

## 1914 To 1982 -Separate and Unequal

### Activity 9: Indigenous Peoples and the World Wars: Continuity and Change

During the First and Second World War, thousands of Indigenous peoples served in the Canadian military, and most Indigenous communities participated in the war efforts on the home front. However, Indigenous experiences of the world wars — both at home and overseas — varied greatly. Although many who served were respected and accepted by the Armed Forces, many other Indigenous individuals and groups also faced discrimination and unequal treatment, both during the wars and after. The following activity asks you to compare and reflect on these experiences.

#### PART A:

- Compare the wartime experiences of Indigenous peoples in the First and Second World War.
- Begin by reading **Indigenous Peoples and the World Wars** on The Canadian Encyclopedia, taking notes on your research.
- Create a T-chart with “First World War” on one side, and “Second World War” on the other side. In point form, include the most important aspects of the wartime experiences for Indigenous peoples in Canada.
- Based on your T-chart, identify two similarities and two differences in the experiences of Indigenous peoples in the world wars. Discuss your reflections with a partner.

#### PART B:

Select an individual veteran from the internet. Type in **Indigenous Peoples and Twentieth-Century Canadian Military History** in the search bar.

Use your research to write a news article about the roles and accomplishments of this individual. In your article, include the following information where available:

- Role(s) and wartime experiences
- Accomplishments
- What their lives were like after the war
- Photos or quotes if available

Read and listen to Howard Sinclair Anderson’s story on the **Memory Project Veteran Stories Archive**.

Why is this testimony significant?

Howard Sinclair Anderson  
(courtesy Howard Anderson/The  
Memory Project/Historica Canada).

