

# REMEMBERING THIS COUNTRY'S MANY HEROES

IT'S TIME TO HONOUR OUR VETERANS, WRITES GARY CARR



GARY CARR  
Column

On Remembrance Day (Nov. 11), Canadians across the country will honour our nation's veterans for the great sacrifices they made in service.

Although services will be different again this year, it's important to find ways to recognize the daily sacrifices and heroism of our Canadian veterans and those currently serving.

Throughout our nation's history, Canadian soldiers have bravely protected our rights and freedoms. Their efforts have helped protect civilians around the world, and they ensured freedom and security for Canadians at home.

On Remembrance Day, we remember these soldiers and all those who gave their lives in the World Wars, Korean War and the war in Afghanistan, as well as in ongoing peacekeeping missions and exercises. Today, current members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) continue to bring aid to areas in conflict, in addition to providing support during times of crisis at home, including essential supports during the COVID-19

pandemic.

2021 also marks the 100th anniversary of the remembrance poppy in Canada. The tradition of wearing a poppy on Remembrance Day began with Madame Anna Guérin, who was inspired by John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" to adopt the distribution of the poppy as a way to raise money for veterans' needs and to remember those who had given their lives during the First World War.

In July of 1921, the Great War Veterans' Association (which in 1925 would unify with other veteran groups to form the Canadian Legion) adopted the poppy as the flower of remembrance. Since then, the Legion and its members have upheld this tradition of remembrance.

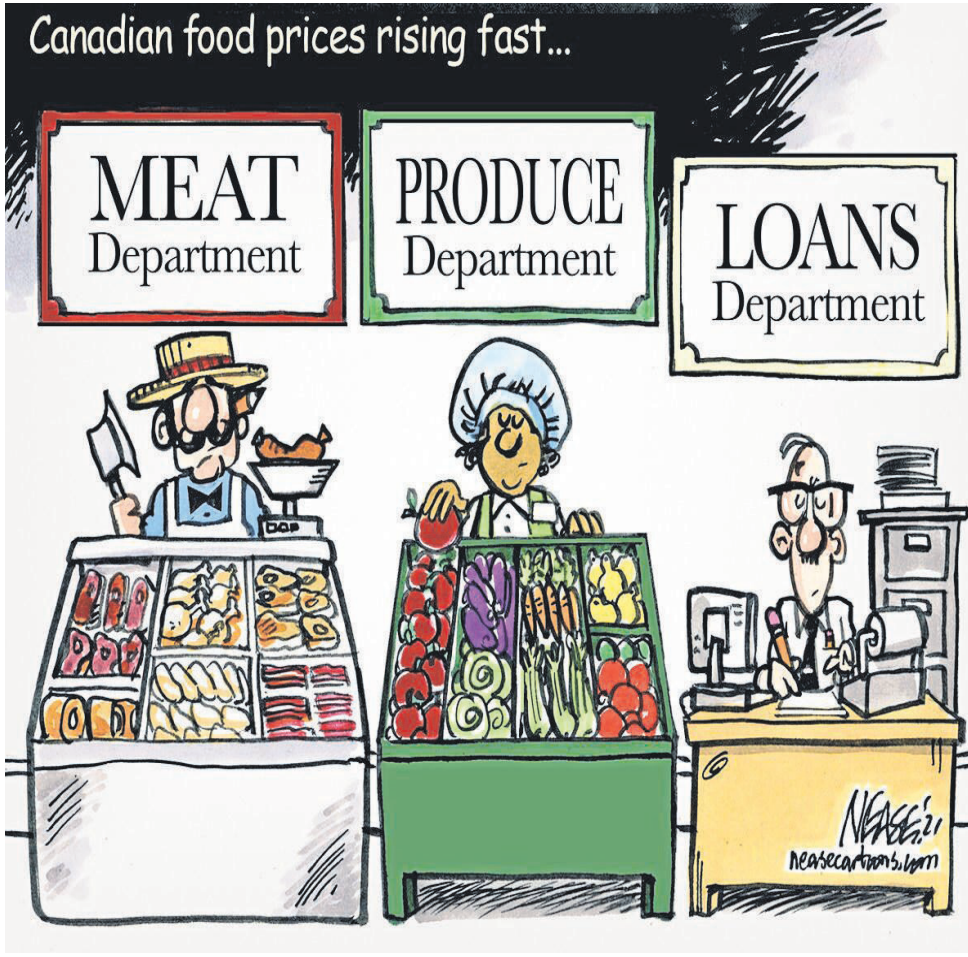
Next Thursday (Nov. 11), we will honour the service of Canada's veterans, and we will never forget the price they paid so we could build a strong, inclusive and peaceful society.

I encourage you to wear your poppy with pride to honour the bravery of Canada's armed forces, both past and present. To find a location that's selling poppies or to purchase other items from the Royal Canadian Legion's online poppy store in support of Canada's veterans, please visit legion.ca.

Thank you to our veterans and soldiers for helping keep Halton a great place to live, work, raise a family and retire.

*Gary Carr is the regional chair of Halton Region. To contact him, email gary.carr@halton.ca.*

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## TAX AVOIDANCE HURTS US ALL

STRONGER CONSEQUENCES MUST BE PUT IN PLACE, WRITES PETER WATSON



PETER WATSON  
Column

The world has just had another glimpse of how the privileged have avoided taxes.

This round of tax avoidance has been named the Pandora Papers. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists obtained 11 million offshore

files from 14 firms, including financial services and legal.

Six hundred journalists in over 100 countries spent the last two years investigating various tax avoidance strategies. This is an embarrassment for countries, to allow loopholes or to not have the determination or ability to collect taxes that are owed.

Plus, it sends a message to the billions of people in the world that pay their taxes that they are carrying the burden while the elite few have a different set of rules.

Canada, as well as other countries, could use extra tax revenues.

Two things could be done to alleviate tax avoidance. First, if taxes are being avoided because of loopholes, that does not make it illegal. The solution is to change the tax laws to re-

move the loopholes.

If tax avoidance is a result of fraud, including money laundering, then increase the priority of law enforcement to track down these cases. Increase penalties in order to discourage people from engaging in fraud and other illegal activities.

Identify professional firms that facilitate any illegal type of tax avoidance activity.

Consider stronger sanctions against these firms, including strong financial penalties.

Everyone should pay their fair share of taxes.

*Peter Watson, of Watson Investments MBA, CFP®, R.F.P., CIM®, FCSI offers a weekly financial planning column, Dollars & Sense. He can be contacted through www.watsoninvestments.com.*

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