

# Growing Together



**The Cultural Contribution of  
Indigenous People in the Canadian  
Military Since the First World War**

**Lance-Corporal John Shiwak.**

Geographical isolation limited, but did not preclude, Inuit enlistments during the First and Second World Wars, and in Korea. John Shiwak (Sikoak), a Labrador Inuit from Rigolet, served with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. He was killed on Nov. 20, 1917 during fighting at Cambrai. (Royal Canadian Legion, Happy Valley, Labrador)





## **Henry Norwest**

Henry Norwest, a Cree-Métis saddler, cowboy, trapper and hunter from Alberta, served as a sniper with the 50th Battalion C.E.F. Officially credited with 115 confirmed kills, the highest “score” recorded in the armies of the British Empire to that point, Norwest was killed in action August 18th, 1918 near Amiens. (Glenbow Archives)



### **Edith Anderson Monture**

Edith Anderson from the Six Nation's of the Grand River reserve was living and working as a registered nurse in New York City when the U.S. entered the First World War in 1917. Joining the American Expeditionary Force as an army nurse, she served overseas in France until demobilized in 1919. Aboriginal women on the homefront during both World Wars were heavily involved in charitable work, and with various forms of war relief and soldier's support. (J. Moses Collection)



**Francis Pegahmagabow,**

Anishinabeg of Parry Island, during a 1945 visit to Ottawa. (Canadian Museum of Civilization (#95292-3)). Pegahmagabow was emblematic of those veterans who assumed leadership roles within their respective communities. A sniper with the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion during the First World War and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery three times. Treated as an equal by his fellow soldiers, he was disillusioned upon his return to the Reserve where he was treated as a second-class citizen. He would champion aboriginal rights through a peaceful campaign of letter writing and court challenges for the rest of his life. He presided as band Chief from 1921-25 and served as a band councillor from 1933-36. In 1943, he was named Supreme Chief of The Native Independent Government, an early native rights group.



## **Elmer Sinclair**

With Teddy Quesnil at his left in December 1940.

Sinclair served with the PPCLI during the Second World War and Korean War.



**Private Mary Greyeyes,**

Cree from Muskeg Lake, Cree Nation, Canadian Women's Army Corps.  
(Library and Archives Canada (PA-129070))



**Irene Hoff, ABENAKI FROM ODANAK, QUEBEC IN THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE AND THE CANADIAN ARMY.  
SEATED SECOND ROW TO THE LEFT OF LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR PAUL COMPTON C. 1962.**

“When I got into the army... when I got my commission,... I was working... in Indian Affairs... I was still going to business college... Colonel Patrick... the colonel of the Governor General’s Foot Guards... asked me if I would like to join the CWAC ... I said sure... This was all women, you see they opened it up in ’51, so that they could employ females ... in the armoured corps... I always worked in the Orderly Room, which was all administrative work, and I used to go around to 30th Field Regiment [and report] all their files for them.... I was well trained. I was a sergeant-major. I knew my business... When I started off... I started out as a Private. And I earned all my ranks, all the way up, until I became sergeant-major. ... just before I got my commission. Second lieutenant and lieutenant the same day... I looked after anything administrative....” (Photo provided by Irene Hoff)





**Robert Carriere, Metis from St. Boniface, Manitoba**

(Pictured with issued Lee Enfield and his US-built M2 rapid-fire carbine).

He went in March 1952 to Korea and later saw this photo in a book. "I said 'Jeeze that guy looks familiar... [My friend looked at me and said] 'It's you!'" (DND Photo)



## **Russell Piche**

From Vankleek Hill, Ontario, served with the Signals Corps in Korea.



### **Coreena Letendre**

Saulteaux from Fairford, Manitoba, went to Cambodia in 1992-93 and helped in the orphanage.  
“It was quite interesting because when I had left to go to Cambodia, my daughter was not a year old.”



**Brigadier-General Jocelyn Paul**

during change of command ceremony, at left of General Jonathan Vance, Chief of the General Staff





## **Earl Charters**

**i**n the Arabian Gulf on HMCS *Winnipeg* during Operation AUGMENTATION, May 2001.



## **Master Warrant Officer Guy Mandeville**

DND photo HS040062d02 by Corporal Shawn M. Kent, Formation Imaging Services, Halifax  
MWO Mandeville was with the Canadian Forces Postal Unit (CFPU) Halifax Sergeant Major, in his traditional Métis dress.







Sgt. Moogly Tetrault-Hamel, Indigenous Advisor to the Chaplain General (standing third from right); Lieutenant-General Paul Wynnyk, Commander of the Canadian Army (left); Honorary Colonel Blake Goldring (right); and Chief Warrant Officer Alain Guimond, Canadian Army Sergeant Major (second from right) stand with Veterans, members of Veterans Affairs Canada and members of Buffalo Red Thunder at the Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony in honour of the 75th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid in Dieppe, France on August 18, 2017. Photo: Corporal Andrew Wesley, Army Public Affairs. ©2017 DND/MDN





**Tahnee Parisian,**

a member of Buffalo Red Thunder, dances a ceremonial dance at the Indigenous Sunrise Ceremony in honour of the 75th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid in Dieppe, France on August 18, 2017. Photo: Corporal Andrew Wesley, Army Public Affairs. ©2017 DND



Aboriginal Elder Skip Ross; 4th Canadian Division Support Group (4 CDSG) Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer William Richards; Canadian Armed Forces and Department of National Defence Eagle Staff Carrier, Master Warrant Officer Stanley Mercredi; 4 CDSG Commander, Colonel Marc Gagné, Canadian Armed Forces Chaplain General, Brigadier-General Guy Chapdelaine; and Angela Duchene from the Anishaanabe Cultural Circle prepare to begin the smudging ceremony to open the first-ever Cultural and Diversity Festival at 4th Canadian Division Support Base Petawawa, Ontario on March 9, 2016. Photo by: MCpl Melissa Spence, Army Public Affairs. ©DND/MDN 2016







**Alec Tuckatuck**

from Kuujjuaraapik, Quebec, during training in 2000.





**Tony Atsanilk**



Tim Pitsiulak

