

## Biography

### Joseph Paquette

Rifleman Joseph Paquette was born and raised in Kapuskasing, Ontario. At the age of 15, he moved to Welland, Ontario, and attended Eastdale Secondary School. In 1966, Joe joined the Lincoln and Welland Regiment reserves and served with them for about one year before leaving home and transferring to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 1st Battalion regular force in July 1967. His father had to sign for him due to Joe being under the age of 18 at the time.

Joe underwent basic training at Currie Barracks in Calgary and then posted to Workpoint Barrack in Esquimalt, British Columbia, with the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 1st Battalion, B Company, No.5 platoon. Joe trained in military mountain warfare at Fort Greely, Alaska, and served under North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Mobile Command (Land). In Norway, he participated in NATO exercises, which included Canada, the United States (Regular Force), Britain (British Commandos), Italy (Alpine troops), and the Norwegian militia. The Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force were merged into the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1969. In December 1970, just before being rebadged as 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI), Joe was honourably released from the CAF, in order to attend Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, Ontario.

He has participated in the military Black Bear program for the past five years at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Borden and CFB Gagetown and remains a strong advocate and supporter of the youth and veterans.

In the spring of 2012, Joe was acclaimed President for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council – a post he continues to hold. He received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 at CFB Borden presented by Captain Glen P. Miller, Regular Force. Also present was Robert Thibeau C.D., President of the Aboriginal Veterans Autochtones (AVA).

In February 2014, Joe was the recipient of the 2013 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement and in October 2014, he received the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation for work done with the MNO Veterans Council.