

October 26, 2026

Newsletter #24 - Veteran Support Update

Provincial Command is pleased to share an update on Veteran support initiatives being undertaken throughout Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario through the Legion OSI Section and participating Branches.

Veteran Engagement and Peer Support

Buddy Check Coffee gatherings and organized social activities continue to provide opportunities for Veterans to connect with one another, develop supportive relationships, and remain engaged in their communities. Over the past year, more than 60 Veterans from approximately eight Branches have participated in these activities.

Regular gatherings are ongoing in Minnedosa, while Carman Branch #018 is exploring the establishment of a local Buddy Check Coffee program. Erickson Branch #143 has also introduced a Veterans and First Responders Social Group. These initiatives demonstrate the important role Branches can play in reducing isolation and providing a welcoming environment for Veterans.

Community Partnerships and Remembrance

Branch support for community partnerships continues to strengthen Veteran outreach. Brandon Branch #003 has provided space for Paws 4 Valour training sessions, helping facilitate Veteran participation through the use of Legion facilities. Although Paws 4 Valour is not a Legion program, this cooperation demonstrates a practical way Branches can support organizations serving Veterans.

A Veterans Gala, hosted by Zones 24 and 25, brought together Veterans, serving members, and community supporters, with proceeds supporting Project Resilience 911 and Paws 4 Valour. The event also introduced the Purple Wreath initiative, which honours animals that have served alongside Canadian military members, police, and first responders. Five Branches have confirmed participation in the initiative for Remembrance Day.

Opportunities for Branch Involvement

Branches are encouraged to consider how their facilities, volunteers, and local networks could support Veteran gatherings and peer-support activities. Opportunities include establishing Buddy Check Coffee gatherings, exploring Operation VetBuild, and providing meeting space for existing Veteran-led groups.

Guidance is available to assist interested Branches with organizing activities, promoting participation, and establishing local contacts.

Branches interested in learning more about how to support their Veterans, directly from a Veteran, are encouraged to contact Chief Warrant Officer (Retired) Joel Langley MMM, CD, Provincial Representative, Legion OSI Section, at OSI@mbnwo.legion.ca.

Provincial Command thanks all participating Branches, volunteers, and community partners for their continued commitment to serving Veterans and strengthening support within our communities.

In comradeship,



Cohen Rutledge
Provincial Executive Director