

The Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy
Preparing for Remembrance Day

To all people of good will,

Conversations about war, conflict, and military operations are on everyone's lips. *Are we on the verge of World War III?* And yet we are preparing to remember the end of hostilities of the First World War on November 11th, the war that was supposed to end all wars. We remember the horrific costs of war, we remember the losses, we grieve those who died, and we recommit to work for peace in our day.

Military chaplains – spiritual and religious care providers – are already on the front lines. Their unique calling is to offer spiritual and religious care for all, often under trying circumstances, regardless of their spiritual faith tradition. We know from experience how essential their role is for Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Chaplains seek to nurture resilience by fostering meaning, purpose, and spiritual well-being, especially within a culture of care and service.

While spiritual faith traditions in Canada come to different conclusions about the neutrality of public space and references to the Divine during public military ceremonies, we are united in our deep solidarity and oneness of purpose with chaplains who are living out their calling of care and service, and stand together with Chaplain General Colonel Lisa Pacarynuk and her team in the Office of the Chaplain General in their mission to lead the Royal Canadian Chaplaincy Services.

We are immensely grateful for the incredible service that chaplains provide in the Canadian military. Their *care for all* is a model for all of Canada. We belong when we are all acknowledged, included, and indeed, loved.

This Remembrance Day may all Canadians and their spiritual faith tradition communities recommit to work for peace, to prevent war and conflict, and to nurture resilience.

Pastor Peter Noteboom (Chair)

The Canadian Council of Churches

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Canadian Unitarian Council

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The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

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The United Church of Canada

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Canadian Baptist Ministries

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Humanist Canada

Bishop Jennifer Gosse-Vingerhoeds

The Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop Scott McCaig

The Catholic Military Ordinariate of Canada

Rabbi Idan Scher

Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs

Rev. Don Schiemann

Lutheran Church-Canada

Rev. Lara Scholey

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Imam Michael Taylor

Canadian Council of Imams

The Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC) supports the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service (RCChS) in its mission within the unique context of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). The ICCMC is the body through which Spiritual and Faith Tradition communities of Canada exercise their support for the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service and the members of the Canadian Armed Forces and also represents and reflects the work of the Royal Canadian Chaplain Service to member Spiritual and Faith Tradition communities.