

**DURING WW1**  
**ABORIGINAL CANADIANS**

GAVE **\$44,000** TO SUPPORT

**CANADIAN**  
**SOLDIERS**  
**OVERSEAS.**

THAT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF

**== MORE THAN ==**



**\$800,000**  
**TODAY!**

**WE**  
**STAND**  
**TOGETHER**

AN INITIATIVE OF



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



#WeStandTogether



# Aboriginal Canadians during the world wars

There is a long history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis People standing beside non-Aboriginals to defend Canada in times of conflict. During the First World War, one in three First Nations men of military age volunteered as soldiers, snipers, sappers and scouts on battlefields across Europe. They earned medals for their bravery and also supported the Allies at home, donating money and goods to various relief funds. Aboriginal women, along with other Canadian women, played a major role during WWI, forming charity groups and collecting clothes, money and food to ship to troops overseas.

When the Second World War broke out, at least 3,000 Status Indians volunteered. Of these soldiers, a small group were recruited for a special American initiative. Along with American Navajo, these men were responsible for safe-keeping the Allies' most important messages and coding them into the Cree language. For decades after their service, the experiences of the code-talkers were classified and they could not speak to their families about their service in the war.

## Discussion questions

- Why do you think Aboriginal Canadians supported Canadian soldiers overseas?
- Why do you think their support is significant to Canada's history?
- How else did Aboriginal Canadians support WWI?