



Briefing to the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and  
Technology

Bill C-311 An Act to amend the Holidays Act (Remembrance Day)

On behalf of the Member and Executive of The Army, Navy & Air Force  
Veterans in Canada (ANAVETS)

Mr Chairman, members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology it is an honour to submit to you the feelings of ANAVETS in regard to making Remembrance Day a National Holiday on behalf of our President, Mr. Ronald Smith, and the executive and members of Canada's oldest veterans organization, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans (In Canada) – ANAVETS.

We were founded in Montreal in 1840 and Queen Victoria signed the charter for our first unit. At present, we have approximately 16,000 members across Canada formed into 67 Units, under 7 Provincial Commands.

Our association believes in the importance of the opportunity to remember, reflect and honour our men and women, of the past, present and future, who have made it their duty to protect the freedoms that each of us enjoys today.

Regarding having Remembrance Day deemed a national holiday however, there are considerations on both sides of this argument and until 2016 the Association membership and executive were unable agree on the best way to ensure the education of youth, the participation of Canadians in

remembrance activities while ensuring that the historical and poignant significance of the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month remain.

At the 2016 Dominion Convention the membership unanimously passed a resolution to support making Remembrance Day a national legal holiday on the conditions that the observance of such a holiday would always be the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

For the membership the important distinction is while we want as many Canadians as possible to have the opportunity for remembrance, reflection and to honour those fellow Canadians that have given their lives, and those willing to do so, that we may live in peace and democracy but not to diminish the significance of the day on which we stop to give that Remembrance.

Therefore, they were adamant that while November 11<sup>th</sup> should be observed as a national legal holiday, they did not want any days in lieu when the 11<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend like it did this year. This is a national day of Remembrance, somber reflection regarding the cost of the freedoms we enjoy as Canadians, not a reason to make another long weekend.

I appreciate the occasion to share with the Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology the feelings of the membership of The Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada in regard to this matter. It is important to note that this is a change to our previous stance on the matter of Remembrance Day as a national holiday. The membership is looking to balance the ability for Canadians to attend local ceremonies and reflect on the sacrifices made for our country while ensuring that the somber significance of this day is not just considered another 'moveable holiday' to accommodate long weekends.

Respectively Submitted,

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Dominion Secretary-Treasurer  
The Army, Navy & Air Force Veterans in Canada