

EPISODE 6 COMING HOME
WHAT DO WE DO NOW? **What has Canadian society done to help returning soldiers and their families?**

Research Question(s): Every nation is confronted with determining how best to re-integrate soldiers returning from war. What programs — local, provincial or national—were in place for veterans as they adjusted to civilian life following the Second World War? What programs has the federal government established for veterans (First World War, Second World War, Korea, Gulf War, former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan) returning home to Canada? What role have service clubs and other organizations played in assisting veterans? Using the resources below, complete the chart as you assess programs established by government and non-government agencies. How have programs changed or remained the same as Canada has moved through the 20th century and into the 21st?

KEY KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**What key knowledge and skills will student acquire as a result of this activity?**

- **Learn** about federal government programs that shape many of Canada's social programs.
- **Evaluate** whether the federal government has provided enough support for returning veterans.
- **Assess** federal support programs to determine their effectiveness.
- **Analyze** materials to develop a perspective on federal support programs.

HISTORICAL CONCEPT**Continuity and Change**

Continuity and change are interwoven. An issue can be ongoing, but various aspects can also change within it over time.

Perspective

How do contemporary values and beliefs align or contrast with values and beliefs from a different time? How do we make sense of these various perspectives?

BACKGROUND

After six long years, the Second World War (1939–1945) was over. Men and women in uniform would now begin returning home to Canada, where they would pick up the threads of civilian life. Many aspects of life in Canada had changed, however. The economy would require new skills and levels of education. In addition, many returning soldiers would require support in the form of new housing for their families. For the federal government, the issue involved determining what types of programs were necessary, and how much support would be required to help returning military personnel adjust to life after the war.

For Canadians, there was nothing new in having to adjust from war to peace following the Second World War. A similar process had occurred when soldiers returned in 1919 following the First World War. A similar scenario would repeat itself a number of times after the Second World War as well, following the Korean War, the Gulf War, war in the former Yugoslavia, and the war in Afghanistan.



ACTIVITY

In your opinion, how effective have these programs (government and non-government) been for veterans (First World War, Second World War, Korea, Gulf War, former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, etc.)* after they returned home to Canada? Using the listed resources, complete the chart and assess the programs' degree of effectiveness.

*If students want to explore other conflicts create additional rows and populate with research findings.

Conflict	Programs	Degree of Effectiveness
First World War		
Second World War		
Korean War		
Gulf War		
Former Yugoslavia		
Afghanistan		

1. When considering the effectiveness of a program in carrying out its intended purpose, determine how many people the program was intended to serve.
2. Should economic costs be a consideration for government and non-government agencies when it comes to establishing programs designed to serve those negatively affected by military service?
3. For each conflict, did the different types of programs change for returning military personnel? If so, why do you think that was?

ONLINE SOURCES

Great War

SHELLSHOCK

Video: *Shell Shock* by Dr. Alan Brown, www.youtube.com/watch?v=faM42KMeB5Q

Canadian War Museum:

www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/life-at-the-front/trench-conditions/shellshock/

PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Canadian War Museum:

www.warmuseum.ca/firstworldwar/history/after-the-war/veterans/benefits-and-land-for-veterans/

Canadian War Museum:

www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/newspapers/canadawar/veterans_e.shtml

Veterans Affairs Canada:

The Origins and Evolution of Veterans Benefits in Canada 1914–2004:

www.veterans.gc.ca/public/pages/forces/nvc/reference.pdf

Second World War

INDIGENOUS SOLDIERS

Veterans Affairs Canada:

www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/historical-sheets/aborigin

WARTIME HOUSING

Video: *Wartime Housing* www.nfb.ca/film/wartime_housing/

Toronto Archives:

www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=106a757ae6b31410VgnVCM10000071d-60f89RCRD&vgnnextchannel=7cb4ba2ae8b1e310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD

Wartime Housing, St. Catharines, Ontario:

wartimehouses.com/the-homes/

GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Canadian War Museum:

www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/newspapers/canadawar/veterans_e.shtml

Heritage Minute:

www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/home-wars

Veterans Affairs Canada: *The Origins and Evolution of Veterans Benefits in Canada 1914–2004:*

www.veterans.gc.ca/public/pages/forces/nvc/reference.pdf

Korean War

Veterans Affairs Canada:

www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/about-us/policy/document/1048

Veterans Affairs Canada:

The Origins and Evolution of Veterans Benefits in Canada 1914-2004:

www.veterans.gc.ca/public/pages/forces/nvc/reference.pdf

Gulf War

CBC News:

www.cbc.ca/news/politics/veterans-of-gulf-war-balkans-plead-for-health-aid-1.1059868

Veterans Affairs Canada:

www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/canadian-armed-forces/persian-gulf

Canadian Forces:

www.forces.gc.ca/en/news/article.page?doc=current-status-of-gulf-war-veterans/hnlhlx36

Canadian Operations in the Former Yugoslavia

CBC News:

www.cbc.ca/news/canada/soldiers-with-severe-ptsd-have-trouble-finding-help-1.887423

War in Afghanistan

Literary Review of Canada — “Afghanistan’s Price” (November 2011) by Dr. Alison Howell:

reviewcanada.ca/magazine/2011/11/afghanistans-price/

Literary Review of Canada — “Back from War” (January 2012) by Dr. Yves Tremblay:

reviewcanada.ca/magazine/2012/01/back-from-war/

Veterans Affairs Canada — New Veterans Charter:

www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/news/vac-responds/just-the-facts/new-veterans-charter

Veterans Affairs Canada — The Origins and Evolution of Veterans Benefits in Canada 1914-2004,

www.veterans.gc.ca/public/pages/forces/nvc/reference.pdf

Additional Activities

Does wartime housing exist in your community?

In some Canadian communities, there is debate over existing wartime housing and whether these houses should be considered monuments to the Second World War and thus protected from being torn down and replaced with new housing developments. Determine if your community has wartime housing and, if so, whether or not you think these dwellings should be preserved as a community monument to the Second World War.

CBC Learning offers lesson plans exploring issues in the news. Many of these lesson plans combine history, politics and international relations, giving students an opportunity to explore issues within a cross-curricular context.

News in Review – CBC Learning: Military Suicides in Canada (January 2014):

media.curio.ca/filer_public/b4/c7/b4c72f11-e8b3-4d86-8425-0606b2f81e76/jan14suicides.pdf



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