

LOCAL 38 ANTIRACIST TEACHERS NETWORK

THE FORGOTTEN VOICES OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

Introduction

With Remembrance Day approaching, we would like schools to consider who is often forgotten or left out from our Remembrance Day programming. How do we acknowledge Canada's historical context of not recognizing Indigenous, Black, or other marginalized soldiers once they had returned from service? How can we address and include the contributions of these soldiers as we move forward? How can we commemorate the efforts of Canada's military without glamorizing war, and honour the lived experiences of families impacted and displaced by war? These are some of the challenges faced by educators committed to creating safe, inclusive and equitable schools.

This special resource is compiled by educators of the ATA Local 38 Antiracist Teachers Network. It is meant to help build educator understanding and capacity, with hopes that you will then use it to share your learnings with your school community. This is not to exclude our traditionally recognized veterans, but rather to share resources with schools in order to honour all those who served for Canada, including those who have been historically excluded in the past.

The Anti-Racist Teachers Network would like to acknowledge that while we try our best to compile as many resources and voices, we know we will inevitably miss something. We encourage Local 38 members to reach out with your resources, and we will be updating this resource yearly to ensure there are up to date diverse materials available for schools to work towards creating an inclusive commemoration of Remembrance Day.

Content

Remembrance Day
Considerations for Schools

PAGE 01

Indigenous Veterans

PAGE 02

Black Veterans

PAGE 03

Asian Veterans

PAGE 04

Jewish Veterans

PAGE 05

The Human Impacts of War
and Conflict

PAGE 06 & 07

Women and 2SLGTBQIAA+
Veterans

PAGE 08



Considerations for Remembrance Day

While considering how we can create an inclusive recognition of Remembrance Day, we came across the KOJO institute's blog post with considerations on how to create an equity-informed Remembrance Day. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

The KOJO institute provides a list of considerations for schools, which includes:

- Including lessons and/or assignments on racialized soldiers, the women and racialized men who operated the factories that supported war efforts, and why they were not permitted to serve in battle
- Adding stories, poetry, and other forms of content from and by Black and Indigenous soldiers and their families
- Incorporating relevant cultural music such as African or Indigenous drumming along with traditional music such as the Last Post
- Intentionally discussing the overlap of Black and Indigenous history with Canadian War history
- Expanding Remembrance Day curricula to include critical conversations about the impact of WWI and WWII on racialized people in Canada—particularly the oppression of Black and Indigenous soldiers, the internment of Japanese Canadians, and Canada's refusal to accept European Jews as refugees during the Holocaust.
- Broadening conversations around Remembrance Day to consider the impact of war—namely violence and exploitation—on the civilians of countries where war takes place.
- Exploring alternate methods of conflict resolution that could limit or eliminate the need for violent intervention and war.

(Kojo Institute, 2020)

Reflective Questions for Educators and Schools to consider:

1. In what ways can we recognize the experiences of civilians who were/are impacted by war in their countries?
2. How can we recognize and include the contributions and service of racialized soldiers?
3. How can we use this opportunity to explore alternate methods of conflict resolution?

“The army let us join, but wouldn't let us fight. They gave us shovels, not rifles.”



INDIGENOUS VETERANS

Resources for Educators

Resource - [Indigenous War Heroes - Teacher's Guide - Wasuaksing First Nation](#)
Resource - [Defining Moments Canada - Indigenous Veterans Part 1](#) (Lesson Plan)
Resource - [Defining Moments Canada - Indigenous Veterans Part 2](#) (Lesson Plan)
Resource - [The Memory Project - Indigenous Peoples and 20th Century Canadian Military History](#)
Resource - [Remembrance Dog Tags - Fallen Indigenous Service Members](#)
Resource - [Canada's History Cree Code Talkers](#) (Lesson Plan)
Resource - [Putting it into Perspective: First Nations Soldiers in the First World War](#) (Lesson Plan)
Resource - [A Commemorative History of Aboriginal People in the Canadian Military](#)

Website - [Veteran Affairs Canada - Indigenous Veterans](#)
Website - [Canadian War Museum - Indigenous Stories](#)
Website - [Aboriginal Veterans Tribute Honour List](#)
Article - [14 Facts You May Not Know About Indigenous Veterans](#)
Article - [Indigenous War Heroes - More Than a Few Good Men](#)
Article - [Clifford George: Second World War Veteran, Korean Conflict Veterans, and Indigenous Land Defender](#)
Article - [Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada - Veterans](#)
Article - [Remembering and Honouring Indigenous War Heroes: World War 1 & 2](#)
Article - [The Canadian Encyclopedia - Cree Code Talkers](#)
Article - [Fighting for Recognition](#)

Video - [Honouring First Nations Veterans](#)
Video - [Cree Code Talker](#)
Video - [Edith Monture - The First Native Canadian Registered Nurse](#)
Video - [Remembrance Moments: Canada's Indigenous Veterans](#)
Video - [Honouring Indigenous Heroes: Tommy Prince Commemorative Project](#)
Video - [Hear the Untold Story of a Canadian Code Talker from World War II](#)
Video - [The Best Sniper of World War 1 - Francis Pegahmagabow](#)
Video - [Indigenous war veterans served a 'country that didn't want them](#)
Documentary - [Forgotten Warriors](#)

Book - Grandpa's Girls by Nicola Campbell (Elementary)
Book - Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code by Joseph Bruchac (Elementary)
Book - Meet Tom Longboat by Elizabeth MacLeod (Elementary)
Book - Indigenous Peoples in the World Wars by Simon Rose (Gr. 3-6)
Book - [When the Spirits Dance by Larry Loyie](#) (Gr. 5-9)
Book - [What the Eagle Sees](#) by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger (Gr. 5-12)
Book - The Scout: Tommy Prince by David A. Robertson
Book - [Sounding Thunder: The Stories of Francis Pegahmagabow](#)
Book - Redpatch by Sean Harris and Raes Calvert

Indian Veterans by Solomon Ratt

We were the
forgotten

of the 'lest we forget'

We were the
invisible
ghosts from The Rez

We had no obligation
to join.

We had to give up our
treaty status

We fought, we died,

our language was
used for secret
messages.

We stood side by side
with the other soldiers
in our victory.

We were cast aside
when we came back
home;
we didn't get the
benefits allotted other
veterans;
we didn't know
where to live since
we gave up our treaty
status

We were the forgotten
of the 'lest we forget'

We were the invisible
ghosts from The Rez.

Solomon Ratt is a Cree language professor at the First Nations University of Canada. This poem was written to honor and elevate the experiences of his relatives.



No. 2 Construction Battalion, C.E. 'A' Coy. Sgt. R.A. Deane. C.B. 1916.

BLACK VETERANS



Resources for Educators

Website - [Black Canadians Veterans Stories](#)

Website - [No. 2 Construction Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force](#)

Website - [Veteran Affairs Canada - Black Canadians in Uniform](#)

Website - [Canadian War Museum - Black Canadian Stories](#)

Interactive Map - [No. 2 Construction Battalion Journey Map](#)

Article - [The Canadian Encyclopedia - No. 2 Construction Battalion](#)

Article - [Black Soldiers in 19th Century Canada](#)

Article - [Black Volunteers in the Canadian Expeditionary Force](#)

Article - [Black Canadian fought racism, discrimination to fight in Second World War](#)

Article - [George Morton and the Fight to Fight: Black Volunteers in the First World War](#)

Article - ['She didn't hesitate': The untold story behind a Black Canadian woman's wartime portrait](#)

Article - [Remembering a Black Soldier in a 'White Man's War'](#)

Article - [Asian and Black Canadians at Vimy Ridge](#)

Article - [Black Canadians and Canada's Military](#)

Article - [Black Battalion - Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia](#)

Article - [African American Poetry of WWI](#)

Article - [Jeremiah Jones, Samuel Watts, Rocky Jones, Henry Thomas Shepard](#)

Video - [Black Liberators WWII](#)

Video - [Canada's First Black Battalion](#)

Video - [Canada's Black Battalion Made History in WWI](#)

Video - [Remembering No. 2 Construction Battalion](#)

Video - [Black Heritage Matters: Black Canadian Veteran Stories with Kathy Grant](#)

Video - [The fight to fight: Canada's No. 2 Construction Battalion](#)

Video - [Black Canadians in the Second World War](#)

Video - [The Contribution of Black Soldiers in the Fight for Canada](#)

Podcast - [Historica Canada - No.2 Construction Battalion and the fight to fight.](#)

Podcast - [Black Canadian Veterans with Kathy Grant](#)

Interviews - [Heroes Remember Interviews](#)

Book - [We Remember the Black Battalion by Serena Virk](#)

Book - [African Canadians in Union Blue by Richard M. Reid](#)

Book - [The Black Battalion 1916-1920: Canada's Best Kept Military Secret by Calvin W. Ruck](#)



No. 2 Construction Battalion marching band in Truro, Nova Scotia in 1916.

Photo: Maritime Command Museum

The Crisis (We Return)
by W.E.B. Du Bois

We return.
We return from fighting.
We return fighting.



THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN VETERANS



CHINESE VETERANS

Resource - [The Memory Project - The Contributions of Chinese Canadians in the Second World War](#)

Resource - [Louie Brothers \(Lesson Plan\)](#)

Website - [Veteran Affairs Canada - Chinese Canadians](#)

Website - [Chinese Canadian Military Museum](#)

Website - [Operation Oblivion](#)

Article - [Victoria Chinese Canadian Veterans Association](#)

Article - [Chinese Canadians of Force 136](#)

Article - [Chinese Canadian Secret Warriors in the Pacific, 1944-46](#)

Article - [Force 136](#)

Article - [Chinese Canadian Women in the War](#)

Documentary - [National Film Board - Unwanted Soldiers](#)

Video - [Force 136 - Chinese Canadian Heroes](#)

Video - [Forgotten Chinese-Canadian fought in WWI](#)

Video - [Double Victory: Chinese Canadians in the Second World War](#)

Podcast - [History Slam 139: Canadians and the Chinese Labour Corps in WW1](#)

Interviews - [Government of Canada - Heroes Remember](#)

SIKH VETERANS

Article - [Race politics whitewashed Canadian history. It is time to recognize India's contribution to the first World War](#)

Article - [Buckam Singh and Sikh Canadians in the First World War](#)

Article - [Meet Private Buckam Singh, one of the first Sikh soldiers to serve Canada](#)

Resource - [Sikh Canadian Military Service](#)

Podcast - [The Secret Life of Canada - Shout out to Private Buckam Singh](#)

Video - Documentary - [Canadian Soldier Sikhs - A Little Story in a Big War](#)

Website - [Sikh Museum Private Buckam Singh](#)

Book - [Duty, Honour & Izzat: From Golden Fields to Crimson - Punjab's Brothers in Arms in Flanders](#)

JAPANESE VETERANS

Article - [Japanese-Canadian WWI veterans, once forgotten, remembered by new plaque](#)

Article - [Masumi Mitsui](#)

Article - [The Way of the Warrior](#)

Article - [Lest We Forget](#)

Article - [Remembering Japanese Efforts in the World Wars](#)

Article - [Japanese Canadians in the World Wars](#)

Article - [Masumi Mitsui - From Vimy to Juno](#)

Video - [100-year-old Japanese-Canadian war veteran, journalist recounts his remarkable life](#)

Video - [Nikkei Stories - Masumi Mitsui](#)

Video - [Japanese Canadian War Memorial 100th Anniversary](#)

Video - [Japanese Canadian War Memorial, Vancouver, British Columbia](#)

OTHER RESOURCES

Article - [Asian Canadians and Canada's Military](#)

Article - [The Story of Canada's Hong Kong Veterans](#)

Article - [Asian and Black Canadians at Vimy Ridge](#)

Article - [RMC honours lone Muslim Canadian known to have died in WW1](#)



Jewish Canadian Veterans

Podcast - [Double Threat with Ellin Bessner](#)

Website - [Jewish Canadian service in the Second World War](#)

Website - [Jewish War Veterans of Canada](#)

Article - [War and Peace - Jewish Canadians in the Canadian Armed Forces](#)

Article - [Jewish Canadian women in uniform in WWII deserve a nod on International Women's Day](#)

Article - [She Also Served: Bringing to Light the Contributions of the Canadian Jewish Servicewomen of the Second World War](#)

Article - [She Also Served - Jewish Canadian Servicewomen in the Second World War Art Exhibition](#)

Article - [The Futility of War: Jewish Soldiers of WW1](#)

Article - [Veterans Affairs Canada tells Alex Polowin's Story](#)

Video - [Bringing new life to story of Jewish-Canadian war hero](#)

Book - [Double Threat: Canadian Jews, The Military, and World War II](#) by Ellin Bessner

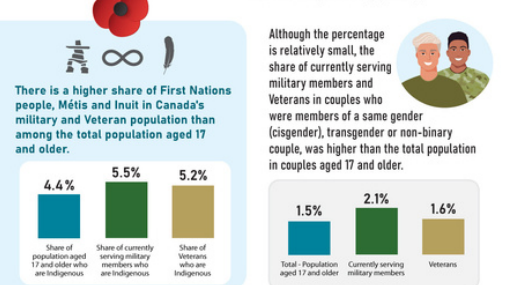
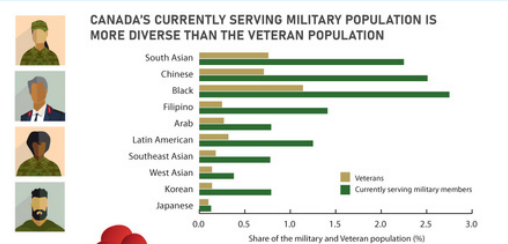
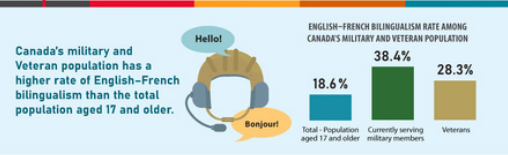
DOUBLE THREAT

CANADIAN JEWS, THE MILITARY, AND WORLD WAR II



ELLIN BESSNER

Diversity of Canada's Veterans and military population



For more information, please consult: The Daily/https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/220719/0220719-eng.htm
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2021.
© His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Industry, 2022



THE HUMAN IMPACTS OF WAR AND CONFLICT

Resources for Educators

- Resource - [25 Years Children in Armed Conflict](#)
- Resource - [The Impacts and Effects of War on Children](#)
- Resource - [War Childhood Museum \(online\)](#)
- Resource - [“Boat People” Refugees](#)
- Resource - [War | Poetry in Voice](#)
- Resource - [Children in War & Conflict](#)
- Resource - [Ododo Wa: Stories of Girls in War](#)
- Resource - [The UN Refugee Agency](#)
- Resource - [Over, Under, Sideways, Down - Ebrahim’s Story by Karrie Fransman \(Online Graphic Novel\)](#)
- Resource - [The Boat \(Online Graphic Novel\)](#)
- Resource - [CrisisWatch from International Crisis Group](#)
- Resource - [War Victims | NFB](#)

- Article - [Armed Conflict- Amnesty International](#)
- Article - [Conflict and Climate](#)
- Article - [Impact of War on Children](#)
- Article - [What Happened To People Displaced in WW2](#)

Organization - [Center for Civilians in Conflict](#)

Podcast - [The Voices Of War](#)

Books

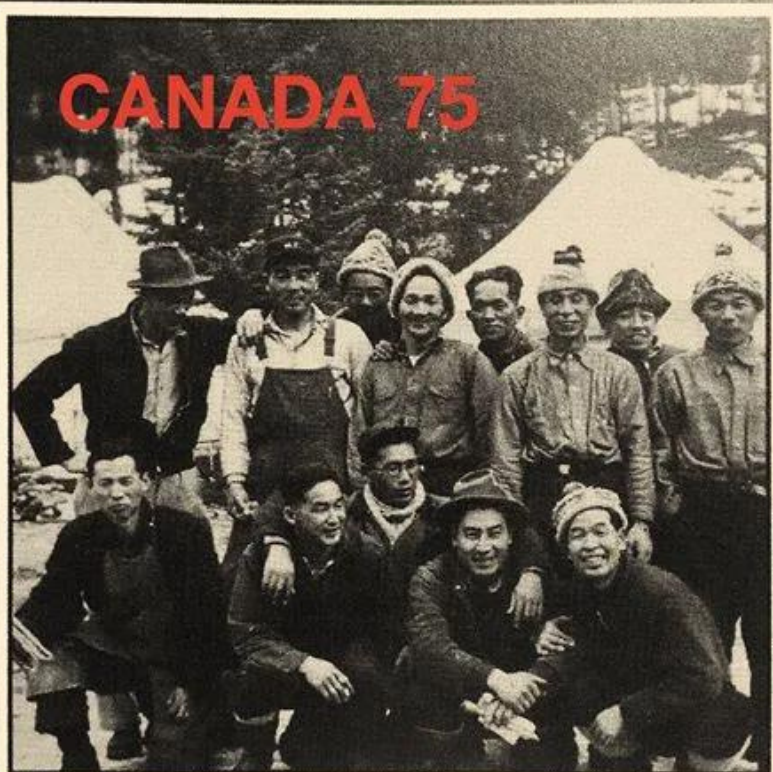
For Students

- [Mustafa](#) by Marie-Louise Gay (K-4)
- [The Paper Boat](#) by Thao Lam (K-4)
- [Saving the Butterfly: A Story About Refugees](#) by Helen Cooper (K-4)
- [I Am Both: A Vietnamese Refugee Story](#) by Kerisa Greene (K-4)
- [Tani's New Home: A Refugee Finds Hope And Kindness In America](#) by Tonitoluwa Adewumi (K-4)
- [Stealing Home](#) by J. Torres (K-4)
- [World In Between: Based On A True Refugee Story](#) by Kenan Trebinovic & Susan Shapiro (Gr. 5-9)
- [Finding Home: The Journey Of Immigrants And Refugees](#) by Jen Sookfong Lee (Gr. 5-9)
- [Alone: The Journeys of Three Young Refugees](#) by Paul Tom (Gr. 5-9)
- [Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees](#) by Mary Beth Leatherdale (Gr. 5-9)
- [Muzoon: A Syrian Refugee Speaks Out](#) by Muzoon Almelhan & Wendy Pearlman (Gr. 5-9)
- [We Are Displaced: My Journey And Stories From Refugee Girls Around The World](#) by Malala Yousafzai (Gr. 10-12)
- [A Grain of Rice by Nhung Tran-Davies](#) (Gr.6-12)
- [Ink Knows No Borders Poems Of The Immigrant And Refugee Experience](#) - Edited by Patrice Vecchione & Alyssa Raymond (Gr.6-12)
- [Homes](#) by Abu Bakr al Rabeeah & Winnie Yeung (Gr. 6-12)

For Educators

- [Vi](#) by Kim Thúy, translated by Sheila Fischman
- [Too Young to Escape](#) by Van Ho and Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch
- [The Naked Don't Fear the Water: An Underground Journey with Afghan Refugees](#) by Matthieu Aikins
- [A Thousand Farewells: A Reporter's Journey From Refugee Camp To The Arab Spring](#) by Nahlah Ayed
- [Finding Refuge in Canada: Narratives of Dislocation](#) - Edited by George Melnyk, Christina Parker
- [The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You](#) by Dina Nayeri
- [What We Remember Will Be Saved: A Story of Refugees and the Things They Carry](#) by Stephanie Saldana

THE HUMAN IMPACTS OF WAR AND CONFLICT



1942: The forced removal and confinement of Canadians of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War represents another deeply racist series of events in Canada's history. Some 22,000 Canadian citizens and residents were taken from their homes on Canada's West Coast, without any charge or due process, and exiled to camps in remote areas of British Columbia, and other parts of the country. As further insult, the federal government stripped these citizens of their property and land, then pressured them to accept deportation or exile east after the war ended. Seventy-five years have passed since Canada labelled Japanese Canadians "enemy aliens". We observe the 75th anniversary to bring awareness and honour the survivors.
Geikie Road Internment Camp, B.C.

Japanese Internment Camps

Book - [The Emperor's Orphans](#) by Sally Ito

Book - [Forgiveness](#) by Mark Sakamoto

Book - [Obasan](#) by Joy Kogawa

Book - [After the Bloom](#) by Leslie

Shimotakahara

Book - [The Three Pleasures](#) by Terry Watada

Video - [Japanese Canadian Internment I](#)
[Narrated by David Suzuki](#)

Video - [National Film Board - Japanese Internment Playlist](#)

Video - [Japanese Canadian seniors reflect on being forced into WWII internment camps](#)

Video - [Nikkei Stories - Internment](#)

Video - [In Reflection: David Suzuki](#)

Resource - [Internment and Redress](#) (Lesson Plan)

Resource - [Japanese Canadian Internment through two children's books](#) (Unit Plan)

Resource - [Internment Era Timeline](#)

Resource - [Landscapes of Injustice](#) (Intermediate Grades)

Resource - [Voices in Action - WWII Japanese Internment Camps](#)

Article - [Japanese Canadian Internment: Prisoners in their own Country](#)

Article - [Japanese Canadian Internment and the Struggle for Redress](#)

Article - [Japanese Canadian Timeline](#)

WOMEN AND 2SLGBTQIAA+ VETERANS

“When the history of this war is recorded, it will be found that the victory was in no small manner due to the noble efforts put forth in a thousand and one different ways by the women.”

FEMALE VETERANS

Website - [Women - Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

Article - [Timeline - Women and War](#)

Article - [Women are a growing group of Canadian military veterans, but services are lagging](#)

Article - [Women in the Canadian Military](#)

Article - [“The Equal and Respected Companions of Men”: The Female Veteran of the Great War](#)

Article - [The Nursing Sisters of Canada](#)

Article - [Meet Sgt. Karen Hermeston](#)

Article - [Nichola Goddard](#)

Article - [Nichola Goddard - Valour Canada](#)

Article - [Chinese Canadian Women in the War](#)

Article - [Canadian Women's Army Corps](#)

Article - [Juno Beach Centre The Canadian Women's Army Corps](#)

Article - [Women Serving in the Canadian Armed Forces: Strengthening Military Capabilities and Operational Effectiveness](#)

Video - [Remembrance Moments: Canadian women and war](#)

Video - [Women in Canadian History: Michelle Douglas](#)
Video

2SLGBTQIAA+ VETERANS

Website - [Pride in service - Veterans Affairs Canada](#)

Website - [LGBT Purge Class Action](#)

Website - [Rainbow Veterans of Canada](#)

Website - [LGBT Purge Fund](#)

Article - [The Untold Queer History of WW1](#)

Article - [The LGBT Purge from the Canadian Public Service](#)

Article - [Albert “Bert” Sutcliffe – From Soldier to Activist](#)

Article - [Michelle Douglas](#)

Article - [Hidden love of Havelock men documented in early 20th-century photographs](#)

Article - [Local soldier key figure in queer history study](#)

Article - [Canada's Cold War Purge of LGBTQ from the Military](#)

Article - [Len and Cub: A Secret Love](#)

Podcast - [The Secret Life of Canada: The Fruit Machine](#)

Podcast - [Quickie: The Only Known Queer Man on the Vimy Memorial](#)

Video - [Women in Canadian History: Michelle Douglas](#)

Video - [The Fruit Machine Documentary by Sarah Fodey](#)

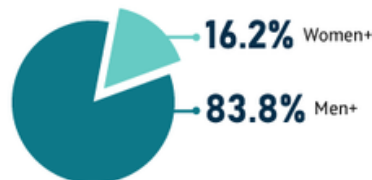
Video - [The Fruit Machine - It Gets Better Canada](#)

Video - [The Bizarre Tale of Canada's Literal Gaydar](#)

NEARLY ONE IN SIX VETERANS ARE WOMEN



GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF CANADIAN VETERANS



Note(s): Given that the non-binary population is small, data aggregation to a two-category gender variable is sometimes necessary to protect the confidentiality of responses provided. In these cases, individuals in the category "non-binary persons" are distributed into the other two gender categories and are denoted by the "+" symbol. The category "Women+" includes women, as well as some non-binary persons. The category "Men+" includes men, as well as some non-binary persons.

Source(s): Census of Population, 2021 (3901).