

THE BRANDON LEGIONNAIRE NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2023 VOLUME XLIII : 3

Canadians 'Stand with Ukraine' on one-year anniversary of Russian invasion

[The Canadian Press](#) Staff

Published Feb. 24, 2023 5:21 a.m. CST

From coast to coast, thousands of Canadians are expected to take part today in a series of rallies in support of Ukraine on the one-year anniversary of [Russia's invasion](#).

Spearheaded by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, some 40 "Stand With Ukraine" events are planned for major cities across the country, from St. John's, Newfoundland to Whitehorse, Yukon. The events are scheduled for various times throughout the day, however, the bulk of them will be candlelight vigils in the early evening.

[Complete coverage of the war in Ukraine](#)

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will make an appearance in Toronto and speak to the media about the grim anniversary. He will be flanked this afternoon by Defence Minister Anita Anand. Trudeau will also take part in a vigil later in the day for the victims of the war.

On Thursday, the prime minister said Canada's support for Ukraine will not waver. He noted that the people of Ukraine are not just fighting for themselves, but for the ideals and rules that underpin all democracies.

The year-long conflict has taken a deadly toll on the Ukrainian population, with tens of thousands of civilians killed and millions more displaced.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy this morning issued a defiant video address, recalling the terror unleashed a year ago by the Russian assault and vowing to push for victory in 2023.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Feb. 24, 2023

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/canadians-stand-with-ukraine-on-one-year-anniversary-of-russian-invasion-1.6287397>



Lest We Forget

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
and in the morning,
We will remember them.
We Will Remember Them

Backlog targeted as Veterans Affairs reports nearly \$1B for ex-soldiers was unspent

By Lee Berthiaume, The Canadian Press

OTTAWA — The federal Liberal government is facing fresh calls to eliminate a backlog of disability claims from ill and injured veterans amid revelations Veterans Affairs Canada failed to spend nearly \$1 billion of its budget last year.

Veterans Affairs Minister Lawrence MacAulay's office has denied any direct link between the backlog and the unspent money, which was part of a combined \$38 billion in lapsed funds across the federal government in the last fiscal year.

But veterans' groups and others are skeptical of the claim, saying more funds would have flowed to ill and injured veterans if their applications for financial and medical assistance had been approved in a timely manner.

"So you have thousands of cases where the dollars are not coming out of the budget because of the wait times and the backlog," said Brian Forbes, national director of the National Council of Veteran Associations, which represents 60 organizations. *(Continued page 3)*

“Until they clean that up, there’s always going to be this residual carry-over.”

The amount of lapsed funds at Veteran Affairs and across government is spelled out in the most recent iteration of the public accounts, a report on federal revenues and spending by departments and agencies that is tabled in the House of Commons every year.

The \$920 million that went unspent in 2021-22 represented the largest lapse at Veterans Affairs in a single year, and compares to nearly \$1.1 billion that went unspent over a combined seven years under Stephen Harper’s Conservative government.

Veterans Affairs spokesman Marc Lescoutre blamed several issues for the unprecedented lapse, including problems predicting how many veterans would apply for assistance and the fact that fewer people accessed in-person health services than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lescoutre also said the department took longer than expected to train and recruit hundreds of temporary employees hired to tackle the backlog of applications, which remained at about 30,000 claims at the end of September.

“While these additional staff significantly increased the department’s capacity to process disability applications, the time it took to recruit and train these term employees to become fully productive, as well as the attrition rates related to these positions, were underestimated,” he said in an email.

Yet in a separate email, MacAulay’s spokeswoman Erika Lashbrook Knutson refuted any link between the unspent funds and the backlog, noting that the number of unprocessed claims held by the department has dropped in recent years even as the lapse increased.

Veterans Affairs held 30,725 unprocessed applications for disability benefits from 23,505 individual veterans at the end of September, down from a peak of nearly 49,000 outstanding claims in March 2020. Over that period, the amount of lapsed funds doubled from \$457 million to \$920 million.

“The backlog does not have an impact on unspent funds,” Lashbrook Knutson said.

But not everyone is convinced, with Royal Canadian Legion dominion president Bruce Julian saying in an email that his organization was “surprised and concerned” to learn of the budget lapse at Veterans Affairs, and is demanding more clarity on the reasons for the unspent funds.

“We’d also like to be assured that the explanation of fewer people applying for benefits is not related to actual difficulties in accessing those benefits,” Julian added. “While we understand over-budgeting can happen in uncertain times, the pandemic is not a fallback for inaction.”

Julian went on to argue that the government should redirect some of the unspent funds to eliminate the backlog, “something that is taking way too long.”

The federal Liberals responded to mounting anger and frustration from Canada’s veterans’ community last February by promising to spend more than \$140 million to retain 595 temporary staff who had been previously hired to deal with the backlog for the next two years.

Giroux also said at the time that the government could have eliminated the entire backlog by the end of 2021 by hiring 400 additional employees on top of those already under contract, which would have added \$159 million to the budget. The Liberals did not follow that recommendation.

(Continued from page 3)

While the unspent funds have since been returned to the central treasury, the government says no veteran who qualifies for aid will receive less than they should. That is because new funding is made available every year, based on how many veterans the department estimates will need assistance.

But Union of Veterans Affairs' Employees national director Virginia Vaillancourt, whose organization represents thousands of employees at the department, said the point is that too many veterans are waiting too long for help — and not getting the services they deserve in the process.

“Plain and simply, veterans are waiting for services and benefits, and that is the money that the government is giving back,” said Vaillancourt, who has called for MacAulay’s resignation over a recent rehabilitation services contract between the department and an outside company.

“It’s not that the veterans don’t need it or aren’t entitled to that money. It’s because they are not providing that service at this point. And veterans are waiting.”

The Bloc Québécois and NDP added their own concerns about the lapse, which they also linked to the backlog.

“While some spending cuts are understandable and welcome in the current economic environment, others are surprising to say the least,” Bloc Québécois public accounts critic Nathalie Sinclair-Desgagne said in a statement in French.

“A shortfall of \$1 billion at Veterans Affairs Canada, when we know that the average wait times are close to 30 weeks for French-speaking veterans, is absolutely unacceptable.”

NDP veterans affairs critic Rachel Blaney echoed those concerns, saying: “Instead of supporting veterans who desperately need support, the Liberals are leaving billions of dollars unspent.”

Julian and Forbes repeated past calls for the government to change the way veterans apply for assistance, suggesting claims should be automatically approved and verified later to ensure those in need are not forced to wait.

This report by The Canadian Press was first published Jan. 31, 2023.

National Notable Dates 2023

The following are national days of relevance to The Royal Canadian Legion that raise awareness of an issue, commemorate a group or event, or celebrate something. Also included are national Legion activities. Branches may wish to promote these dates or organize related activities. Dominion Command promotes many of these dates through our social media channels. Selected commemorative dates may be promoted on significant anniversaries.

We encourage Branches and members to share Legion national messaging from our social media channels:
[Facebook.com/CanadianLegion](https://www.facebook.com/CanadianLegion) [Twitter.com/RoyalCdnLegion](https://twitter.com/RoyalCdnLegion) [Instagram.com/royalcanadianlegion](https://www.instagram.com/royalcanadianlegion)

MARCH

3 World Hearing Day

8 International Women’s Day

- 2 nd Monday - Commonwealth Day (RCEL support)
- 15 Last Canadian soldiers return from Afghanistan (2014)
- Lapsed member reminders

**A Glimpse & Glance
Into Our Past**

**Brandon Daily Sun Newspaper
Archives January 10, 1941 Page 10**

**Educational Work
Of Canadian Legion**

**How War Services Men
Aid Active Forces**

A meeting was held in the school board office Wednesday night in connection with the educational services for men in the active service forces. J. Cameron, of Grandview, former president of the Manitoba teachers' association, recently appointed organizing secretary of the Canadian Legion educational services for M.D. 10, was present and gave many interesting details in connection with the educational programme. The Canadian Legion War Services, incorporated, committee on education, Ottawa, has provided a number of free correspondence courses which are issued in handy text book form, they include: introductory courses preparatory to High School study; Secondary courses for High School credit; and Technical-vocational

courses on the secondary level and carrying High School leaving credit. The object is that through these courses men may be enabled to teach themselves to prepare for promotion or special services, to increase efficiency, to continue an interrupted education, to occupy to advantage a part of leisure time, and finally to prepare for profitable occupation at the close of the war. At present some eighteen courses are available and more are being added in specialized subjects in higher brackets of education. All of the courses have been offered to young people throughout the Dominion during recent years and now, for the first time, the same opportunity is being extended to active service men. The Education Services Board of Manitoba is headed by Dr. Sidney Smith, president of the University of Manitoba and Brandon is represented on the board by T. A. Neelin, chairman of the local committee. Other members on local committee are Dr. J. R. C. Evans, president of Brandon College, J. R. Reid, principal Brandon Collegiate, G. R. Rewe president of the School Masters' club, F. Nelson, Vice-president of the Canadian Legion, Brandon Branch

Owing to the great demand for the courses by men in various branches of the service distribution has been taxed to the limit but registration forms are again available and are being filled out by men in practically all centres across the Dominion. The local demand is increasing and already text books are in use at the R.C.A.F. station at Rivers, and others stations and a number at Brandon. In this connection library facilities are being offered through the educational services board, as well as the I.O.-D.E. F. Nelson has been appointed to the regional library committee for M.D. 10, and chairman of the local committee. The next meeting of the education committee will be held in Park school, Monday, January 13th at 8 p.m.

Fashion



SATURDAY SPECIALS!

Choice Light Pork Shoulder Roast	14c	Cornmeal Ham Rolls— 4 to 5 lb. average. Per 70. . .	18c
Rolls Roast Veal	15c	Fresh Pork Spareribs, Pork Tenderloin	
Choice Roasting Chickens			
CHOICE YOUNG BEEF		FRESH KILLED VEAL	
Shoulder Roast Beef	15c	Stewing Veal	2 lbs. 25c
Round Shoulder	17c	Shoulder Roast Veal.	18c
Rolls Pork Roast	15c	Per lb.	20c
Pork Ribs Rolled.	25c	Arm Fillet Veal.	
		Per lb.	
		Best Quality Mincemeat Fresh Tripe	

TED HILL'S MEAT MARKET
PHONE 2376 — FREE DELIVERY

A Glimpse & Glance Into Our Past

**Brandon Daily Sun Newspaper
Archives January 10, 1941 Page 10**

Elected Chairmen Of Committees for Canadian Legion

At a special meeting of the executive of the Canadian Legion B.E.S.L. Brandon Branch No. 3 held at the Legion hall on Thursday night, chairmen of all standing committees were appointed and plans for future activities were considered. The whole executive, headed by President Brig. Gen. J. Kirkealdy, will act as a war services committee, and much time was occupied in discussing ways and means of extending the facilities of the Legion for the benefit of men in the enlisted services.

The increasingly heavy secretarial duties will again be carried on by Morgan W. R. John, whose reappointment was the unanimous choice of the executive. Past presidents F. Nelson and W. B. Bain were elected first and second vice-presidents respectively at a recent general meeting. J. Bradley was again elected treasurer.

The following members were named chairmen of the various committees with power of selection: **J. W. Ross,**

hospital and sick; **J. Addison,** membership; **F. Sommerville,** house committee; **W. B. Bain,** cemetery; **L. J. Minion,** band; **W. C. Howe,** entertainment; **J. Addison,** Imperials; the president will be chairman of the welfare committee. The appointment of **F. Nelson** as the Legion's representative on the local educational services committee was confirmed. **S. C. Wilcox,** **Dr. J. S. Clark** and **J. Addison** will act as trustees.

Now that the chairmen have been appointed, committees will be formed and will immediately commence their various programmes. A new floor will be laid on the second floor and other improvements made as soon as possible. The formation of an orchestra is also underway and it was reported they will be ready to function in the very near future. Present at the meeting were **O. S. Dowd,** supervisor of Canadian Legion War Services for M.D. 10; and **J. Cameron,** Canadian Legion education services for M.D. 10, who reported on their respective services.

THE WEATHER

The weather has been generally fair in the prairie provinces, mild in Alberta and southern Saskatchewan and moderately cold elsewhere. Light snow has occurred in many parts of Ontario, where temperatures have been moderate.

NOTES & RESOURCES :

Western Manitoba Public Library, Brandon has many resources available to the public. For example, there is a source which was a project of the Westman Oral History Association, *Voices of Yesteryear*, which began in 1981. And some 300 Interviews were conducted and recorded by approximately seventy citizens from over twenty communities in western Manitoba. The original cassette tapes, are safely held by the Brandon library, and have been converted to MP3. They are available to be listened to online through the Brandon Public Library.

<https://wmrl.ca/> or Western Manitoba Regional Library ..check out ...Oral History Collection....FLAY,George– Royal Canadian Legion...OH021Fla_pt1mp3; OH021Fla_pt2mp3

I promise, you will be amazed at all the verbal history of Royal Canadian Legion and especially our Brandon Branch #3. *The Editor*

Celebrate St Patrick's Day at
Legion Branch #3

on

March 17, 2023 Friday

Tickets: \$12.00 ea. Irish Stew-Soda Bread-Dessert

Buy your ticket at Legion Bar or Office before
March 14, 2023

Wear something "Green" & maybe? win something "Green"

ATTENTION CRIBBAGE PLAYERS!



Our Sports Chair, Terry Shand has
a callout to anyone who
wishes to join

the fun of a community
type Cribbage get
together. It is held in the
Legion Lounge every
Wednesday
evening with Registration
at 6:30 p.m. Play begins
7:00 p.m.

Ladies Corner

Our February meeting had 11 members present. The raffle licence for the May 13th raffle draw has been applied for. A registration letter was received from Laura Hyrich (1st Vice-President). Joyce Mott has been moved to Valley View Care Home. Gift certificates have been sent to Joan Madill and Patti Toms. Motions were made for scholarships at Vincent Massey and Neelin schools; and to the Provincial Scholarship Fund.

Submitted by Betty Persian

For all your CATERING needs

BIG or small

Please call

RC Legion Brandon Branch 003

ATTN: Erich - Catering

Phone: 204-728-5026



"MAKING ROOM SPRING" SALE

HOODIES \$20.00

SWEATSHIRTS \$15.00

VESTS \$10.00

GOLF SHIRTS \$15.00

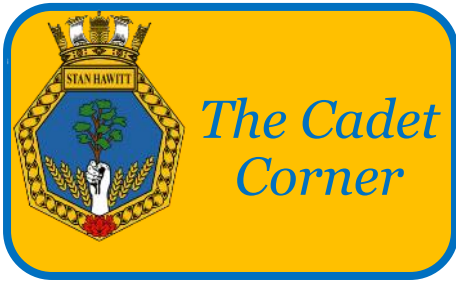
T-SHIRTS \$5.00

Water Bottles \$2.50

License Plate Covers \$5.00

Details available

Branch Staff Office &/Or Lounge



The Navy League of Canada, Manitoba Division,
Brandon Branch Web: www.mbnavyleague.ca

Steven Ternovetsky
Public Relations & Communications Chair
Fundraising Chair

Email: prcom.brandon@mbnavyleague.ca
Web: www.mbnavyleague.ca

Navy League Cadet Corps Stan Hawitt At Work



Navy League Cadet Corps Stan Havitt AtPLAY during their fundraising Wake-A-Thon February 3, 2023



Brandon Branch 003 Legion Executive 2023

President: Fred Pritchard
Past President: Cindy Stumme
1st Vice President: Raymond Burgess
2nd Vice President: Linda Wakefield
Sgt-at-Arms: Paul Mount

Newly Elected Executive Committee 2023

Linda Baker, Suzanne Cartier, Maureen Hawkins, Mike Hawkins,
Laura Hyrich, Mel Hyrich, Bob Mawson, Richard McDonald, Terry Shand

LADIES AUXILIARY 2020 EXECUTIVE

President : Maureen Farrant
Past President: Linda Leckie
1st Vice President: Laura Hyrich
2nd Vice President: Barb Roberds
Secretary: Betty Persian
Sgt-at-Arms: Maureen McCormick
Treasurer: Pat Simmons
Membership: Barb Wood
Poppy Committee: Shirley Kernaghan, Barb Roberds
Liaison: Laura Hyrich
Funeral Teas/Houselady: Maureen Farrant

Royal Canadian Legion Brandon Branch #3**560—13th Street EAST Brandon, MB R7A 7C1****OFFICE:** 204-728-5026 &/or office.admin@rclbrandon003.com**Legion Branch Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/LegionBrandonBranch/> ...contact
Laureen at Legion Lounge**Legion Branch Website:** <https://www.brandonlegion.ca/>**Brandon Legionnaire Branch Newsletter:** contact Linda at mrs wakes@mymts.net to submit
articles &/or pictures



LEGION BINGO

THURSDAY EVENING

Doors open 5:00pm-~~Early Bird~~ 6:30 pm

Regular 7:00 pm



BRANCH 003 Legion hosts every Friday & Saturday Nite

Meat Draws - 50/50 - CHASE The ACE

Join in the fun & excitement of a
chance to win while supporting your



Brandon Branch #3



March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Friday	Sat
<p>Celebrate St Patrick's Day at Legion Branch #3 on March 17, 2023 Friday Tickets: \$12.00 ea. Irish Stew-Soda Bread-Dessert Buy your ticket at Legion Bar or Office before March 14, 2023</p>			<p>1 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00 7:00 pm</p>	<p>2 BINGO Doors open 5 pm</p>	<p>3 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00pm</p>	<p>4 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 4:30 pm</p>
<p>5 Branch Closed</p>	<p>6 Branch Closed</p>	<p>7 Ladies Auxiliary 7:00 pm</p>	<p>8 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00</p>	<p>9 BINGO Doors open 5 pm</p>	<p>10 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00pm</p>	<p>11 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 4:30 pm Westman Jams Lounge</p>
<p>12 Branch Closed</p>	<p>13 Branch Closed</p>	<p>14 Branch Executive 7:00 pm</p>	<p>15 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00</p>	<p>16 BINGO Doors open 5 pm</p>	<p>17 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00pm </p>	<p>18 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 4:30 pm</p>
<p>19 Branch Closed</p>	<p>20 Branch Closed</p>	<p>21 Branch Closed</p>	<p>22 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00</p>	<p>23 BINGO Doors open 5 pm</p>	<p>24 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm</p>	<p>25 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 4:30</p>
<p>26 Branch Closed</p>	<p>27 Branch Closed</p>	<p>28 GENERAL MEETING 7:30 PM</p>	<p>29 Cribbage Registration 6:30 Play 7:00</p>	<p>30 BINGO Doors open 5 pm</p>	<p>31 Meat Draw-50/50 - Chase The Ace 5:00 pm End of the Month Meat Draw</p>	

Branch Lounge Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Thursday, Friday & Saturday 1:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Branch Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Regular meetings of Ladies Auxiliary 1st Tuesday February to June & September to December at 7:00 pm in the Legion Banquet Hall