



**Dominion Command
Direction Nationale**

86 place Aird Place, Ottawa, ON
Canada K2L 0A1

1-888-556-6222

Tel.: (613) 591-3335

Fax: (613) 591-9335

legion.ca

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Distribution List

LEGION CONDUCTED REMEMBRANCE CEREMONIES – 11 NOV 2020

General

The importance of a live ceremony honouring our Veterans and their sacrifices is considered paramount by the Legion, especially during the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. As so many other commemorations have either been cancelled or delayed by the current pandemic the symbology of our Legions and community leaders paying homage to past sacrifices and before the eyes of those that served is more important now than ever. Our pledge to never forget echoes loudly throughout a land that has been immersed in isolation with a population whose focus is far from the events that we honour with this ceremony.

Taking the lead the 2020 National Remembrance Ceremony will be conducted live at the National War Memorial on 11 Nov 2020. This instruction outlines the plan that will allow many elements of the previously conducted ceremonies to take place while working within the restrictions imposed by the current pandemic. It should be viewed as an example to the myriad of Legion ceremonies to be held this 11 Nov 2020.

Aim

The aim of this instruction is to provide a model for the conduct of Legion conducted Remembrance Day Ceremonies amidst the current pandemic.

Contributing Factors

The planning of Legion organized Remembrance Ceremonies needs to take into consideration the following restrictions imposed by authorities as a result of the current pandemic:

- The Government and local health authorities direction on the limit on outside gatherings.
- The restrictions imposed on indoor gatherings.
- The requirement to physically distance between individuals to a minimum of six feet or two meters.
- The requirement to wear protective masks.
- Members of the Cadet and Junior rangers are prohibited from participating in such activities as remembrance ceremonies.

- Many of our Veterans and members are in the demographic most affected by the current pandemic.
- The Canadian Armed Forces abides by the restrictions imposed by the local Health authorities and are therefore limiting numbers and marching formations.

Execution

The National Remembrance Ceremony conducted in Ottawa is the example to be emulated for all outdoor ceremonies and will be conducted in two phases, preparation and execution.

Phase 1: The preparation for the ceremony begins now and will include consultation with all participating partners. For Ottawa the planning is based on a maximum of 100 personnel on site and will not change even if the 100 external gathering restriction is relaxed. Meetings will be primarily carried out via electronic means (Zoom) complimented by on-site coordination.

Phase 2: The conduct of the ceremony will follow the standard format outlined in Chapter 6 of the Ritual, Awards & Protocol Manual and modified to conform to the local restrictions. The National Ceremony will follow the following format:

Location - The ceremony will take place at the War Memorial on 11 November.

Veterans' Parade - There will be no Veteran's parade.

Canadian Armed Forces - There will be no CAF parade.

Colour Party: Reduced to Canadian, Legion, Union Jack, Red Ensign, NATO & UN)

Canadian Armed Forces: Four armed sentries and one sentinel (Nursing Sister) posted by Canadian Armed Forces.

Other: One trumpeter, one piper to play the Lament, flag orderly to lower and raise the Canadian flag.

Vice Regal Party: standing in front of and facing Memorial. Their wreaths are prepositioned so no assistant wreath bearer is required.

Wreath Bearers: The majority of wreaths are to be preplaced at the memorial prior to the ceremony. Those wanting to place the wreath personally can do so after the ceremony concludes. Acknowledgement of preplaced wreaths will be placed on our website.

Spectators: Discouraged from attending due to the limited space and the requirement to physically distance.

Media: Media are invited to attend however for a national broadcast we have yet to receive confirmation. We will be broadcasting via Facebook Live regardless.

Questions: Questions can be directed towards dmartin@legion.ca or ktherien@legion.ca

Conclusion

The modifications we as Legionnaires will experience in our planning and conduct of a Remembrance Day Ceremony are difficult but not insurmountable. Following the local area restrictions imposed due to the pandemic needs to be paramount in concern of the safety of all involved. However with a reduction in people at the ceremony location, be it the National War Memorial or your local cenotaph and an adjustment in the format will allow us to honour our Veterans and the sacrifices made regardless of the pandemic.

We Will Remember!

Distribution List

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