
- Visit a local museum or memorial.
- Visit digital exhibits, such as Valour Canada's [Veteran's Voices](#), a collaborative digital exhibit to recognize Canadian efforts during the Second World War.
- Design their own poppies and adorn them throughout their school's hallway.
- Organize and donate to food or charity drives for local veteran's association or the Royal Canadian Legion.

The goal is to encourage students to reflect on the concepts of remembrance and commemoration while providing avenues for them to get involved in their community.

### 4. Two Minutes of Silence

Observe two minutes of silence for the fallen.

### 5. Planner/Scheduler for In-School Ceremonies

For larger ceremonies, please find attached a Remembrance Day organizer. Consider how students/volunteers can assist in the following positions:

- Guest speakers
  - For a woman speaker: <https://womenveteranspeakers.com/>
  - If an in-person interview is not possible, Veterans Canada offers several recorded online interviews: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/heroes-remember>
  - National Veterans' Week Speakers Program: <http://dgpapp.forces.gc.ca/en/vet/index.asp>
  - Book a speaker with the Memory Project (available year-round): <http://www.thememoryproject.com/book-a-speaker>
- Piper or Bugler
  - If no one is available to play the piper live, it is recommended to use a recording. For a recording of The Last Post by a bugler, consult the following: <https://youtu.be/McCDWYgVyys>
- Wreath layer
  - Schools or classrooms can order wreaths online from their local Canadian Legion: <https://www.legion.ca/remembrance/remembrance-day/ordering-wreaths>

- Poem recital
  - Students or veterans can recite *In Flanders Fields*, or another Remembrance Day poem. Other poems can be found here:  
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/get-involved/guide-to-commemorative-services/poems#flanders>
- Creating a slideshow
  - Students or teachers can create a slideshow of images related to Remembrance Day to accompany the recital of *In Flanders Fields* or to be shown on its own.

Time	Activity	Student/Volunteer/Staff
	Entrance	
	Opening Remarks	
	Guest Speaker 1	
	Poems/Slideshow	
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Two Minutes Silence	
	Guest Speaker 2	
	Piper or Bugler	
	Wreath Laying	
	Closing	

## 6. Additional Resources

The following list has been compiled to assist educators, instructors, parents, and interested students with further research on Remembrance Day topics and the histories of Canadians in the last century. Please note, some items will appear in more than one category.

### ● **Canada and the World Wars**

Black, Dan. *Harry Livingstone's Forgotten Men: Canadians and the Chinese Labour Corps in the First World War*. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 2019.

Broad, Graham. *One in a Thousand: The Life and Death of Captain Eddie McKay, Royal Flying Corps*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017.

Calvert, Raes, and Sean Harris Oliver. *Redpatch*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2019.

Glassford, Sarah, and Amy Shaw, eds. *Making the Best of It: Women and Girls of Canada and Newfoundland during the Second World War*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2020.

Granfield, Linda. *In Flanders Fields: The Story of the Poem by John McCrae*. Doubleday Book for Young Readers, 1996.

Granfield, Linda. *The Vimy Oaks: A Journey to Peace*. Scholastic Canada, 2017.

Gunn, Roger. *Raymond Collishaw and the Black Flight*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2013.

Horrall, Andrew, "The Foreigners from Broad Street: the Ukrainian Sojourners from Ottawa who Fought for Canada in the First World War," *Histoire Sociale/Social History*, vol. 49, no. 98, May 2016, 73-103.

Kordan, Bohdan S. *No Free Man: Canada, the Great War, and the Enemy Alien Experience*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP, 2016.

Lackenbauer, Whitney & Katherine McGowan, "Indigenous Nationalisms and the Great War: Enlisting the Six Nations in the Canadian Expeditionary Force" in Lackenbauer, Whitney & Craig Mantle, eds., *Aboriginal Peoples and the Canadian Military: Historical Perspectives*. Kingston: Canadian Defence Academy Press, 2007.

McInnes, Brian D. *Sounding Thunder: The Stories of Francis Pegahmagabow*. Winnipeg: Univ. of Manitoba Press, 2016.

McKenzie, Andrea, ed., *War-Torn Exchanges: The Lives and Letters of Nursing Sisters Laura Holland and Mildred Forbes*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2016.

Ruck, Calvin Woodrow. *The Black Battalion: 1916-1920: Canada's Best Kept Military Secret*. Halifax: Nimbus Pub., 1987.

Rutherford, Robert Allen. *Hometown Horizons: Local Responses to Canada's Great War*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2004.

Shaw, Melissa, "Most Anxious to Serve Their King and Country: Black Canadians' Fight to Enlist in WWI and Emerging Race Consciousness in Ontario, 1914-1919, *Histoire Sociale/Social History*, vol. 49, no. 100, Nov. 2016, 543-580.

Sheffield, R. Scott, and Noah Riseman. *Indigenous Peoples and the Second World War: The Politics, Experiences and Legacies of War in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Toman, Cynthia. *Sister Soldiers of the Great War: The Nurses of the Canadian Army Medical Corps*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2016.

Winegard, Timothy Charles. *For King and Kanata: Canadian Indians and the First World War*. Winnipeg: Univ. of Manitoba Press, 2012.

Zuehlke, Mark. *Through Blood and Sweat: A Remembrance Trek Across Sicily's World War II Battlegrounds*. Madeira Park: D & M Publishers, 2015.

#### ● **Canada post-1945**

Barris, Ted. *Breaking the Silence: Veterans' Untold Stories from the Great War to Afghanistan*. Markham: Dundurn, 2011.

Goddard, Sally. *Canada's Daughter: The Story of Captain Nichola Goddard*. Grandview: Underhill Books, 2017.

Granfield, Linda. *The Road to Afghanistan*. Scholastic Canada, 2013.

Granfield, Linda. *I Remember Korea: Veterans Tell Their Stories of the Korean War, 1950-53*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2003.

#### ● **Poetry**

Graham, Desmond. *Poetry of The Second World War*. London: Random House, 2011.

Granfield, Linda. *In Flanders Fields: The Story of the Poem by John McCrae*. Doubleday Book for Young Readers, 1996.

McCrae, John. *In Flanders Fields and Other Poems*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2015.

Walter, Matthew George. *The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry*. London: Penguin UK, 2006.

#### ● **Plays**

Brockmann, Barbara. *Remembrance Day Plays for Schools and Communities: Grades 5 to 12*. Napanee: On The Mark Press, 2010.

Calvert, Raes, and Sean Harris Oliver. *Redpatch*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2019.

#### ● **Illustrated Works**

Creasey, Eleanor. *On Remembrance Day*. Toronto: Dundurn, 2014.

Foran, Jill. *Remembrance Day*. Calgary: Weigl Educational Pub Limited, 2009.

Granfield, Linda. *In Flanders Fields: The Story of the Poem by John McCrae*. Doubleday Book for Young Readers, 1996.

Granfield, Linda. *The Road to Afghanistan*. Scholastic Canada, 2013.

Granfield, Linda. *The Unknown Soldier*. Scholastic Canada, 2008.

Granfield, Linda. *The Vimy Oaks: A Journey to Peace*. Scholastic Canada, 2017.

Innes, Stephanie, and Harry Endrulat. *A Bear in War*. Toronto: Pajama Press Inc., 2012.

Lightburn, Ron, and Heather Patterson. *A Poppy Is to Remember*. North Winds Press, 2004.

### ● **Personal Stories/Memoirs**

Bieler, Philippe E. *Onward, Dear Boys: A Family Memoir of the Great War*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP, 2014.

Broad, Graham. *One in a Thousand: The Life and Death of Captain Eddie McKay, Royal Flying Corps*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017.

Goddard, Sally. *Canada's Daughter: The Story of Captain Nichola Goddard*. Grandview: Underhill Books, 2017.

Granfield, Linda. *I Remember Korea: Veterans Tell Their Stories of the Korean War, 1950-53*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2003.

McKenzie, Andrea, ed. *War-Torn Exchanges: The Lives and Letters of Nursing Sisters Laura Holland and Mildred Forbes*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2016

### ● **Memory and Commemoration**

Morgan, Cecilia. *Commemorating Canada: History, Heritage, and Memory, 1850s-1990s*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016.

Saunders, Nicholas J. *The Poppy: A Cultural History from Ancient Egypt to Flanders Fields to Afghanistan*. London: Simon and Schuster, 2013.

Vance, Jonathan F. *Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning, and the First World War*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011.

### ● **Art Works**

For a vast array of war art, visit the [Canadian War Museums Online catalogue](#).

For military history articles or educational lesson plans and classroom resources, please visit [Valour Canada's Education page](#).