



Nishnawbe Aski Nation

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NAN TO HONOUR VETERANS

THUNDER BAY: Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) Grand Chief Harvey Yesno and First Nations leaders across Canada will honour the contributions of Aboriginal Canadians in war and peacekeeping operations as Aboriginal Veterans Day is observed on November 8.

“I am proud to honour the many contributions of Aboriginal people who have served with distinction in the Canadian Forces at home and abroad,” said Grand Chief Harvey Yesno. “I encourage communities across our Nation to fly the NAN Veterans Flag and take time to give thanks for the dedication and sacrifices made by all veterans and current members of the armed forces on battlefields and peacekeeping missions the world over.”

Yesno will attend a ceremony with the 3rd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group at the Rinker Lake Forward Attack Base near Armstrong on Saturday during their annual search and rescue exercise. NAN also supports November 11 Remembrance Day ceremonies in NAN communities, Fort William First Nation and urban centres across northwestern Ontario.

November 8 ceremonies began in Manitoba in the 1990s to honour the contributions of Aboriginal people in the Canadian Forces. The National Aboriginal Veterans War Memorial in Ottawa was dedicated in 2001 and ceremonies are now held Canada-wide.

“Many of our people have stepped forward in defence of Canada and its interests during global conflicts and peacekeeping operations,” said Yesno. “That tradition is carried on today as many of our members serving with the Canadian Rangers are part-time reserve members of the Canadian Forces, providing vital lifesaving services across our territory.”

The NAN Veterans Flag was formally unveiled to Chiefs-in-Assembly in 2009 to honour the service and sacrifice of NAN veterans. The flag helps ensure the wartime contributions of Aboriginal veterans are remembered and is flown in all 49 NAN First Nations.

More than 7,000 First Nation members in Canada served in both World Wars and the Korean War. They overcame cultural challenges and served with honour defending the sovereignty of Allied Nations. This proud tradition continues with more than 1,200 Aboriginal members in the Canadian Forces at home and overseas, representing more than 640 bands and 55 languages and dialects belonging to 11 linguistic families.

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