



Message from the Honourable Coralee Oakes
Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development



On behalf of Premier Christy Clark and the Government of British Columbia, I would like to thank Royal Roads University for presenting “BC Remembers the First World War 2014-2018: A forum to explore directions, issues and opportunities.”

This year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. The conflict looms large in the history of Canada and British Columbia and by the war’s end, Canadians and British Columbians felt a stronger sense of identity through common challenges and hardships. The war still leaves a legacy to this day of triumph and tragedy.

Every Remembrance Day, citizens gather at community cenotaphs throughout the province to honour the sacrifices made by British Columbians serving their nation. In many B.C. communities, war memorials include the names of Canadian soldiers from the First World War.

The war’s political, social and economic impacts shaped the future of Canada. Following the war, Canada gained full control over its domestic and foreign affairs as a sovereign dominion. Known to contemporaries as the Great War, the First World War marks a significant turning point in the development of our country and province.

Over the next few years, Canadians will observe anniversaries of events from the First World War. British Columbians will participate in these observations through activities in their local museums, libraries, schools and heritage sites.

I am confident this forum will help stimulate discussion about how we can meaningfully commemorate the First World War as an important chapter in the history of Canada and British Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Coralee Oakes".

Coralee Oakes

Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development