

RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO DOMINION CONVENTION

2021

COMMAND	BRANCH
DEC	

SUBJECT: Support for Canada's Indigenous Community

DOMINION COMMAND NO: DEC 1

WHEREAS Canada's military heritage includes service by thousands of Indigenous soldiers employed in every trade yet this historical awareness is lacking;

WHEREAS the contribution of Indigenous soldiers to Canada's past war effort is sometimes referred to as forgotten, for although in the First World War alone more than 4000 Indigenous soldiers served in uniform, 50 were decorated for bravery, hundreds were killed and thousands more injured, they experienced discrimination and a lack of appreciation and recognition for their service and sacrifice when they returned home to Canada and were deemed ineligible for supports provided to other Veterans;

WHEREAS over 3000 First Nations members served in uniform in the Second World War and hundreds served in the Korean War, with numerous decorations and citations awarded for bravery;

WHEREAS Indigenous military personnel continued to serve Canada through deployments with NATO during the Cold War, UN and multinational peace support operations, Afghanistan, the Canadian Rangers and unceasingly contribute greatly to Canada's rich military heritage;

WHEREAS after the Second World War, the unresolved injustices against Indigenous People started to receive some government and societal awareness;

WHEREAS from 1946-1948, this government awareness included hearings into the Indian Act by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Commons; the committee's final report called for an end of all separate First Nations education institutions yet the residential school system remained in existence until the 1990s;

WHEREAS in 2021, this societal awareness finally grew to a widespread understanding of the suffering, grief and indescribable heartbreak experienced within the Indigenous community stemming from the tragedy and devastating legacy of residential schools;

WHEREAS the horrifying loss of children and the discovery of remains at burial sites in Canada is overwhelming and that sorrow is shared throughout every corner of the country and in every facet of society;

WHEREAS the path to healing is a long one but it will start with our country's collective understanding, education and support;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, given the requirement for Canada-wide unity of this national imperative and recognizing the importance of improving cultural and heritage awareness, understanding injustices and commemorating loss, The Royal Canadian Legion and all its commands, branches and members extends its unreserved support, however possible and appropriate, and in collaboration with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, to assist in this healing journey.