

**National Indigenous
Veterans Day**

November 8



**Please enjoy this profile of
Cpl. Hilliard P Kahpeaysewat -
Indigenous Veteran
from Moosomin First Nation, SK who
Served in Afghanistan**



ACTIVITIES ▶

INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY – IN CONVERSATION WITH CORPORAL HILLIARD KAHPEAYSEWAT

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/event/indigenous-veterans-day-corporal-hilliard-kahpeaysewat/>

The Canadian War Museum is proud to host a live interview with Corporal Hilliard Kahpeaysewat, of the Moosomin First Nation. Hilliard is an Afghanistan war veteran and a residential school Survivor.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

1 to 2 p.m. (EST)

Virtual Webinar

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He will share stories about his time in the military and will reflect upon his role as a veteran in his community.

We will also be sharing a sneak peek of clips featuring Indigenous perspectives from the **In Their Own Voices** project — an initiative aimed at capturing new accounts of veterans' military service or of their experiences after war.



On Sept 1st 2009, Cpl Hilliar Paul Kahpeaysewat was en route to Afghanistan. When he stepped off the plane, the temperature was a sweltering 55C. Six hours later, a rocket-propelled grenade exploded in front of him. It wasn't until later that he noticed his knee had been hit by shrapnel.

Much of his job involved reconstruction. Part of his job was driving an armoured vehicle and patrolling. "We walked with young women and girls to school, to ensure they could attend school each day."

Before he left for Afghanistan, his family and community held a banquet and naming ceremony for him. Elders gave him the name Golden Eagle.



“Being a soldier has taught me to be more accepting of people, and I didn't experience any type of racism during my tour. Other non-Aboriginal soldiers often smudged with me. For us it was a safety thing. We smudged together so that we could be granted a safe patrol, and we did this to have a sense that the Creator was watching over us.”

“Any tour of duty is a humbling experience, and it becomes a journey. Each of us has to go through a journey. When I joined the army, I was 35 years of age..... and I had seen a lot of trauma and experienced a lot of trauma at home too. I basically woke up one day and decided that I needed to change my life. Enlisting changed my life. Enlisting saved my life.”



“When I returned home, I didn't believe I was a veteran but the Elder's pulled me aside and said that my role now; is a role model. My journey isn't completed, and I'm also called Eshaw-key-hew; Yellow-Eagle. I went to Afghanistan to free other people, but I also went to free myself.

It is my hope that Canada remembers us and appreciates the sacrifices we have made so that all can be free and can live the way the Creator intended us all to live.”