

FRANCE MEDALS TO CANADIANS

France awards more medals to Canadians than any other country. In 1998, France awarded the Legion of Honour (Chevalier) to all surviving WW1 veterans in Canada and has subsequently awarded the honour to all living WWII veterans who participated in D-Day. The Initial awards were gazetted but the later one have not been gazetted. The following are a representative sample of French awards made to Canadians. The ISSUED are those from the time these awards began to appear regularly in the Canada Gazette.

LEGION OF HONOUR (l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur)

TERMS

Napoleon Bonaparte instituted the honour as a legion or body of men whom he wished to honour for their meritorious services, military or civil.

Today the honour is in 5 grades: Grand Cross (sash and star), Grand Officer (neck and star), Commander (neck badge), Officer (breast badge), and Chevalier/Knight (breast badge). Both men and women receive the honour.

DESCRIPTION

The badge consists of a five-armed cross with ten points, enamelled white, each point tipped with a gold ball superimposed over a wreath of laurel and oak in green enamel. The centre medallion bears the female head of **La Republique** with a blue border with the inscription in gold **REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE** and a star at the bottom. A wreath attaches to the top of the medal and a ring attaches to the wreath for the ribbon to pass. There is no distinction between civil and military awards.

RIBBON

The red ribbon is 38-mm wide. Officers wear a rosette on the ribbon. Commanders wear a rosette on a white stripe.



ISSUED

Awarded to Canadians since 1983 (current to CG 26 August 2017)

Grand Cross	3	Paul Desmarais CC / Michaëlle Jean CC CMM COM DStJ CD
Grand Officer	3	Robert Bourassa / Paul Desmarais / Roméo Leblanc
Commander	17	General Walter Natynczyk CMM MSC CD / Beverly McLachlin
Officer	50	Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli, COM, CStJ, RCMP
Knight	202 +	146 named WWII Veterans - 348 Total Knights

Between 2004 and 2007, 97 World War II Canadian veterans, who actively took part in the liberation of Europe, received the Knight of the Légion d'Honneur from the Republic of France.

This project was expanded in 2012 to 2015 to include all Canadian veterans who had participated in D-Day. My friend, former Senator, The Honourable John Nichol, CC, received the medal in the mail at Christmas 2015. These honours were not gazette and so the numbers are not known.



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¹ Ms. Céline DION, CC, CQ (Knight of the Legion of Honour)
General Raymond HENault, OC, CMM, OstJ, MSC, CD (Commander of the Legion of Honour)

The Honourable Paul Desmarais, PC, CC was made an Officer in 1991, promoted to Grand Officer in 2003 and made a Grand Cross in 2008.

NATIONAL ORDER OF MERIT

TERMS

Instituted in December 1963 with five classes:

Chevalier (Knight): to be of a minimum age of 35, have a minimum of 10 years of public service (although, in practice, 15 years is the minimum commonly needed to be conferred the rank of *Chevalier*), and "distinguished merits" (for active duty commissioned officers, this is achieved after fifteen years of meritorious service).

Officier (Officer): minimum of 5 years in the rank of *Chevalier* (for active duty commissioned officers, this is achieved after seven years in the rank of *Chevalier*).

Commandeur (Commander): minimum of 5 years in the rank of *Officier* (for active duty commissioned officers, this is achieved after five years the rank of *Officier*).

Grand Officier (Grand Officer): minimum 3 years in the rank of *Commandeur*.

Grand-Croix (Grand Cross): minimum 3 years in the rank of *Grand Officier*.

The Order replaced 16 separate orders in various fields such as Social Merit, Public Health, Commercial and Industrial, Artisan, Tourist, Combatant, Postal, National Economy, Sporting, Work, Military Merit, Civil Merit of the Ministry of the Interior, Sahara, Black Star, Star of Anjouan and Nichann El Anouar.

DESCRIPTION

A blue enamelled six-armed Maltese asterisk cross, in gilt (silver for Knight). The cross has V-ends to the arms, hanging from an oval laurel wreath and with interlaced laurel leaves between each arm. The central medallion bears the female head of the La Republique with the inscription around it:

REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE.

The reverse has crossed tricolour flags with the words in a circlet:

Ordre Nationale du Merite. 3 December 1963.



RIBBON

The 38-mm wide ribbon is solid blue. The level of officer wears a rosette on the ribbon and a Commander wears a rosette on a bar of silver, Grand Officer on a bar of gold and silver and a Grand Cross on a bar of solid gold.

ISSUED to Canadians (gazetted in Canada Gazette since 1983 to 29 July 2017)

Grand Officer	2	The Honourable Herménégilde Chiasson & Monique COLETTE
Commander	7	Right Honourable Brian Dickson, PC, CC, CD
Officer	43	Brigadier-General Fred Bigelow & MGen Jack Dangerfield
Knight	119	Ms. Céline DION, CC, OQ



² Major-General Jack Dangerfield, CMM, MSC, CD – last miniature is the Officer of the Legion of Merit (USA) – 2nd last miniature and last ribbon in tan uniform is the Knight of the National Order of Merit (France)

THE ORDER OF ACADEMIC PALMS

TERMS

In October 1955 the decoration became an Order, in three grades:

Commander,
Officer, and
Knight.

It is awarded to officers of universities and academies for meritorious service.

DESCRIPTION

The Commander wears a neck badge with two branches of palm (vertical and crossed) in gold with violet leaves and with a violet wreath above. The Officer's badge is similar but smaller, without the wreath, and is worn on the left breast. The Knight's badge is similar but in silver and enamels and is also worn on the left breast.

RIBBON

The ribbon is violet, 32-mm wide, with a rosette on the officer's ribbon.



ISSUED to Canadians (gazetted since 1983 to Canada Gazette of 27 July 2017)

Commander	12
Officer	67
Knight	208

THE ORDER OF AGRICULTURAL MERIT

TERMS



Awarded for meritorious service to the field of agriculture.

The order has three classes:
Commander (neck badge),
Officer (breast badge), and
Knight (breast badge).

DESCRIPTION

A white enamelled six-pointed star set on a wreath of corn (left) and maize (right), with a medallion identical to the National Order of Merit. The reverse has **MERITE AGRICOLE 1893**.

RIBBON

The green ribbon is 38-mm wide ribbon with a 5-mm wide red stripes 1-mm from each edge. Officers wear a rosette on the ribbon.

ISSUED (to Canada Gazette of 27 July 2017)

Officer	9
Knight	43

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS MEDAL of HONOUR (BRONZE)

ISSUED to a Canadian

1 Mrs. Judith Varela in 2011



THE ORDER OF ARTS AND LETTERS

TERMS

Awarded for meritorious service in the arts and in writing. The Order has three levels: Commander (neck decoration); Officer (breasts decoration); and Knight (breast decoration).

DESCRIPTION

An eight-armed cross of 16 points of gold, enamelled green with the interlaced initials A,L on the white medallion.

RIBBON

The green ribbon 37-mm wide and has four 2.5-mm white stripes each 5.5-mm apart.



ISSUED (gazetted to Canadians since 1983 to Canada Gazette 26 August 2017)

Commander	9	Mr. Jean-Louis Roy 25 January 2014
Officer	36	Professor Herménégilde Chiasson, OC, KStJ, ONB
Knight	170	Ms Janine Sutto, CC, CQ / Diana Krall, OC, OBC

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THE ORDER of MARITIME MERIT (ODM)

TERMS

For Services to the merchant navy or shipping. There is a Commander, Officer and Knight level of the Order.

ISSUED to Canadians

Officer	1
Knight	1

In 2008 to Mr. John Butler (Knight of the Order)
In 2017 to Mr. Jean d'Amour (Officer of the Order)



**NATIONAL DEFENCE MEDAL - Médaille de la Défense nationale
(various Clasps)**

TERMS

The award is made by the military and the recipients must have achieved a minimum of:

Bronze level: 1 year of service and accumulated 90 points;

Silver level: 5 years of service (minimum 2 years in the Bronze level) and accumulated 600 points;

Gold level: 10 years of service (minimum 2 years in the Silver grade) and accumulated 800 points.

The yearly quota of Gold and Silver level awards are set by the minister of defence.

Points are earned through participation in exercises, operations, proficiency, initiative, awards received.

Persons who had been awarded the Légion d'honneur or the Ordre du Mérite cannot receive the Médaille for military service.

The medal can be awarded in any one of the three levels to:

- Military personnel on active duty or in reserves and civilians killed or injured in the line of duty;
- Active military or reservists which have distinguished themselves by the quality of their service;
- French civilians and **foreign military personnel** or civilians who have rendered honourable services particularly important to the defence of France.

A person receiving a Mention in Despatches for heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy, they are awarded the Médaille de la Défense Nationale at the Gold level, adorned with a ribbon device (bronze, silver or silver gilt star or palm).

CLASPS

There are specialty and geographical clasps with the current number being 47. Up to three clasps may be worn at each level.

RIBBON

A 36-mm wide red silk moiré ribbon with a 12-mm wide central blue stripe. The ribbon for the silver grade award is similar with the addition of 3-mm wide white edge stripes. The edge stripes are yellow for the gold medal, silver for the silver medal and there are no edge stripes for the bronze medal.

DESCRIPTION

A 36-mm in diameter circular medal struck from bronze, the gold level is gilt, the silver award is silvered.

OBVERSE

The relief image of Rude's Marseillaise with the relief inscription along the upper circumference "FRENCH REPUBLIC" (*RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE*).

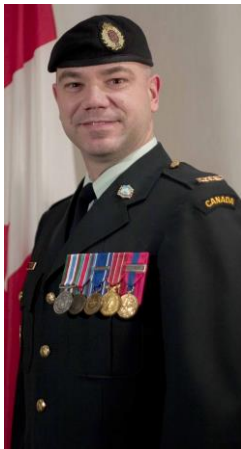
REVERSE

The relief image of a Phrygian Cap over a laurel branch and the inscription along the medal circumference in the upper half "ARMY" and "NATION", in the lower half "NATIONAL DEFENSE" ("*ARMÉE*" "*NATION*" "*DÉFENSE NATIONALE*"), the upper and lower inscriptions being separated by a relief five pointed star on each side.



ISSUED (gazetted to Canadians since 1983 to Canada Gazette 26 December 2015)

Gold Medal	10	Infantry only clasp specified for 2 of them	3
Silver Medal	24	Armée de Terre / Génie / Infantry specified in some	
Bronze Medal	37	various Clasps (including 1 with 2 Clasps)	
		only 3 specified which clasp	
		Major Michaël R.G. Godard awarded 2 clasps	
		Génie and Mission d'opération extérieur	



³ Captain (now Major) Louis-Philippe BINETTE, CD (Bronze Medal – last medal on right)
 Brigadier-General Richard BLANCHETTE, CD (Gold Medal – last ribbon) (note also the NATO MSM Ribbon middle of last row)
 Colonel Sylvain BÉDARD, OMM, CD (Silver Medal) with Clasp Armée de l'air (2nd Last ribbon); Last ribbon Bronze medal also USA MSM with extra award

NATIONAL DEFENCE MEDAL with Clasp GENDARMERIE NATIONALE



ISSUED to Canadians
 Gold Medal 8
 Bronze Medal 5



4

FRENCH COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL with bar "former Yugoslavia"

DESCRIPTION



The round medal has the symbol of the Republic on the obverse and on the reverse has a central sword hilt down with leaves on each side with the words Medaille Commemorative Francaise in the center.

ISSUED to Canadians
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OVERSEAS MEDAL with CLASP "LEBANON" or "Mali"
ISSUED to Canadians

2 (Current to Canada Gazette of 29 July 2017)

- Lieutenant(N) Jonathan Simard-Mercier (Lebanon Clasp) \ (RMC Class 1993 22637)
- LCol Doris Gobeil (Mali Clasp)

⁴ Inspector Nadine Carmel-Tremblay of the Sûreté du Québec

CROSS of MILITARY VALOUR - BRONZE STAR

TERMS

To members of allied civilian government or military forces who committed an act of valour or performed valourous service while on joint operations with French forces. The Bronze Star signifies that the award was for a Mention in Regimental or Division-level dispatch.

DESCRIPTION

A 36-mm bronze cross, with the effigy of the Republic crowned with a wreath, with the edge embossed: "REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE". On the reverse is the inscription: "*Croix de la Valeur militaire*".

RIBBON

The red ribbon is 36-mm wide with a central 7-mm band of white and a 2-mm white band 1-mm from each edge.

ISSUED to CANADIANS

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CG 29/10/94 **Captain Noel DUFRESNE, CD**
CG 24/02/01 **Captain Eric GIRARD**



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FRENCH POLICE MEDAL of HONOUR

TERMS



It may also be awarded in exceptional cases for acts of courage or exceptional service to the police force by national or foreign police officers regardless of time of service. Under these circumstances, the medal ribbon is adorned with a five pointed silver star.

DESCRIPTION

It is a 27-mm in diameter circular silver medal. On the obverse is the relief image of the protecting Republic, in the form of a standing helmeted woman holding a sword and a shield, protecting a kneeling woman pulling a frightened child to her, and behind them on the right is a tree. Along the right circumference, the semi-circular relief inscription:

"POLICE FRANÇAISE".

REVERSE

The reverse has at the bottom a framed rectangular area the name of the recipient and the year of the award.

Along the upper medal circumference, the relief inscription "RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE".

In the center, the inscription "MINISTÈRE DE L'INTÉRIEUR".

RIBBON

The medal hangs from a 30-mm wide silk moiré tricolour ribbon with an 8-mm wide central blue stripe bordered by 6-mm wide white stripes and 5-mm red stripes at its edges. The ribbon's suspension loop is adorned with a crown composed of an olive branch and a sprig of oak with an opening on the right.

AWARDED to a CANADIAN

1 Inspector J.A.R. Pruneau (Canada Gazette of 30 November 1985)

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SILVER MEDAL for TOURISM

TERMS

The Médaille du Tourisme is an honor, given to reward people who have productively contributed to tourism development in France and overseas

AWARDED to a CANADIAN

1 Mr. Leon Bourgeois
as per CG of 21 October 1995



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MEDAL of HONOUR of LABOUR (Grand Gold Echelon)

TERMS

For long and faithful service in employment.

The Medal of Honor of Labor (1948) has four Degrees:

25 Years Service - The Silver Medal

35 years Service - Silver-Gilt Medal with Rosette on the ribbon

43 Years Service - Gold Medal with Rosette on the Ribbon & Gold Wreath Suspension

48 Years service - Gold Medal with Rosette on ribbon with Gold Wreath suspension
and an open Gold Wreath on the Ribbon.

DESCRIPTION



A circular silver medal on laterally-pierced ball suspension; the face with an oak-crowned female head facing left, representative of the French Republic, circumscribed 'REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE' and signed 'Borrel'; the reverse with a rectangular plaque bearing the attribution 'L. MANDRY / 1959', imposed on a staff of Hermes (Mercury), a flaming torch and oak and ivy leaves, ribbons below inscribed 'HONNEUR TRAVAIL', circumscribed 'MINISTERE DE COMMERCE ET DE L'INDUSTRIE', signed 'Borrel', with Paris Mint cornucopia silver assay marks; age-toned; on original tricolour ribbon

AWARDED to a CANADIAN

- 1 Mr. Armand Essiminy as per Canada Gazette of 28 June 2014
Financial Director of Air France

