

ABORIGINAL WAR VETERANS

Content Related Resources

Veterans Affairs Canada: Aboriginal Canadian Veterans

Canadian War Museum

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

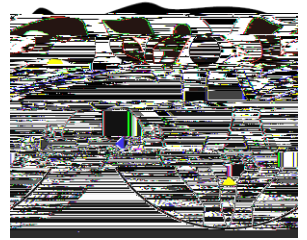
You Tube video: Honouring First Nations Veterans

Length: 10m 56s



Exploratory Topics to further First Nations Perspectives for SS 11 objectives:

assess Canada's role in World War I and the war's impact on Canada
assess Canada's role in World War II and the war's impact on Canada



1. Contributions

- largest group to serve (over 4000+) for WW1, 1:3 able bodied men volunteered, some reserves saw every single man signed up, \$44000 donated to war relief, 300 soldiers died
- WW2-3000+ men and women served, raised \$23000, 200 soldiers died
- increased agricultural output to help with food supplies
- wrote letters
- patrolled the west coast for signs of Japanese invaders
- reserve lands were 'borrowed' to use as airports, rifle ranges, and defense posts (a lot of 'borrowed' land was never returned)

2. Reasons for Enlistment

- similar to non-First Nations people (patriotism, wage, desire for adventure)
- deeper connection to Land (stewardship)
- need to protect Treaty Rights
- Loyalty to the Crown/treaty contracts-"Our treaties are with the crown, so when the crown calls, you go"
- traditional warrior values-protection of family, community, and land
- traditional hunting and tracking Skills

3. Pre and Post War Challenges

- after conscription was introduced, First Nations people were exempt but many continued to volunteer even though they risked loss of status rights
- could not access full Veterans benefits package because of the Indian Act, First Nations status people could not own land or borrow money
- Spread of diseases-TB and Spanish Influenza to other community members