



# **LEGION**

## **Membership Really Matters**

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### **What are you doing after work?**

How would you like to be part of an organization that sponsors in-house sports, in its own clubhouse, supports the elderly and the youth in your community, donates large amounts to hospitals and other charitable institutions – all this while promoting Remembrance of Canada's Veterans? Interested?

**The Royal Canadian Legion needs you.** It's comprised of over four hundred (400) branches throughout Ontario with a total membership of over 140,000. Ontario Command of the Legion is the largest service oriented organization in the province of Ontario. We are a veterans' community-based organization which any Canadian citizen, Commonwealth subject or citizen of an allied country can join. We are a not-for-profit organization, self-funded by its members.

The Legion was founded by veterans for veterans. We continue to maintain our traditional values of remembrance of those who gave their lives for freedom, and looking after the needs of veterans, and their dependants, plus those still serving in the Canadian Forces; Legions throughout Ontario Command are also contributing to the well being of our neighbours by sponsoring local community programs. Support of the communities in which we live is one of our main objectives.

Legion Branches sponsor sports, youth programs, seniors programs, as well as supporting other organizations both financially and by providing meeting rooms or halls for community events. In some communities, the Legion Hall is the main meeting place for community and social events. Branches, zones and districts also raise funds to assist local and regional organizations and facilities such as medical centres, medical research facilities and communities affected by natural disasters.

In partnership with the Ladies Auxiliaries of Ontario Command, the Legion operates a charitable foundation which brings the collective strength our branches together to fund medical equipment and educational bursaries throughout Ontario Command. Funds to support this foundation are raised by Legion branches through Poppy campaigns and various fundraising events.

We're not just a club – We're a Canadian Institution. You too, can become a member!

### **Why should I become a Branch Member?**

- To belong to a national group that cares about our veterans and seniors while promoting Remembrance
- To support your community through Legion programs and activities
- For friendship and recreation
- To expand your skills and use your unique talents by participating in sports, public speaking, help seniors, leadership, youth development, and other social activities
- To have access to a great list of discount products and services through the Legion's Member Benefits Package.
- To received a Legion Magazine six times a year.

## **Join Us At the Branch.**

Most branches have halls and lounges and other recreational facilities where members can enjoy social activities including regular and holiday events.

These facilities are also open to the community at large for special functions. Members' in-house sports programs include darts, cards, shuffleboard, curling, and golf – some on a national scale. In addition to social activities and community programs, the Legion is a strong supporter of the development of youth leadership skills.

Here are some of our National and community programs

- Service Bureau – directly assist veterans in need with professional service officers
- The Poppy Campaign – through the annual campaign of distributing poppies to raise funds to assist our veterans and their dependants and promoting Remembrance
- Biennial Pilgrimage of Remembrance – youth leaders visit European battlefield
- Seniors Housing – own and manage over 7000 units
- Senior's Programs – include transportation, meals on wheels, foot care, meeting places and more\
- Local sports and activities - Curling, Cribbage, Darts, Golf, Snooker, Euchre, Trivia nights, etc.
- Support National and Local Charities – hospitals and other organizations- \$12 million a year
- Direct Financial Assistance of Military Support Programs
- RCL Troop Morale Fund - purchases coffee & doughnuts for troops in Afghanistan regularly
- Youth Leadership Development - youth camps and other youth programs
- Educational Development - scholarships and bursaries as well as learning aids for the disabled
- Encounters with Canada Program – branch and national support to help 120 students per week, for 30 weeks to come together in Ottawa to learn about Canada and each other
- National Youth Poster and Literary Contest – over 65,000 entries per year
- National Track and Field Championships – Canada's only championship for young men and women between 12 and 17 years of age
- Sponsor and support Cadets – 1020 units
- Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award – Selection of one cadet from each cadet league to represent youth at National Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Sponsor and Support Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies – 1600 groups
- Volunteering in our Communities 2.3 million hours annually

**Join Us – Grow with the Legion Today!**



**Find out more at our National Website Link:**

[www.legion.ca/Membership/welcome\\_e.cfm](http://www.legion.ca/Membership/welcome_e.cfm)