

# CITY+ REGION

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**WEATHER**

**Today:** 3C  
**Tonight:** -5C  
**Details:** NP10



**LOTTERIES**

The numbers were  
unavailable at press time.



Estella Goulet dances during the Indigenous Veterans Day event at Calgary's Military Museums on Monday. GAVIN YOUNG

## Ceremonies honour Indigenous veterans

**Time to stop  
writing reports and  
start helping those  
in need: advocate**

ASHLEY JOANNOU

EDMONTON When Wally Sinclair enlisted to be a member of the Canadian Armed Forces in 1967, the paperwork only gave him the option to identify as French or English, not Métis.

The 75-year-old from Lesser Slave Lake was at the Alberta legislature Monday morning, one of thousands of Indigenous veterans honoured in ceremonies marking Indigenous Veterans Day.

Calgary also held a ceremony at the Military Museums.

Sinclair is of Cree and French ancestry, one of many members of his family to serve in the military. He was trained in communications and stationed both in Europe and Canada.

While records are often not clear, an estimated 12,000 Indigenous people joined the Canadian military during the First and Second World Wars as well as the war in Korea. More than 500 Indigenous people were killed and countless more injured.

"As this country reckons with the wrongs committed to Indigenous peoples and pursues the process of reconciliation, this day takes on a greater meaning," said MLA Brad Rutherford, the government's military liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces, before laying a wreath at the Edmonton ceremony.

"True reconciliation includes



Veteran Clarence Wolfleg takes part in Calgary's Indigenous Veterans Day event, a tribute to First Nations who served in Canada's war efforts. GAVIN YOUNG



Indigenous veteran Walter (Wally) Sinclair takes part in the Indigenous Veterans Day ceremony at the Alberta legislature on Monday. DAVID BLOOM

taking the time to remember the contributions and accomplishments of Indigenous veterans and those who continue to serve."

Sinclair continues to work with veterans' organizations and Alberta Health. He said it's time to move beyond writing reports about what Indigenous veterans need and focus on concrete actions such as helping with housing.

"Calgary built them nice homes, but don't forget us across the river over here called northern Alberta. That's what we're standing up (for) now as veteran speakers. We need to be there for the veterans."

Sinclair said he spends much of his time building relationships and speaking with Indigenous veterans, many of whom still struggle to share stories of their experiences.

"On behalf of all my friends, vet-



Alberta Lt.-Gov. Salma Lakhani chats with Elder Elsie Paul at the Alberta legislature on Monday. DAVID BLOOM

erans, comrades, Army, Navy, Air Force, the cadets today — let's continue to support them. Let's show up, like today. To have something

like this dedication, this is important," he said.  
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## Calgary students ensure No Stone Left Alone in salute to war veterans

A group of Calgary students spent time Monday ensuring the memory of war veterans was honoured at Burnsland Cemetery as part of the No Stone Left Alone program.

The students — from St. Matthew, St. Margaret and Ascension of our Lord schools — saluted the veterans and laid poppies at the cemetery, just off Spiller Road S.E.

The No Stone Left Alone ceremonies offer students across the country a chance to deepen their understanding of the sacrifice of veterans, while honouring their memory.

No Stone Left Alone was found-

ed by Maureen Bianchini Purvis who each year would lay a poppy on the Edmonton grave of her mother, a Second World War veteran. She and her family realized all the veterans' graves should be honoured in a similar fashion, leading her to create the project that officially launched in 2011.

While No Stone Left Alone ceremonies were scaled down last year due to the pandemic, the previous years saw growing interest in the project. In 2019, 12,297 students from 127 schools placed 64,503 poppies in 123 cemeteries.

Postmedia News



Above, Deacon, 8, holds a box of poppies for students attending the No Stone Left Alone program at Union Cemetery to place at the graves of Canada's fallen soldiers on Monday. At right, 10-year-old Corban Music places poppies at the graves of Canada's fallen soldiers. AZIN GHAFARI

