



Senator Pamela Wallin



Lloyd Robertson is still the country's longest serving and most trusted news anchor and it has been my true pleasure to work with him throughout the years on election campaigns and royal visits and so many of the moments that have shaped our nation's story. There was both celebration and sadness as we gathered to watch his final broadcast.



It was a family affair as I was officially installed as a member of Legion Branch #62 in Wadena. My father conducted the ceremony and long-time family friend and decorated veteran Mike Sowa was there to help us mark the occasion.

The last few months have been a bit of an emotional roller coaster—from a hard fought election campaign to a wonderful majority win and from a tearful reunion with the families as we marked the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy to the celebration of a National Day of Service to honour all those who lost their lives or who have sacrificed in the fight against terrorism.

A solid majority means we can now get down to work and move ahead with the agenda laid out by the Prime Minister and endorsed overwhelmingly by the Canadian public. Our country is the envy of the world with our sound economic policies and performance but we know the situation is fragile so we will continue our pragmatic stewardship through the next year and government will lead by example, tightening our own belts as we ask others to do the same.

As promised, we have tabled our tough-on-crime legislation to help ensure safer communities and peace of mind, particularly for our seniors. On the international stage, we are not only an example on the economic front but we are showing leadership on defence and foreign policy, getting tough with dictators and bullies but asking the UN to step up and meet its obligations. As the Prime Minister so elegantly stated, Canada will be a “courageous warrior, a compassionate neighbour and a confident partner.”

We are moving ahead to provide choice for farmers when it comes to selling their wheat, and the costly, cumbersome long gun registry will finally be dismantled. And much-needed Senate reform, including term limits for senators is high on the agenda.

I spent much of the summer in Saskatchewan and it is great to feel the genuine excitement about what is going on in our province. From a family celebration marking the 100th anniversary of my mother's family farm near Viceroy to flying with the Snowbirds based in Moose Jaw, and from the legendary Saskatchewan Roughriders celebration of our military to some lazy days at the cabin at Fishing Lake it was a wonderful time. Even the devastating floods couldn't dampen the spirits and throughout the province we have seen some of the best crops in a long while.

Perhaps that's why Saskatchewanians overwhelmingly believe Premier Brad Wall is the right leader at the right time and for the right reasons. He is delivering solid economic growth and we are poised to be the fastest growing province in the country thanks to a strong resource sector and a rebound in agriculture. Potash production is way up and exploration in the oil and gas sector is strong—and we can boast the country's lowest unemployment rate!

Now that is something to write home about.



Paying it forward – the National Day of Service

On the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, I had the honour of being in New York City with Prime Minister Harper and the families of the Canadians who lost their lives in the Twin Towers.

As always, it was a moving and emotional time. The Prime Minister, however, raised everyone's spirits when he granted the families their heartfelt wish—a declaration that from now on in Canada, each September 11th will be known as the National Day of Service.

Canadian families again gathered at the official residence where we had all first met when I was Canada's Consul General in New York. No one knew each other then, but we have become like family in the years since 9/11. That is why they came to me with the idea of a National Day Service, to ask if I would put it forward in the Senate of Canada. Unfortunately, the opposition stopped the idea at every turn, and the bill never came to a vote. However I'm very thankful that the Prime Minister willingly took up the cause so near and dear to the families and made the National Day of Service official.

So from now on September 11th will be a day when Canadians can engage in small acts of kindness and show a generosity of spirit in honour of the victims of terror, their families and the men and women who march into harms way every single day to fight terrorism.

This declaration is powerful because it is so simple. The families did not seek memorials, ceremonies or fanfare—just a reminder that we should always remember to pay it forward in memory of those who pay the ultimate price.

So on behalf of all of those touched by terror, next September 11th please think about the victims, their families and those who fight to protect us. And I urge you to do something for a stranger or someone in need—a small, unheralded act to show you care.



Twin shafts of light rise through the New York City sky as a memorial to those who were lost.



On 9/11 David Barkway lost his life when the terrorists flew planes into the twin towers. His wife Cindy was pregnant with their second son who is named David Jr. in his father's honour. Their older son Jamie shakes hands with the Prime Minister as a proud mother and grandmother look on. Jamie was among those chosen to read the names of the victims—including his father's name—at the official tenth anniversary commemoration at Ground Zero. The names of every person who died in the terrorist attacks are now permanently inscribed in bronze on the walls that surround the two reflecting pools of water—built on the exact footprints of the two towers.



As we have done so many times over the last ten years, the families of Canada's 9/11 victims gathered at their country's official residence in New York City. There were both tears and laughter as we caught up on how families had grown and how lives had changed. I had the honour of sharing with the families the news that their request for a designated National Day of Service would be honoured by the Prime Minister. He is pictured here along with his wife, Laureen, and the new Canadian Consul General John Prato and his wife, Dr. Lori Billinghamurst. And standing next to Lori is Hans Gerhardt. He and his wife Helga lost their son Ralph in the attacks on 9/11.

Toronto Police Officer Sgt Jose Camacho has been a tireless and passionate friend to his NYPD colleagues bringing supplies and reinforcements in the days after 9/11. Each year he organizes nearly 200 police officers who travel on their own time and at their own expense to march with fellow police officers and firefighters in New York City to honour their fallen. He presented his team of volunteers with a special medal for service. I received one as well for my work during my time as Consul General in New York post 9/11. He also organized an amazing honour guard at the new Commonwealth memorial at Hanover Square in New York.



Prime Minister Harper thanked the police and military honour guard who formed a ring around the new Queen Elizabeth the Second Garden—a memorial for all of the Commonwealth country victims of 9/11. The Garden, an oasis of calm in New York's busy financial district, is just a stone's throw from Ground Zero. It was a touching ceremony with a beautiful rendition of Amazing Grace and the Star Spangled Banner. This park will be maintained in perpetuity by generous donations from all Commonwealth countries and their respective business communities. For example Canadian banks such as RBC and CIBC, who have large operations in New York City, were generous, along with Scotiabank.

Quilt for an Injured Veteran as the Joyce Dann Story Continues...



Presenting Joyce with her lifetime membership in Branch #62, Royal Canadian Legion, Wadena, Sask.

In my last newsletter you all had a chance to read about the Joyce Dann story and how a series of chance encounters...let's call it serendipity...led me to discover that a long lost daughter of Wadena was one of seven service men and women depicted on the CVSM—the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal 1939-45.

A very young Joyce left the family farm in the Wadena area and volunteered for the Canadian Women's Army Corps and was—by chance—chosen to be a model for the medal. After the war Joyce married, and settled in British Columbia to raise her family. When she was widowed, she then moved to Ontario to be with her son Wayne Roberston.

Meanwhile, at an event I had not planned to attend (serendipity!) I struck up a conversation with local Saskatchewan military historian, Gordon Goddard, who asked if I knew the name of the mystery woman on the medal who—he was sure—had come from my hometown of Wadena. I immediately enlisted the help of my dad and his fellow veterans at the local Legion. Sure enough, Mike Sowa remembered Joyce and we finally tracked her down in Stoney Creek, Ontario.

In all her moves, she had lost her own CVS medal. So we decided to create a ceremony to present her with a new one and connect her – through the marvels of modern technology – with her hometown and her girlhood friends! In Wadena, local high school students were part of the ceremony via Skype! They were intrigued by their hometown hero which in turn sparked interest in the stories of other local veterans. It was a reunion, a history lesson and a multi-generational connection all rolled into one amazing day!

But the story doesn't end there. Joyce's daughter-in-law Linda, who runs a quilting business, asked me to present a beautiful homemade quilt to a wounded Afghanistan war veteran—her way of saying thank you for their service. The military soon connected us with Sgt Bjarne Nielsen of the Royal Canadian Regiment. On Canada Day 2010 Sgt Nielsen lost his left leg at the knee and had his left arm badly hurt when a Taliban IED exploded on a road near Kandahar, Afghanistan. We arranged to meet the young soldier at the Casualty Support Unit in Ottawa, where he was undergoing rehab. What a wonderful visit! And what an amazing man! Bjarne, who lives in with wife Maxine and 7-year-old daughter Heather in Cambridge, Ontario, warmly welcomed me, Leslie Natynczyk (wife of Canada's Chief of Defence Staff) and Eve Adams (Veterans Affairs Parliamentary Secretary). Bjarne is an irrepressible spirit—highly motivated, cheerful and optimistic. You just know when you meet him that he will walk—probably run—again soon. What a pleasure it was to present the quilt to such a remarkable soldier.



At the Casualty Support Unit in Ottawa. Sgt Bjarne Nielsen, Leslie Natynczyk (wife of Chief of Defence Staff, General Walt Natynczyk), Col Gerry Blais (Director, Canadian Forces Casualty Support Management), Eve Adams and me.



On the left is Eve Adams (Veterans Affairs Parliamentary Secretary), she joined Leslie and me to present this beautiful hand-made quilt to Sgt Bjarne Nielsen of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

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Exercise Maple Defender: CFB Wainwright



I get a close-up look at a Leopard C-2 tank of Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), the Edmonton-based armoured regiment.



Troops observe the live fire demonstration unfolding from atop a Light Armoured Vehicle—the LAV III.



Above: Wham! A Leopard C-2 tank fires its 105 mm L7A3 main gun, which uses either an armour-piercing fin-stabilized discarding sabot or a high explosive squash head round. The Leopard can move at up to 65 km/hr, firing continuously while moving over even rough terrain.

Right: Dassault Alpha jets "attack" from above. We needed sound suppressing headphones because of the noise.

In late August I was one of several parliamentarians privileged to observe the Canadian Army's annual Maple Defender exercise at CFB Wainwright, Alberta—home of the world class Canadian Manoeuvre Training Centre. Maple Defender is a Canadian Forces Reserves exercise, this year involving reservists from 32 Canadian Brigade Group in Toronto, part of Joint Task Force Central, and a contingent from the U.S.A.

In addition, the Army put on a firepower demonstration by the Edmonton-based Regular Force armoured regiment, Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), using Leopard C-2 tanks and LAV-III's (Light Armoured Vehicles).

As chair of the National Security and Defence committee, visits to military bases are invaluable in helping us understand our military and their training needs. They're true professionals.



Leopard tanks lead the charge.



Manitoba Senator Don Plett and I watch the manoeuvres and fire-power demonstration with MGen Steve Bowes, Commander, Land Force Doctrine and Training Systems (rear, at right).



High Flying Patriotism



Maj Ryan Stich, Snowbird 8, gives us safe ejection lessons. That's flight surgeon, LCdr Greg Haley, seated, and HCol John Cutsey looking on behind me.

What a thrill to fly with the Snowbirds! It was a gorgeous Canada Day on Parliament Hill with the Royals—William and Kate—looking on. Our Air Force Snowbirds were making their annual aerobatic flight over Parliament Hill where thousands of Canadians gather each year.

As Honourary Colonel of the Air Force this was an extraordinary opportunity. And the Snowbirds make a special effort to make sure that civilians are ready to fly. So hours earlier, I was at the Ottawa airport being readied for the flight. There were fittings for flight gear and repeated lessons on how to eject safely, should there be an emergency. One wonders whether you'd really have the time to pull the eject handle. Don't ask, don't tell!

My pilot for the flight was fellow Saskatchewanian, Capt Denis Bandet, from Regina. Capt Bandet came to the Snowbirds after flying CF-18 fighters out of Cold Lake and Bagotville. He flies Snowbird 6 in the outer right wing position.



Cpl Winston Rose, Snowbirds Aircraft Structures Technician, kits me out with a parachute.



During the pre-flight briefing, Chief of the Air Staff, LGen André Deschamps, points out the Snowbirds route on an aeronautical chart.

I wasn't the only guest invited to fly. Also on hand were fellow RCAF Honourary Colonels Michael Potter, founder of Vintage Wings of Canada and a former hi-tech entrepreneur, and John Cutsey from North Bay, an entrepreneur and community leader.

Some top guns were flying too—Chief of the Air Staff LGen André Deschamps, Chief of the Land Staff LGen Peter Devlin, and Deputy Minister of National Defence Ron Fonberg. Completing the roster was Flight Surgeon, Navy LCdr Greg Haley.



Snowbird 6: With Capt Denis Bandet in the moments before take off.



Snowbird Aviation Technician Cpl Mike Decker helps me get strapped in.



In the CT-114 Tutor jet, it's side-by-side seating—and very close-quarters!

What an incredible experience! From take off to landing, every movement in breathtakingly close formation. It is incredible to soar high in a clear blue sky, mere feet away from other jets, streaking through the air at hundreds of miles per hour—but all under perfect control! As I said when we landed, "I could do that every day of the year and never get tired." Thank you Capt Bandet for this wonderful experience. And thank you Snowbirds and our newly named Royal Canadian Air Force.

Over Parliament Hill. I'm in the aircraft on the far right, flown by Capt Denis Bandet from Regina. Below us the Prime Minister, Governor General and their wives play host to royalty as the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, William and Kate, look on.

It was a moment of pure patriotism, flying with the Snowbirds—the RCAF's most popular ambassadors



Safe Streets

Your Government is committed to the safety and security of all Canadians. To that end the Prime Minister and Justice Minister have introduced the Safe Streets and Communities Act, a “comprehensive legislation that will target crime and terrorism and provide support and protection to victims of crime.”

The Act includes a number of reforms that will help keep Canadians safe, including:

- ◆ The Protecting Children from Sexual Predators Act
- ◆ The Preventing the Trafficking, Abuse and Exploitation of Vulnerable Immigrants Act
- ◆ The Penalties for Organized Drug Crime Act
- ◆ The Eliminating Pardons for Serious Crimes Act
- ◆ The Keeping Canadians Safe (International Transfer of Offenders) Act
- ◆ The Increasing Offender Accountability Act
- ◆ The Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act and related amendments to the State Immunity Act
- ◆ The Ending House Arrest for Property and Other Serious Crimes by Serious and Violent Offenders Act
- ◆ Sébastien’s Law (Protecting the public from Violent Young Offenders)

This law-and-order legislation is proof positive that your Government is intent on keeping Canadian families safe and ensuring that criminals are held accountable for their actions.

The Safe Streets and Communities Act is before the House of Commons right now and will, we hope, go to a vote before the Christmas season.

For more information visit: justice.gc.ca



RCMP Renewed

Over the summer it was announced that the federal government and the provincial government in Saskatchewan had reached an agreement regarding the continued use of the RCMP as the principal provincial police force. The RCMP will be policing Saskatchewan for another 20 years!

The relationship between the people of Saskatchewan and the RCMP has historically been a close one. The RCMP’s training program is based in Regina at the RCMP Academy, or Depot. As a result, all but a very few RCMP officers have received their training in Saskatchewan.

"We in Saskatchewan are proud to have the members of the world's most recognizable police force as part of our past and of our future," said Yogi Huyghebaert, Saskatchewan's Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Goodbye, Gun Registry

I know many Canadians and Saskatchewanians have been fiercely critical of Canada’s long-gun registry. But the cost and hassle that has been a burden to Canadians for so long is coming to an end. Your government is committed to ending the long-gun registry once and for all.

As Prime Minister Harper recently said: “When it comes to the wasteful and inefficient long-gun registry, you know where the Conservative party stands. We stand with farmers and hunters and we will scrap the long-gun registry.”

“Travelling around our great country, one gets a sense of its still greater potential. Nothing, not recession, not natural disaster nor war have ever stopped the rise of this country. There is a spirit in this land, the true spirit, the true character of the Canadian people, a compassionate neighbour, a courageous warrior, a confident partner. That’s the spirit of the Canada I know. Canadians are proud of that spirit and they just trust us to live by that spirit.” - Stephen Harper, May 2011



Prime Minister Harper tests out some lab equipment at the new InterVac facility.

University of Saskatchewan InterVac

Prime Minister Harper was present at the recent opening of the new University of Saskatchewan International Vaccine Centre, or InterVac. This new facility is one of the most advanced in the world and will help Canadians prepare for and combat infectious diseases. The danger posed to not just people, but also livestock and food supplies, is very real.

“As a centre at the leading edge of research, InterVac will thus help reduce the risk of world-wide pandemics. This is a first-class laboratory. It will attract leading researchers from the world over, and it will train the students who will help keep our livestock healthy and our food supply secure for generations to come. This is a facility and an investment that all people in this province, and all Canadians can take pride in.” - PM Harper

Roughrider Military Appreciation Day



Each year the Saskatchewan Roughriders host the military as a way of saying thank you. That's Rear Admiral Jennifer Bennett, Vaughn Schofield and me, just to the left.



We didn't win the game but it was a great celebration of two great organizations—the CF and the Riders. U of R President Vianne Timmons and me in Rider green. Go Riders!

Saskatchewan Employer Award

In June I was pleased co-present an award to the Most Supportive Employer in Saskatchewan, along with Vaughn Schofield, as part of the Canadian Forces Liaison Council Employer Support Awards Ceremony and Dinner.

The Council is a national civilian voluntary organization of employers, large and small, who support military men and women and their desire to serve by encouraging companies ensure time off for reservists who are deployed and to guarantee them a job when they return. The support for and commitment to their employees makes it possible for reservists to serve their country.

In Afghanistan, one quarter of all Canadian soldiers deployed were reservists. These awards recognize companies that willingly and honourably pay the price when their workers depart for 9 month tours of duty.



CDS Gen Walt Natynczyk, CFLC Chair for Saskatchewan Vaughn Schofield, me, National CFLC Chair John Eaton, Cpl Trent Bellisle, BGen (Ret'd) CEO of Commissionaires Saskatchewan Cliff Walker and Defence Minister Peter MacKay.



MP Randy Hobach, Defence Minister Peter Mackay, me, General Manager of Parkland Ambulance, Prince Albert Sask. Trevor Dutchak, WO Ramsay Bellisle, Cpl Guy Waloschuk and Steve Atkinson, Manager of Waymarc Saskatoon.

Prime Minister speaks on Canada's Role in the World

In June, I had the pleasure of being the co-Master of Ceremonies at the Conservative Party National Convention. Below I have excerpted some key parts of the Prime Minister's speech to the Convention in which he clearly spells out our direction in foreign affairs and defence matters, describing Canada as a "courageous warrior, a compassionate neighbour and a confident partner".

"We said a Conservative government would make sure Canada is in a position to defend our national sovereignty and to help protect global security. From east to west, from the south to our True North, to wherever in the world the need arises.

That means, friends, that we shall continue our long-term program to re-equip the Canadian Armed Forces with the tools they need. And so we have obtained new transport aircraft to move us, quickly, anywhere in the world. There will be new fighter jets when the current ones reach the end of their useful life later this decade. There will be new ships for the navy, and for the coastguard, through our National Shipbuilding Strategy. And we shall continue to invest in the army ...

Let us be clear about this: If you're going to put young Canadians in harm's way, the most we can do is the least we should do. We Conservatives will give the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces the equipment they need, and the respect they deserve! But re-equipping the military is just the tip of the iceberg. When it comes to making Canada a meaningful contributor in the world.

We also have a purpose. And that purpose is no longer just to go along and get along with everyone else's agenda. It is no longer to please every dictator with a vote at the United Nations. And I confess that I don't know why past attempts to do so were ever thought to be in Canada's national interest ... Now, we know where our interests lie, and who our friends are. And we take strong, principled positions in our dealings with other nations whether popular or not ... and that is what the world can count on from Canada!

And, friends, these views matter, not just because we now have the tools to act, but also the capacity. Because we are no longer in the middle of the pack, but among the world's top performing nations ...

We are living in a world in which, after decades of stable, sometimes stagnant international relationships, change is the new constant.

Power is shifting. New forces are coming to the fore. Some we will be pleased to work with. Some we must resist.

In such a world, strength is not an option; it is a vital necessity. Moral ambiguity [and] moral equivalence are not options, they are dangerous illusions. And national unity, in fact and in purpose, is our greatest asset." - Stephen Harper, June 2011



Veterans Affairs Minister Steve Blaney and I were co-MCs at the Conservative Party National Convention in June.



Watching the convention rehearsal with Prime Minister Harper and his wife Lauren.



Prime Minister Harper speaking to the Conservative Party National Convention.

Return of the Royals

His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh has been appointed as an honorary admiral and general in Her Majesty's Canadian Armed Forces, the highest rank ever granted. The Duke holds a number of appointments in the Canadian Armed Forces already, but this is the most prestigious.

The Royal family has had a close relationship with the military in Canada. Apart from those who actually served in the military, many members of the family hold similar appointments to the various branches and regiments of Canada's Armed Forces.

"I am delighted that His Royal Highness has accepted this honour from Canada in recognition of his significant contribution to our national life. His unwavering support of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and his commitment to the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as to many other fields of endeavour in this country, are worthy of our highest recognition and deepest gratitude."

On August 16th Defence Minister Peter Mackay announced the restoration of the traditional names Royal Canadian Navy, Canadian Army and Royal Canadian Air Force. The historical names of the three services are those under which Canadians fought and died in the Second World War and Korea.



Ken Van Os and me receiving our Legion member pins from my father.



Ken and I stand alongside the flag, with my sister, Bonnie, and my father looking on.

Joining the Legion

I had the honour of becoming a member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch #62 in my home town of Wadena, Saskatchewan. My father, Bill Wallin, conducted the ceremony with my sister Bonnie serving as Sgt at Arms. It was truly a moment of great pride for me.

I was particularly moved by the following passages from the initiation ceremony. They are in reference to the three symbols: the poppy, the torch and the Canadian flag.

"The maple leaf has been regarded as a Canadian emblem since 1700.

The blood red Poppy of Flanders is immortalized as an emblem of sacrifice and Remembrance for the honouring of the thousands who laid down their lives for those ideals which we, as Canadian, cherish. The Poppy calls upon us to remember not only those who have died, but also those they left dependent and those who will suffer from honourable wounds and disabilities. The Poppy challenges us to serve in peace, as in war, to help those who need our help and to protect those who need our protection.

The Torch is symbolic of justice, honour and freedom for which our comrades fought and died. We who are left must pledge ourselves to hold it high lest we break faith with those who died.

And on the Official Legion badge, the pledge and motto: Memoriam Eorum Retinebimus which means We Will Remember Them."

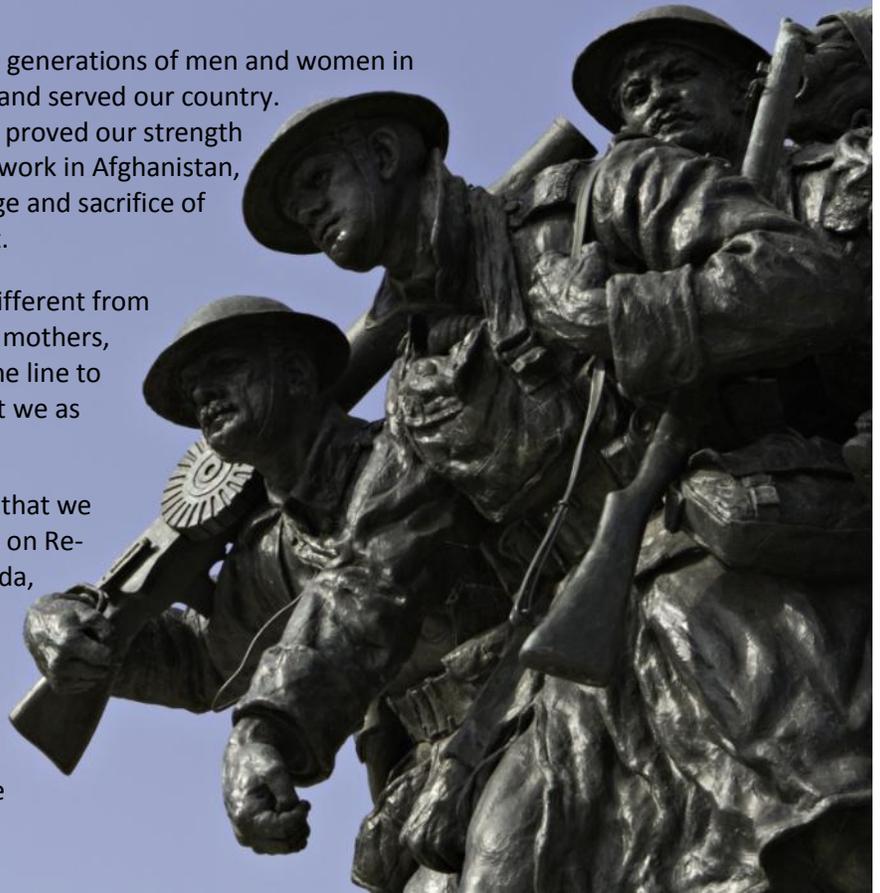
This November 11th, please take a moment to remember what we are commemorating and what the rituals represent.

Remembrance Day

On November 11th, Canadians remember the generations of men and women in uniform who have answered the call of duty and served our country. From the First World War, when Canada first proved our strength and determination as a young nation, to our work in Afghanistan, Libya and around the globe today, the courage and sacrifice of the members of our military remain constant.

It's true that the conflicts of today are very different from those of the past. However, it is still fathers, mothers, sons and daughters who put everything on the line to stand up for country – and for the values that we as Canadians hold dear.

More than 110,000 men and women died so that we might live today in a democracy. That's why, on Remembrance Day in communities across Canada, thousands of families will stand before memorials and cenotaphs to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada. Please support your Legion Branch and attend a Remembrance Day ceremony, because we must never forget that we all live in the land of the free, because of the brave.



Saskatchewan's Federal Team Working for You



Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions and ideas.

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