

Region of Durham launches “Together Against Hate Durham” to combat hate and foster inclusion

Whitby, Ontario – The Region of Durham is taking a proactive stance against hate with the launch of Together Against Hate Durham, a three-phase initiative aimed at building safer, more inclusive communities. Supported by a grant from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation’s National Anti-Racism Fund, Together Against Hate Durham builds on the Region’s ongoing anti-hate efforts, which also include developing a community-based hate reporting tool and community healing guidelines.

The initiative has three strategic phases:

Phase one saw the establishment of a coalition of 39 community partners who laid the groundwork for the coordinated, community-driven action of the program via a public awareness campaign.

Phase two focused on public education by creating toolkit of mixed-media resources that help individuals recognize, report, and respond to hate activity, while supporting

those affected.

Phase three consists of hosting an Anti-Hate Conference, as well as presenting policy recommendations and a hate activity dashboard to Durham Regional Council, guided by the Durham Region Anti-Racism Taskforce.

About the Resource Toolkit
Developed with the expertise of the Together Against Hate Durham coalition, the resource toolkit consists of brochures, posters, postcards and videos on topics including recognizing and reporting hate, supporting victims of hate, responding to hate and a guide specifically for youth. These resources are centrally housed online and can be easily downloaded, printed or shared.

About the Anti-Hate Conference
This full-day event will explore the campaign’s effort to raise public awareness and education about hate-related issues, while mobilizing communities to take action. Participants will

also have a unique opportunity to help shape anti-hate policy recommendations in Durham Region. The event also features a keynote speaker and panel discussion.

Date: Friday November 7, 2025
Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Ajax Community Centre (75 Centennial Road, Ajax)

Register to attend by Friday October 31.

“Together Against Hate Durham is a call to action that reinforces the Region’s unwavering commitment to fostering places and spaces where everyone feels safe, respected and valued. By increasing education and raising awareness, we want to empower municipalities, community organizations, institutions, and individuals with the tools and knowledge needed to take meaningful action against hate in all its forms.”
- Allison Hector-Alexander, Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Region of Durham

Royal Canadian Legion 2025 National Poppy Campaign now underway! More ways to donate, Poppies online for home delivery

he Royal Canadian Legion’s 2025 National Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Period officially launched today with additional access to Poppies, and thousands of locations participating in initiatives to encourage Canadians to Remember.

“The countless people who donate to the campaign during this period make a huge difference in Veterans’ lives,” says Berkley Lawrence, Dominion President. “Their donations allow us to help Veterans at the ground level, providing the assistance they need, from obtaining benefits to emergency funding. We thank everyone who contributes to this mission, and to all who take time to remember the sacrifices of our Fallen service members during this period.”

Gratifying comments such as: “...how incredibly helpful you have been and the stress you alleviated knowing you were available to provide guidance and support!” reflect the positive changes made in Veterans’ lives, thanks to the contributions Canadians make each year.

With support from RBC, the Legion has doubled the number of “Pay Tribute” tap to donate boxes this year, allowing donors to contribute five dollars or multiples of that number, by using a tap enabled device. The boxes are located throughout the country, including in Legion branches. In collaboration with Amazon Canada, this is the second year donors can contribute \$2, \$5, \$10, or \$20 in any combination, to receive a Poppy online to be delivered to their door. This expanded accessibility reached thousands of people last year, allowing access to Poppies in areas that do not have a Legion branch, or are not close to a larger centre. The Legion storefront on Amazon.ca will offer lapel Poppies until November 11. One hundred percent of the funds will go directly into the Legion’s Poppy Trust Fund to help support our Veterans and their families.

The Legion’s Amazon storefront also offers other Remembrance items such as the ever-popular Poppy centre pin which can be quickly shipped across the country. Additional items will continue to be available past November 11 to help Canadians remember and support Legion operations. A larger collection of hundreds of items can be found throughout the year at the Legion’s online Poppy Store.

Traditional Poppy boxes will still be available for donations and people can pick up a biodegradable Poppy at many thousands of outlets throughout the country. For a third year, that includes TD Bank branches where customers can also donate to the Poppy Trust Fund via that bank’s payee system – donations will go to local Legion branches.

Additionally, supporters can give online at Legion.ca. Funds donated across the country during the National Poppy Campaign support Veterans and their families. What is donated locally is used locally. Close to 20 million dollars is donated to the Poppy Trust Fund throughout the year by generous supporters, with much of that support coming in during the National Poppy Campaign.

The importance of Remembrance: Special initiatives

Ongoing Remembrance initiatives will continue throughout the Remembrance Period, including community and partner support across Canada with innovative programs. For example, the City of Ottawa is circulating buses with vivid Remembrance murals, and VIA Rail has once again wrapped train cars with visual messages of Remembrance.

People can visit poppystories.ca to scan their lapel Poppies and learn about a Veterans’ story. The initiative helps people build deeper and personal connections with our Veterans. Canadians may also notice many more Remembrance-themed crosswalks this year, featuring a new design created by the Legion to help municipalities show support for Veterans year-round.

The Legion’s ceremony guide for teachers, remains accessible and online for teachers across the country. Created in collaboration with Veterans Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defence, features information and tools to help hold a youth-focused Remembrance ceremony at educational institutions. The guide can also be tailored for use by any organization, allowing workers to attend a ceremony even if they are not in a position to leave their offices and participate at a cenotaph on November 11.

Perhaps the most sacred part of Remembrance Day ceremonies is the two minutes of silence which is taken to quietly reflect upon our Veterans’ sacrifices and remember them with deep gratitude. The Legion’s program to help encourage this action continues to grow with the participation of hundreds of electronic billboards which will go black at 11 am on November 11 to encourage people to take two minutes of silence no matter where they may be. City of Ottawa buses and trains will pause to mark gratitude for our Veterans, a program that will hopefully expand to other municipalities in future years.

Beginning October 31, beautiful Poppies representing Fallen Canadian Veterans will cascade virtually upon the Senate building (this year the Peace Tower is not included due to construction). The Poppy Drop will take place until November 11, from 6:30–9:30 pm ET. On November 10 and 11, the display will extend to midnight. Virtual poppies will also cascade down the National Art Centre’s “Kipnes Lantern” on November 11, from 6:00 am ET to midnight ET.

Many well-known Canadian landmarks and community locations such as the CN Tower, the City of Toronto sign, and the City of Ottawa sign in its Byward Market - among other wonderful locations – will light up at various times throughout the next two weeks in support of the National Poppy Campaign and Remembrance.

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