

**City of Port Colborne
Council Meeting Addendum**

Date: Tuesday, October 28, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne

Pages

6. Proclamations

*6.2 Indigenous Veterans Day - November 8, 2025

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Letter to Members of Port Colborne City Council, CAO, and City Clerk
Dated, October 25th, 2025

Re: Indigenous Veterans Day November 8th, 2025

Dear Mayor Steele, Members of Council, CAO, and City Clerk,

As you may know, each year since 1994 Canada commemorates November 8th as **Indigenous Veterans Day** thereby officially recognizing and honouring the substantial military contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis veterans. This important day serves to acknowledge the longstanding history of Indigenous military service, beginning with the War of 1812, the notably high rates of Indigenous volunteerism during conflicts such as both World Wars, and the ongoing commitment of Indigenous peoples in present-day service.

Additionally, Indigenous Veterans Day serves to recognize the historical injustices experienced by returning veterans, including the loss of Indian status under the Indian Act, and establishes a dedicated occasion for communities to express appreciation and enhance public understanding of their sacrifices and resilience.

In honour of this important day, I would like to please put forward a special request to the Municipality of Port Colborne to proclaim November 8th, 2025, as Indigenous Veterans Day at its upcoming Council Meeting, Tuesday October 28th - following the opening of the land acknowledgement statement.

Providing such an Official Proclamation by the Mayor and City Council would support Port Colborne's existing commitment in recognizing the land's Indigenous history, would reinforce its municipal and community dedication to standing in solidarity with all Indigenous peoples, and would express gratitude and a deeper awareness among residents regarding the vital role Indigenous individuals have played in shaping Canada.

Hoping this invitation to proclaim November 8th as Indigenous Veterans Day will be highly accepted by the City Clerk, Council and CAO to be included in the Mayoral readings of "Official Proclamations" at the upcoming Council meeting agenda on Tuesday, October 28th.

Thank you.
Respectfully,

Robert Sheele

Retired Citizen
[REDACTED]

Memberships in good standing

Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum
Ontario Historical Society
Indigenous Tourism Ontario





PORT COLBORNE

October 28, 2025

Moved by Councillor
Seconded by Councillor

WHEREAS more than 12,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples served to defend Canada in times of war and conflicts, natural disasters and in peace time; and

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples were forced to overcome many challenges to serve such as learning a new language, adapting to a new culture, and travelling long distances to enlist; and

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples have served with honour and distinction, bringing their unique culture and heritage to their work; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 2,700 Indigenous Peoples currently serve in the Canadian Armed Forces; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, I, William C. Steele, Mayor of the City of Port Colborne, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2025, as Indigenous Veterans Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, residents of Port Colborne are encouraged to remember and reflect on the long and proud tradition of Indigenous military service to Canada; and

FURTHER, On November 11th, the City will pause in a moment of silence to honour and remember all the men and women who have served, and continue to serve Canada during times of war, conflict and peace.

William C. Steele
Mayor