



VSB – INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

**INDIGENOUS
VETERANS DAY
NOV 8**

INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

REMEMBRANCE DAY IS NOT THE ONLY DAY WE COMMEMORATE OUR VETERANS

Indigenous people in Canada have reason to be proud of their wartime contributions. More than 7,000 First Nations members served in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, and an unknown number of Inuit, Métis and other Indigenous people also participated. One Veterans group estimates that 12,000 Indigenous men and women served in the three wars.

* We commemorate our Indigenous Veterans on both Remembrance Day and Indigenous Veterans Day



ABORIGINAL VETERANS MONUMENT

There are many Aboriginal-Canadian Veterans who have helped protect peace and freedom over the years. To honour them, the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument was unveiled in Ottawa in 2001. It has a large eagle on top, four men and women from different Aboriginal groups in the middle and sculptures of a grizzly bear, a caribou, a wolf and a bison around the outside. These animals have special symbolism in many Aboriginal-Canadian cultures.



Indigenous languages

Indigenous languages played a unique and crucial role in the wars. Often messages came from military officials to provide orders and instructions for troop movement, supply lines and other specifics. It was vital that they remained secret from enemy ears. After the coded messages had been received at their proper destination, they were translated back into English from Cree by another Indigenous "code-talker" and given to military officials to read.

Did you know - Indigenous people that served in the military were enfranchised. This meant that they had to surrender their Indian Status in order to serve. Enfranchised meant they signed away their, culture ancestry and heritage. They also could not live among their Indigenous family upon return from service.

RESOURCES (click on title to open / download on web browser)

[Canada Remembers Indigenous Veterans](#)

[Veterans Affairs Canada - Indigenous Veterans Page](#)

[Remembrance Dog Tags \(Lesson Plan ages 12-18\)](#)

[A Commemorative History of Aboriginal People In The Canadian Military](#)

[National Aboriginal Veterans Monument Activity](#)

[Remembrance Moments: Canada's Indigenous Veterans](#)

*Credits : Poppy Image Andy Everson K'ómoks First Nation .
Text adapted from veterans.gc.ca