

**Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Saturday, May 5**

**[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]**

Good afternoon everyone. I'm pleased to join you here this afternoon to celebrate Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25's 90th anniversary.

I want to recognize Branch 25 president Wilma Oliver and all of the Legion members with us today.

For the past nine decades, Branch 25 members have supported veterans and their families, honoured the men and women who have served our country, and strengthened our community through their selfless actions and spirit of volunteerism.

It is of the utmost important to remember those who have served our nation in times of peace and in times of war, to remember the events of the past, the lessons of the past, and the meanings that they hold for us today.

With each passing year the great conflicts of the previous century move a little further into our history. Each year, we lose more of our veterans and the people who lived and experienced those difficult times first-hand. I suggest to you that, although it is the case that we must inevitably lose people, we do not necessarily have to lose the benefit of their experience, their knowledge and their teachings.

The Legion plays a crucial role in ensuring future generations understand these experiences and develop an appreciation for the freedom we all enjoy, because it did not come easily and without significant sacrifices.

The focus on youth displayed by Legion members through community outreach and programming has had and continues to have a significant impact on our city. With your leadership, our youth will learn what sacrifices have been made for them to enjoy the quality of life we have today. Those sacrifices will not be forgotten because of your efforts.

Thank you to all Legion members past and present. Our community is stronger because of your involvement over the past 90 years and as we look toward the future, I say with certainty that Legion members are needed in our city, in our province, in our country and throughout the world.

Thank you.