

# Girl Guides of Canada Statement on Remembrance Day 2018

## What girls in Canada have to say about Remembrance Day, war, and peace

*To mark this year's Remembrance Day, Girl Guides of Canada—Guides du Canada (GGC), Canada's leading organization for girls and women, is releasing this statement:*

Remembrance Day, November 11, has always been an important day for GGC. During the First and Second World Wars, Canadian Girl Guide members were active in supporting the nation's war effort, as well as helping children affected by war overseas. Today, Girl Guide members continue to connect with members of Canada's military, both at home and while deployed, as well as welcome newcomers and refugees in local communities. And each year, Girl Guides can be found at Remembrance Day ceremonies from coast to coast to coast. As Remembrance Day is a time to honour those who have served, GGC also believes it is a day to acknowledge our responsibility to work for the peace they fought to accomplish. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice, which ended hostilities during the First World War on November 11, 1918.

War and violent conflict – whether 100 years ago or today – affects and involves young people. In partnership with Ipsos we asked girls in Canada ages 14-17 what they think about Remembrance Day, war, and peace. In addition to believing that Remembrance Day is about honouring soldiers' sacrifices (96% of respondents), they told us:

- **Teen girls believe Remembrance Day is about honouring peacebuilders, those who contributed to war efforts at home, and people currently affected by war globally:** Girls agree that on Remembrance Day, we should:
  - Honour the contributions of people who build peace in our world (93%)
  - Remember the contributions of women and men who supported the war effort at home (91%)
  - Think of all the people currently affected by war around the world (91%)
- **Most teen girls are concerned about experiencing war:** A majority (63%) of teen girls are concerned that they might experience war in their lifetime, including 17% who are very concerned. Concern is significantly higher among those who have met a refugee (75% vs. 56% who have not), and those who have met a veteran (72% vs. 53% who have not).

Girls in Canada told us that, to them, Remembrance Day is both about the past and the future. As we mark a solemn day of remembrance, let us also consider that young people today are worried about experiencing war in their lifetime. We can ask ourselves what we, as Canadians, can do to ensure that this concern does not come to pass.

### About Girl Guides of Canada

Girl Guides of Canada—Guides du Canada (GGC) empowers every girl in Guiding to discover herself and be everything she wants to be. In Guiding, girls from 5-17 meet with girls their own age in a safe, inclusive space to explore what matters to them. With programming options ranging from innovative STEM activities to outdoor adventures and discussions on mental health and healthy relationships, girls

in Guiding can customize their experience to dive into the topics relevant to them. GGC is where girls take the lead, put their ideas into action and jump into awesome activities – all with the support of engaged Guiders who are committed to positively impacting their lives. Guiding is all about supporting girls as they take on challenges and grab hold of every opportunity that comes their way.

#### About the Survey

The survey was commissioned by Girl Guides of Canada through Ipsos as an online poll of 502 girls in Canada aged 14-17 between September 5-17, 2018. Weighting was employed to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the population of girls aged 14-17 according to the most recent Census data. A sample of this size yields a margin of error of  $\pm 5.0$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error will be larger for data that is based on sub-groups of the total sample.

