



# Canada and the Commemoration of the First World War

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Focus Forum  
BC Remembers the First World War 2014-2018

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Canada<sup>ca</sup>



## A Legacy of Service and Sacrifice

- First World War
  - Among the most important chapters in world history, and indeed Canada's
- 2014-2020
  - Time to reflect on accomplishments and sacrifices
  - Integral part of plans leading to Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017
  - Commemorations will build awareness, promote national pride and create legacy for future generations
  - Government-wide commemorations
    - Veterans Affairs Canada working with Canadian Heritage, National Defence and other federal organizations



## Government-wide Commemorations

- Led by Canadian Heritage, Veterans Affairs Canada and National Defence
  - With support from other departments and agencies
    - e.g. Canadian War Museum, Library and Archives Canada, Parks Canada, Royal Canadian Mint, Canada Post
- Government-wide commemorations will:
  - build awareness
  - promote national pride
  - create legacy for future generations
- Commemorations will include:
  - Ceremonies at National War Memorial
    - Late Summer 2014: launch of commemorations of two World Wars
  - Learning resources to engage youth and educators
  - Funding assistance for remembrance activities for across Canada



## Broad Range of Initiatives

- Government of Canada's commemorations will include, among others:
  - Central website for World Wars
  - Ceremonies at home and overseas
  - Funding for activities across Canada
  - Learning resources to engage youth
  - Museum exhibits at home and overseas
  - Commemorative coins and stamps
  - Digitization of First World War records
  - Partnerships with private sector



## At Home in Canada

Key ceremonies at National War Memorial (Ottawa) for the First and Second World Wars

- Late Summer 2014 launch of commemorations of World Wars – part of rededication of National War Memorial



## Community-based projects

- Community Engagement Partnership Fund - to be eligible, the project must be commemorative in nature and pay tribute to Canadian Veterans or those who died in service.
- Cenotaph / Monument Restoration Program - to be eligible, a project must be related to a statue or structure, in need of restoration, repair or expansion.
- Learning Resources - Veterans Affairs Canada has an online feature which contains a large amount of resources for the classroom such as learning modules, learning videos, publications, etc.

For more information:

Please visit [www.veterans.gc.ca](http://www.veterans.gc.ca) and click the **Remembrance** tab.





## Overseas in Europe

- Plans underway for new Visitor Education Centre to be opened in 2017 at Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France
- Increased visitation expected at Canada's First World War memorials in Europe starting in 2014
- National Arts Centre Orchestra tour of the United Kingdom in 2014 to mark Canada's entry into First World War



## Governance

- Commemoration of World Wars in Canada
  - Government-wide, over many years, involving many partners
- Working groups established to ensure coordinated approach
  - e.g. Interdepartmental Commemorations Committee
- Other fora also in place to ensure good planning for communications, etc.
- Veterans Affairs Canada
  - World Wars Secretariat in Commemoration Division plays coordination role





## Conclusion

- Commemoration of the First World War – heightened period of remembrance around the world
- Canada will engage in commemoration at home and abroad
- Canada is proud to collaborate with its partners to mark these significant events



## Contact Us

1-866-522-2122 (English)

1-866-522-2022 (Français)

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<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance> (English)

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/fra/commemoration> (Français)

<http://canada150.gc.ca/eng/1389030950562> (English)

<http://canada150.gc.ca/fra/1389030950562> (Français)



# Questions ?



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