

Institute of National Remembrance

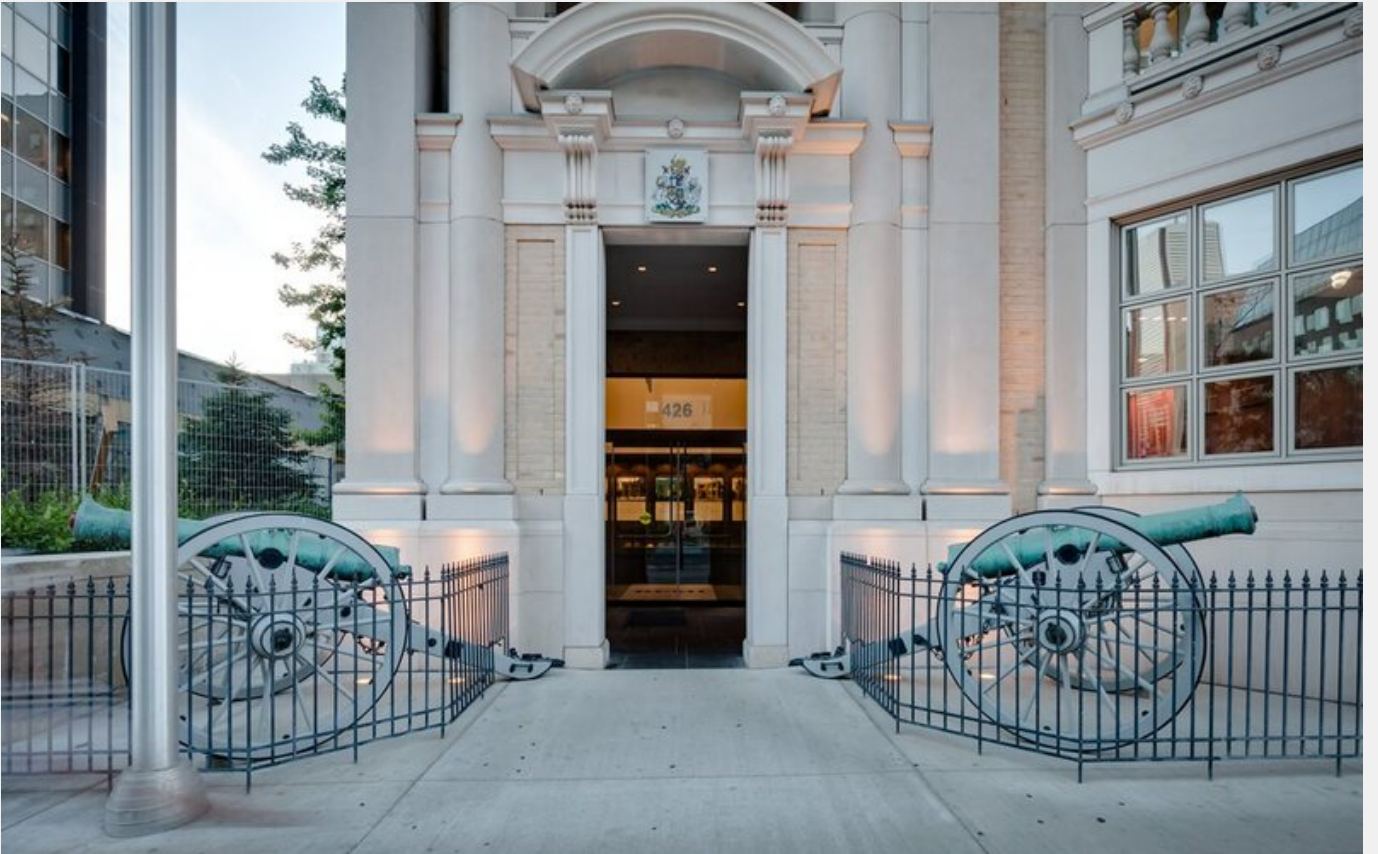
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A visit of the representatives of the Institute of National Remembrance at the Royal Canadian Military Institute, 24 August 2022











The Second World War

In 1939, the Royal Canadian Navy began the battle of the Atlantic with two training ships, 12 fighting ships and some 1,500 personnel from all arms. The Battle of the Atlantic transformed the Navy and Canadian shipping. By 1943, Canadian-built fighting ships, with better radar and anti-submarine weapons, supported by the Royal Canadian Air Force, were in action in the North Atlantic. By 1945, the Royal Canadian Navy had 171 ships and 55,000 men and women — the fourth largest in the world Navy. The 62nd anniversary, with emphasis on the role of the Merchant Navy, was celebrated in 1995.

The Canadian Merchant Navy maintained the sea routes to the United Kingdom with one supply — food, fuel, building and other materials, weapons and other supplies in the light and heavy seas and submarine threat. Merchant ships were the backbone of the war effort. During the war, the Merchant Navy lost 1,000 ships and 100,000 men and women. Ship in the 1980s were Canada's largest and most advanced ships for benefits and personnel. It is "Merchant Navy Remembrance Day".

The Korean War

The Royal Canadian Navy contributed eight destroyers to support United Nations ground forces in Korea. Destroyers Athabaskan, Clayton, and Huron, in a "Far East Destroyer Division" with operations off the Korean coast.

Operations in Korea included the evacuation of Chongju/Pyongyang, and "trainbusting" North Korean Army supply trains. Personnel served in Korean waters. Three men were killed in a Korean Army artillery fire.

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During the visit to the Royal Canadian Military Institute, the IPN delegation headed by Deputy President, Prof. Karol Polejowski, met with the President and Executive Director of the Institute, Capt Rodney W.J. Seyffert, CD and Prof. Walter J. Perchal (York University). The meeting focused around the topic of the mission, aims and goals of the two institutions and a discussion on possible future forms of cooperation. Joint initiatives and projects, such as the presentation of the IPN's "Trails of Hope. The Odyssey of Freedom" exhibition were also discussed.

The Royal Canadian Military Institute is an independent member-supported organization which, promotes the study and discussion of military history, defence, security and international affairs, along with the operation of its museum, library and archives, for the benefit of its

members and the interested public, through the provision of exceptional services within a unique collegial environment. The Royal Canadian Military Institute organizes regular Speaker Events where senior Canadian and foreign leaders and Canadians with exceptional experience and stature discuss current military and foreign affairs of special interest to the public. It also invites speakers to periodic roundtable discussions presented by the Defence and Security Studies Programme. These forums are designed to allow attendees to actively participate in the discussion of current issues from terrorism to current conflicts in an informal setting and a series of monthly educational presentations as part of its Military History Night series. The Institute's Library, with over 15,000 volumes on military history, science and art, is the largest privately funded and maintained library of its kind in Canada, and one of the larger libraries in North America. Its wide range of subject matter includes Army, Navy, Air Force, training and equipment, tactics and strategy, biographies and memoirs, uniforms, medals, war art and poetry. The Museum of the RCMI is the largest military history museum in Toronto, and one of the largest in Canada, with over 12,000 artifacts and archival materials in its collection. The museum, with six floors of display space and galleries throughout the Institute, possesses one of the most exceptional and complete collections of firearms (1855-present), uniforms, and medal sets in the world. Our collection includes the most diverse and complete collection of Canadian First World Uniforms and Militaria in existence.

The IPN representatives also paid a visit at the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Toronto as a way of summarizing their stay in

Canada and to discuss further cooperation in the upcoming months.

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