

Remembrance Day - 2024

À la onzième heure du onzième jour du onzième mois, nous sommes unis en tant que nation dans un souvenir solennel.

Today, from coast to coast, we gather to honor the brave servicemembers and their loved ones who sacrificed for the liberties and values we hold dear.

These courageous men and women fought for freedom, justice, and equality for all Canadians. Their sacrifices—of body, mind, and spirit—represent the highest commitment to those who call Canada home.

The members of our armed forces embody many virtues, but perhaps none more powerful than unity. In a world often divided, the unwavering bond among our troops serves as a beacon of strength for us all. The Canadian Armed Forces, reflecting our nation's rich diversity, remind us of the remarkable achievements possible when we stand together for a cause greater than ourselves.

Our troops teach us: *United, We Rise; Unbreakable, We Stand.*

Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson once said, "Canada is a country built on diversity. But diversity requires responsibility—to each other, to our country, and to our future." In every challenge, our soldiers embody this truth, showing us that in times of adversity, it is our shared resolve that propels us forward.

Imagine soldiers advancing under fire, trusting each other with their lives. Differences in background, belief, or experience fade in the face of their unity. Bound by a commitment to one another, they live by the creed, *No soldier left behind*, honoring every comrade—regardless of race, religion, or orientation. This unity, forged in adversity, endures even the harshest trials.

As we honor our veterans, we must remember: if we do not remain united, we risk failing the clarion call of "Lest We Forget." No matter the challenges, we look to our troops for inspiration, digging deep and resolutely declaring: *United we Rise, Unbreakable We Stand*

Nous sommes résolus à nous unir non seulement pour le bien de notre grande nation, mais aussi pour le bien de nos troupes.

Just as our soldiers pledge to leave no one behind on the battlefield, we must pledge as a nation to leave no veteran or their families behind. The best among us have fought for our freedom; it is now our duty to fight for their well-being as they return to Canadian soil.

On this day of remembrance, let us commit to supporting our veterans and their loved ones. Let us uphold their legacy by strengthening the unity of our nation—embracing our diversity and ensuring our collective voice remains louder than any forces that seek to divide us.

Let us remember the words of Canadian poet John McCrae: “Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw, the torch be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die.”

The torch is ours to hold it high. This is our call as Canadians to uphold the unity and values for which our soldiers fought, the values that bind us together as Canadians, and to keep that torch aflame for generations to come.

With profound gratitude in our hearts and the weight of sacrifice upon us, we honor our fallen by proclaiming: *United, We Rise; Unbreakable, We Stand.*

May God guide us in remembrance. Donne-nous la force de nous unir dans l’adversité, and, through that unity, forever honor the sacrifices of our soldiers, their families, and their loved ones.