



Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
The Royal Canadian Legion

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All Branch Mail Out #38

Date: April 10, 2026

To: NS/NU Branches
NS/NU Executive Council
NS/NU Zone Commanders
NS/NU Past Presidents
NS/NU Command Staff

From: Comrade André Boudreau
Poppy & Remembrance Chair
Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, RCL

Subject: National Youth Remembrance Contest –
National Winners NS/NU Command

Message:

Comrades: We are pleased to announce the National winners for the National Youth Remembrance Contest.

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|--|------------------|------------------------|
| • 1 st Place Primary Black & White Poster | Louisa Monk | Branch 031 Somme |
| • 1 st Place Intermediate Poetry | Chanelle Keating | Branch 073 Habitant |
| • 1 st Place Junior Essay | Audrey Wilson | Branch 102 New Germany |
| • 2 nd Place Junior Colour Poster | Merrigan Monk | Branch 031 Somme |
| • 2 nd Place Senior Black & White Poster | Erin Nicholson | Branch 048 Elmsdale |
| • 3 rd Place Junior Black & White Poster | Alice Caruthers | Branch 073 Habitant |
| • 3 rd Place Senior Poetry | Dina Al-Hilal | Branch 070 Stewiacke |

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all branches and students for their participation. Please see pages below to view all our National winners. Winners will shortly receive further details, prizes, plaques. These entries and also our Provincial winners can be viewed on our website at the following links:

<https://ns.legion.ca/2025-2026-poster-contest-winners/>

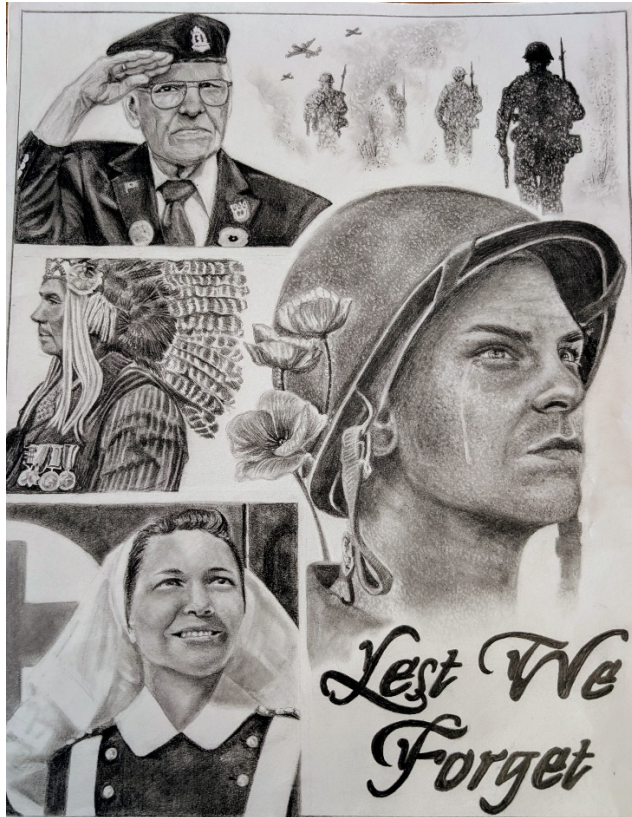
<https://ns.legion.ca/2025-2026-literary-contest-winners/>



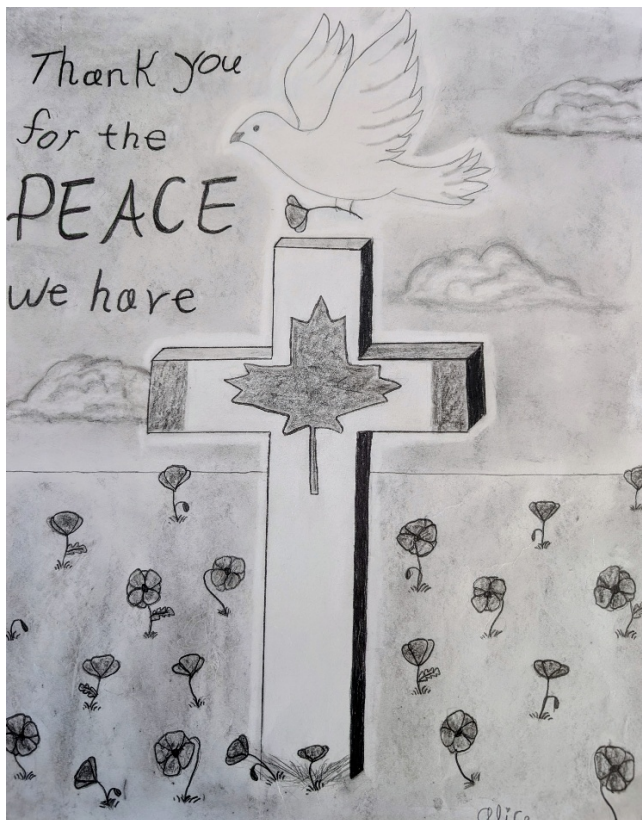
1st Place Primary Black & White Poster – Louisa Monk – 031 Somme



2nd Place Junior Colour Poster – Merrigan Monk – 031 Somme



2nd Place Senior Black & White Poster – Erin Nicolson- 048 Elmsdale



3rd Place Junior Black & White Poster -Alice Caruthers – 073 Habitant

Where Silence Speaks

The battlefield is gone now,
but it lives behind my eyes.
Grass grows where fire once burned.
Beneath the soil, the roots of poppies
drink what the Earth still mourns.

We called it duty,
but sometimes it felt like falling
into something bigger than reason,
smaller than forgiveness.

I buried friends with hands
that still remember the warmth of theirs.
The dirt never leaves your palms.
Nor the faces you couldn't save.

They said we fought for peace,
but peace feels heavy.
It sits in your chest at night,
asking if it was worth it.

And I wonder,
Did the stars see us then?
Did they turn away,
ashamed that flames can tear apart
the fragile parts of a human heart?

Now, when people stand in silence,
two minutes stretching into eternity,
I don't think of war.
I think of the laughter we lost,
letters never sent,
and how courage sometimes
looks a lot like fear
that refused to die.

1st Place Intermediate Poetry – Channelle Keating -073 Habitant

We Stand in Silence

We stand in silence, our hearts trembling with sorrow.
The wind drifts gently through fields of red poppies—
each bloom a whisper of someone we've lost.
Each petal holds a memory time that cannot be erased.

They left with courage shining in their eyes,
their families waving, not knowing it was goodbye.
They left warm dinners half-finished,
letters half-written, dreams half-spoken.

But some never came home.
The poppies grew where they fell—
soft red against the earth they fought to defend.
Mothers cried into folded flags,
fathers stood tall though their hearts were breaking.

We whisper their names like prayers,
hoping the wind carries them to heaven.
For every soldier who faced the fire,
for every soul who gave their tomorrow for our today—
we remember.

From sorrow, love still blooms.
Their bravery lives beneath our feet,
their spirit in the colors of our flag,
their love in the tears we shed.

They are the whisper in the dawn,
the stars that guard our sleep,
the reason we bow our heads
and promise never to forget.

We stand in silence, poppies in hand,
tears on our cheeks, pride in our hearts.
And as the silence deepens and poppies sway,
we stand tall—unbroken, remembering.

3rd Place Senior Poetry, Dina Al-Hilal – 070 Stewiacke

Remembrance Day To Me

By: Audrey Wilson 

Remembrance Day to me is remembering all the people who did amazing things for our country. I have multiple relatives that used to be in the war. Remembrance day is a very special day for me. I'll be telling you about these relatives

The first member was my mother's grandfather. His name was Neil MacPhee. He served with the Cape Breton Highlanders. I know how much he loved Remembrance Day and how he was proud to be a soldier in all the stories told. This could be why I love Remembrance day too.

The next relative is one of my dad's grandfathers, Todd Wilson. He drove a tank with the New Brunswick Hussars. He helped with the Liberation of the Netherlands. I had never met him before he died but I know that he was proud to serve which makes me proud of him too.

The last soldier is a family member I did meet. He was my Great Papa and my dad's grandfather. His name was Russel Melvin. He served with the Canadian Army Pacific Force. He was very kind and peaceful. We would go to visit him when I was younger and he was one of the sweetest people ever.

As you can now see, Remembrance Day is a very special day for me and my family. Remembrance day is a day to remember the people who we might not know who served and the family members that served for our country. Every year I have a picture of these family members on our school's wall of remembrance. I place a poppy every year in remembrance of these relatives at our school's Remembrance Day ceremony. I lay a wreath in New Germany on Remembrance Day for West Northfield Elementary School. On this day I think to myself "Superman isn't our hero, these people are." That is what Remembrance Day is to me. To think about those heroes.

1st Place Junior Essay – Audrey Wilson – Branch 102 New Germany