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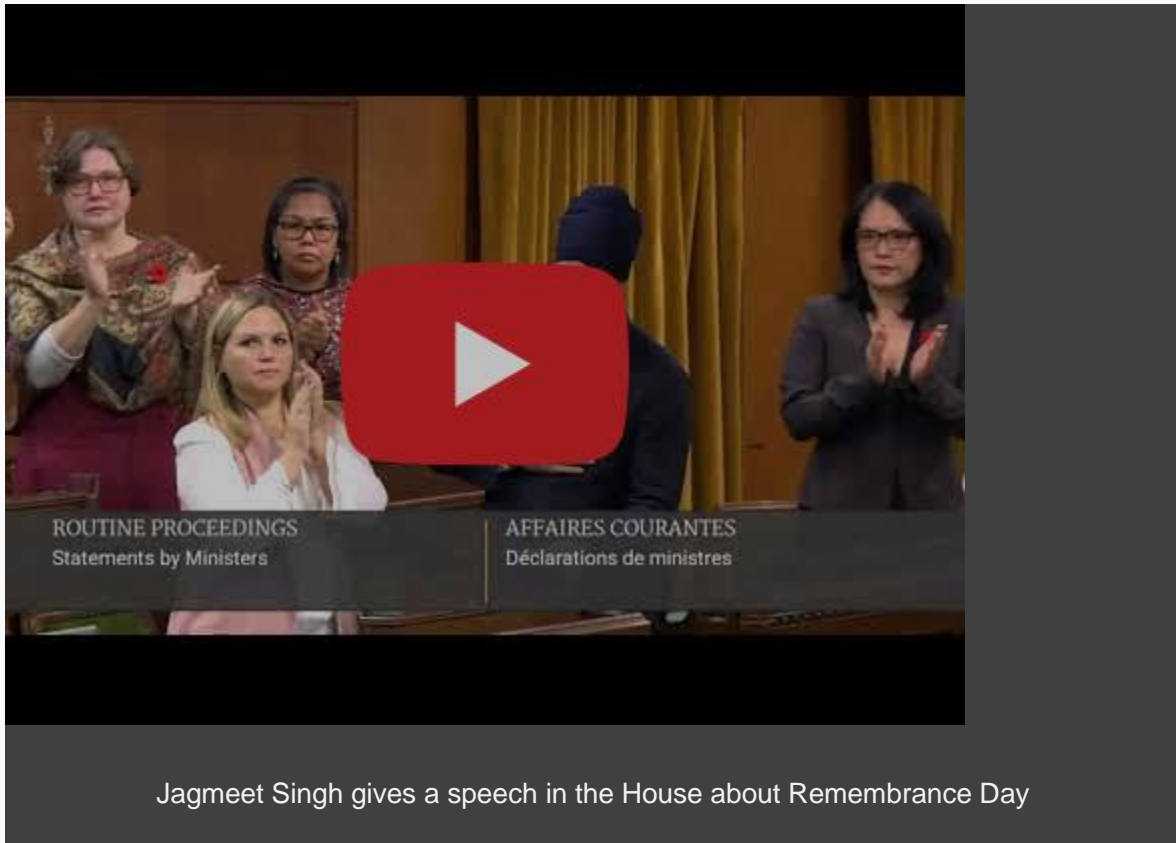
As NDP critic for Veterans Affairs, I have the distinct privilege of meeting with and advocating for the courageous people who have served in Canada's Armed Forces. Remembrance Day and the days of commemoration around it, are an important reminder of the sacrifices of Canada's Veterans and current military members, as well as what their families and loved ones have given up.

While we remember and honour the incredible heroism of our Veterans and current Armed Forces members, it is vital we give thought and thanks to the people whose crucial contributions have historically been ignored, or who were barred from serving due to systemic discrimination. Women, Indigenous peoples, and those who were part of the [LGBTQ purge](#) have fought to have their experiences heard and respected. The decision to enlist requires bravery, but for too many people that bravery has been disregarded.

In the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, I have heard too often from women Veterans that they feel invisible. For example, often at events, women wearing medals are asked if they are wearing their husband's, son's or father's medals. This completely discounts and diminishes the courageous acts of Canada's woman Veterans.

As we take the time in the upcoming week to reflect on our past, it's vital we don't make the same mistakes moving forward. All of Canada's Veterans deserve our heartfelt

respect, support, and gratitude.



Jagmeet Singh gives a speech in the House about Remembrance Day



Veterans Week

November 5-11 marks Veterans week. During this week there will be ceremonies and speeches across Canada to commemorate Canada's Veterans. This is an important time for us to reflect on the legacy of Canada's Armed Forces. It is also a time to honour those who have given so much in the service of Canadians. We must never forget those who have given so much to protect our rights and freedoms.

This Remembrance Day, I urge you to reflect on the people who answered the call that very few of us answer, and what they gave up in doing so.

I encourage everyone to support the [Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Campaign](#), which raises crucial funds to support Veterans and their families. These poppies are an important reminder about the sacrifices made throughout our history. They also bring to mind those Canadians who are currently serving or who have just returned home.



Photos from trip to South Korea. I was privileged and grateful to be among the Canadian guests invited to the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice in Korea in July, 2023.
All photos credited to Veterans Affairs Canada

National Indigenous Veterans Day

On November 8, we will observe National Indigenous Veterans Day, a day dedicated to honouring the courageous contributions of the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Peoples who

served in missions both in Canada and around the world. Many of these brave individuals lost their lives or suffered life-altering harm due to their service, yet still their heroic contributions are underappreciated.

Not only did they sacrifice their lives, but on return home they often sacrificed their status and their rights.

To those Indigenous people who have proudly served and continue to serve in Canada's military forces, I give my deepest gratitude. I remain firmly committed to addressing the pervasive discrimination that continues in our institutions, which too frequently dismisses and marginalizes Indigenous Peoples.

For those in North Island-Powell River, here is a list of the Remembrance Day events we know about at this time. Check Rachel's website for updates: [2023 Remembrance Day Ceremonies in North Island - Powell River « Canada's NDP](#)

POWELL RIVER, BC

[Royal Canadian Legion Powell River invites residents to ceremony - Powell River Peak \(prpeak.com\)](#)

Activities begin with a breakfast for veterans in the lower hall at the Legion (6811 Alexander Street), starting at 7 am. A bus transporting the veterans to the parade area in Townsite will depart the Legion at 9:15 am.

At 9:35 am, March on the Colours progresses to Dwight Hall, which precedes a service in Dwight Hall at 10 am.

The parade to the Cenotaph in Veteran's Memorial Park begins at 10:45 am, followed by recognition, remembrance, prayers and a salute to veterans at 10:56 am.

Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to enjoy lunch and entertainment back at the Legion (6811 Alexander St, Powell River, BC V8A 2A9).

PORT HARDY, BC

District of Port Hardy [Facebook](#)

10:30 am at the Port Hardy Cenotaph at Carrot Park, Market Street, Port Hardy, BC V0N 2P0

Following the ceremony, everyone is invited to a reception at the Port Hardy Legion at 4965 Beaver Harbour Rd.

PORT ALICE, BC

10:50 a.m. – Remembrance Day service at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 180 (821 Marine Drive, Port Alice)

PORT MCNEILL, BC

10:40 a.m. – Parade starts at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 281 (2631 Mine Rd, Port McNeill)

11:00 a.m. – Ceremony at the Cenotaph (corner of McNeill Rd and Campbell Way)

CAMPBELL RIVER, BC

10:45 a.m. – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 137 (301 – 11th Avenue, Campbell River)

11:00 a.m. – Ceremony at the Cenotaph (Shopper's Row)

QUADRA ISLAND, BC

10:45 a.m. – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 154 (1503 W Road, Quathiaski Cove)

SAYWARD, BC

10:45 a.m. – Royal Canadian Legion Branch 147 (699 Sayward Rd, Sayward)

GOLD RIVER, BC

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/198098286908434/permalink/7154215927963267/?mibextid=oMANbw>

Remembrance Day Itinerary:

10:00 am Services at St. Peter's Church

10:30 am March to Legion parking lot from Church (405 Trumpeter Dr, Gold River, BC V0P 1G0)

11:00 am Ceremonies at Cenotaph in Legion parking lot

11:45 Community Luncheon in the Legion Lounge - Bar will be open & minors are permitted

COMOX, BC

10:30 - Parade starts

10:45 - Remembrance Day Ceremony with a march past the branch

11:15- Reception for dignitaries, Legion members and the community in the Beaufort Avenue Pub (1825 Comox Ave, Comox, BC V9M 3M3) at the conclusion of the official ceremony.

As always, I want to hear from you. Please email me at Rachel.Blaney@parl.gc.ca with your concerns and priorities so I can advocate for you.

Sincerely,



Rachel Blaney, MP
North Island - Powell River



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