

## PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES

### The importance of Remembrance, then and now

In 2005 then Governor General Michaëlle Jean unveiled a new Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill to honour Canada's "modern day military heroes", those who died from 1947 to the present. The first six Books of Remembrance contained 66,655 names from WWI and 44,893 from WWII. The new book contains more than 1,300 names. Afghanistan added 157 of those.

### There are 50 blank pages for the future.

The Minister of Veteran Affairs stated at the ceremonial opening of the first page, "The government wants to acknowledge that every mission has its cost and that military service certainly carries a sacrifice and that sacrifice is ongoing. There's no end to the work needed to do justice to veterans, and that includes modern-day veterans. It's really, really important to bring the past to the future. We want young people to realize that there are people from their own communities who not only helped shape the world in the past, during the great wars, but they're also helping shape the world in the future. Remembering the good work that our Canadian Forces do on a regular basis will give Canadians a sense of pride in being Canadian."

In April 2011, a woman named simply as "Belinda" responded to a blog by *Post Media News'* Derek Shelly:

I was in my car listening to an interview on CBC radio with a Canadian soldier and his wife. He was home from the war in Afghanistan—sort of. He was home in body, but the man who came home was not the same man that left—not on the inside.

The men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces represent the people of Canada when they go to keep peace or wage war. They do a job that puts them in harm's way. I am proud of their bravery, sacrifice, and the difference they make for less fortunate countries while representing Canada. Canada is known internationally for the way it honours its fallen soldiers, but surviving soldiers are heroes too. We must not abandon them in their hour of need."

Lest We Forget ....

