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Remember in schools: Poll ; Most Canadians believe a ceremony on Nov. 11 should be mandated by law in the education system

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At least eight out of 10 Canadians believe that all elementary and high schools should be legally required to hold Remembrance Day ceremonies annually, a poll says.

The VoxPop Remembrance Day study by Marketing Research and Intelligence Association (MRIA), which governs Canada's survey research industry, polled 1,002 Canadian adults last week and found Canadians feel strongly about the importance of Remembrance Day.

According to the poll, 87% of Canadians believe schools should be mandated to observe Remembrance Day.

The number is even higher for foreign-born Canadians -- 91% of whom said schools should be obligated to mark Nov. 11.

As well, 78% of the respondents said they wear a poppy to remember Canada's war dead, 67% said they regularly observe a minute of silence on Remembrance Day, and 47% said they make the effort each year to personally attend a Remembrance Day ceremony.

"A striking finding is that Canadians strongly believe that young people and immigrants to Canada should be educated about Canada's military history and our veterans' defence of democracy as a key preserver of our freedom," added Brendan Wycks, executive director of MRIA.

"Almost 9-in-10 Canadians -- 87% -- believe that educators should do more to teach Canada's military history in schools. And 84% of respondents, including 83% not born in Canada, think our military history should be taught in the course given to immigrants seeking citizenship."

A total of 72% of respondents from across the country said the stretch of Hwy. 401 between CFB Trenton and Toronto, named the Highway of Heroes in August, 2007 to commemorate the Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan, is an important symbol of recognition for Canada's war dead.

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