

## Unit One: Assignment 2: Case Study

**Topic:** Indigenous Soldiers in World War One

### Learning Goal

I can describe the roles and experiences of Indigenous soldiers during World War I and explain how their participation affected their communities and relationships with the Canadian government.

**Case Study:** Read the following passage and respond to the questions that follow.

Thousands of Indigenous men from across Canada volunteered to fight in the First World War. They faced many barriers, such as not having the right to vote, poverty, language barriers, and racial discrimination. Still, many Indigenous men enlisted for a variety of reasons—some out of a sense of duty, others for adventure or pay, and some to gain respect or equal treatment.

Once enlisted, Indigenous soldiers were usually treated the same as other soldiers. They trained, lived, and fought alongside non-Indigenous soldiers. In the trenches, survival depended on cooperation. Many Indigenous soldiers were praised for their excellent marksmanship and tracking skills.

Notable Indigenous soldiers like Francis Pegahmagabow, a sniper and scout from the Ojibwa nation, became highly decorated for bravery. He earned the Military Medal with two bars and is recognized as one of the most effective snipers in the war.

After the war, returning Indigenous soldiers faced renewed racism and limited access to veterans' benefits. Some communities were proud of their soldiers, while others saw enlistment as a betrayal of Indigenous values. The Canadian government often failed to support Indigenous veterans equally, leading to long-standing resentment and injustice.

## Comprehension & Critical Thinking Questions

1. What were some of the barriers Indigenous men faced when trying to enlist?
2. Why do you think so many Indigenous men still chose to volunteer?
3. In what ways were Indigenous soldiers treated equally? In what ways were they treated unequally?
4. Who was Francis Pegahmagabow? Why is he significant?
5. How were Indigenous veterans treated after the war?
6. Do you think Indigenous participation in the war helped or hurt their communities? Explain your reasoning.