

Initiation of Members

General

401. The formal initiation ceremony is an optional process to membership in The Royal Canadian Legion. If a Branch chooses to retain the initiation ritual for its membership, the ceremony should be conducted as follows:

402. The Branch President, or an officer delegated by the President, will preside over this ceremony; those members of the Branch Executive Committee taking part in the ceremony are required to be in Legion dress. There is no requirement for the person(s) being initiated to wear Legion dress.

Initiation Guidelines

403. Upon review of the membership application and payment of membership dues, the Branch should make the new member aware of the time and date of the initiation. This can be done at a regular general meeting or an executive meeting, or if not convenient, at any other time and performed by the Branch President or an officer designated by the President with a witness present.

Initiation Ceremony

404. PRESIDING OFFICER:

Sergeant-at-Arms, please assemble the member(s) for this ceremony.

(When the member(s) are in position)

Comrade Membership Chairman, please present the member(s)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

I am pleased to present to you ___ name(s) ___ for initiation into the Royal Canadian Legion as a member/as membres of Branch ___ name and # ___ .

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Your application(s) for membership into (Branch name and #) of The Royal Canadian Legion has/have been reviewed and approved. The purposes and objects of the Legion are to constitute an association of those who have served or are serving in

Her Majesty's armed forces or any auxiliary force and others who support the purposes and objects of the Legion.

The Legion shall stand for strong and united comradeship among all members and those that have served or are serving, so that their rights nor their interests are forgotten, and that their welfare and that of their dependants, especially the dependents of the disabled, the sick, the aged and the needy may always be safeguarded.

The Legion shall encourage, promote, and engage in or support all forms of national, provincial, municipal or community service, or any charitable purpose.

Having heard the purposes and objects of this great organization, are you prepared to subscribe to them and labour to advance the Legion's cause, including active participation in Poppy campaigns?

NEW MEMBER(S):

I am.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

I now declare you duly admitted to membership in The Royal Canadian Legion, subject to all obligations contained within the organization's By- Laws.

Comrade(s), it gives me great pleasure in extending to you the right hand of comradeship and present you with your Legion badge. It is important that new Legion members become aware of the meaning and significance of our Legion Emblems. The explanation of our Legion Emblems may be found in Section 405 of our Ritual, Awards and Protocol manual.

Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms, please conduct the member(s) to their seat(s).

This completes the ceremony of initiation.

405. EXPLANATION OF LEGION EMBLEMS.

The following is an explanation of the emblems of The Royal Canadian Legion. It is important that new Legion members be aware of their meaning and significance.

THE NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA – represents our country throughout the world. The red and white are the colours of Canada. The Maple Leaf has been regarded as a Canadian Emblem since 1700. Since it's inauguration in 1965, it has flown over Canada during the Gulf War, the Afghanistan War on Terrorism and many United Nations and NATO Missions.

THE CANADIAN RED ENSIGN – holds a special place in the hearts and minds of veterans and all Canadians. The 1922 to 1957 version flew over Canada during World War II, the Korean War, the reigns of George V and George VI, and the Coronation of Elizabeth II.

THE ROYAL UNION FLAG – more commonly called the Union Jack, is a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and of her allegiance to the Crown and our affiliation with the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL).

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 Canadians, cherish. The Poppy calls upon us to remember not only those who have died, but also those they left dependent and those who still 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.

OUR BADGE – is a symbolic badge.

THE CROWN – is the St. Edward Crown used by the Sovereign.

THE RED MAPLE LEAF – on a white background is derived from the Canadian coat of arms.

OUR PLEDGE AND MOTTO – Memoriam Eorum Retinebimus (We Will Remember Them) - is in the outside circle. It is in Latin, a language generally used on badges, crests and banners of national and military emblems.

THE WORD LEGION – in gold, and the background in blue represents the official colours of the Legion.

THE POPPY – is the symbol of Remembrance.

THIS BADGE – was approved by the Sovereign. It is to be worn honourably and proudly.