



# Road to 2017 and World Wars Commemorations

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British Columbia Museums Association  
Focus Forum  
BC Remembers the First World War 2014-2018  
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## The Road to 2017: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation

- In 2017 Canadians will have the opportunity to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- The Road to 2017 Framework details the Government of Canada's approach to marking key milestones on the road to 2017 (i.e. between 2012 and 2017)
- On the Road to 2017 there are a broad range of significant nation-building anniversaries and other accomplishments
- They provide opportunities to showcase and celebrate the events that have made Canada what it is today
- The Road to 2017 will build momentum towards Canada's 150th anniversary

## Road to 2017 Framework

- The Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages is responsible for the Road to 2017 Framework and has a role in promoting a strong national identity
- Canadian Heritage will lead and coordinate pan-governmental implementation of priority milestones identified in the Framework



## Road to 2017 – Key Milestones

- The commemorations of the First and Second World Wars is a key component of the Road to 2017 Framework
- The focus in 2014 is on World Wars commemorations:
  - 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War I
  - 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II
- WW Commemorations will:
  - Honour Canada's ongoing and proud tradition of service
  - Encourage Canadians to reconnect with their history and heritage
  - Instill national pride

## Approach to World Wars Commemorations

- The Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages will lead and coordinate the commemorations on behalf of the Government of Canada
- Canadian Heritage will lead the commemoration in close collaboration with Veterans Affairs, National Defence, Parks Canada, Canadian War Museum, Library and Archives Canada and other federal organizations and ensure an integrated set of national commemorations
- We will commemorate and honour those who made contributions and sacrifices, both military and non-military, including Aboriginal peoples, women and Canadians from all backgrounds

## Plans for World Wars Commemorations

- The anniversaries of these World Wars will be marked by a series of activities both at home and abroad that will begin in 2014 and continue through to 2020
- Key dates include:
  - May 9: National Day of Honor (Afghanistan)
  - June 6: 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day and Battle of Normandy
  - August 4: Centennial of the Start of the First World War
  - September 10: 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the start of the Second World War
- Examples of commemorations abroad include a permanent Visitor Centre at Vimy will be constructed through financial support from the Government of Canada and the Vimy Foundation. The Vimy Foundation will raise funds through donations from the private sector and individual Canadians

## Situation in British Columbia

- Many of the commemorations on the Road to 2017, such as the Quebec and Charlottetown Conferences, generate greater interest in Eastern Canada than in Western Canada
- However, there are a few historical milestones on the Road to 2017 that highlight British Columbia's history and heritage:
  - 75th anniversary of the start of Alaska Highway construction. This played a significant role in the development of Northern BC and the Yukon.
  - 100th anniversary of BC women winning the right to vote in provincial elections
  - 150th anniversary of the conveyance of Vancouver Island from Hudson's Bay to the Crown

## Road to 2017 Projects

- The Government will use existing programs to support national, regional and community commemorations and legacy projects that Canadians will contemplate and learn from for generations to come
- In PCH's Western Region (BC, AB & YT) we are currently working with 11 projects tied to the World Wars
- Majority of projects recommended through Museums Assistance Program (MAP)
- The Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage program (BCAH) supported "How Logging Won the War and Saved Port Clements – Commemoration of the role of logging Sitka Spruce to the WWII Effort"



## Projects in Development

- Several more projects are in development at Canadian Heritage, Western Region, including the Wait for me Daddy – Statue unveiling in 2014 and re-enactment of WWII march in 2015



# Canadian History Strategy

- The Road to 2017 is part of the overall effort to make our history more accessible to all Canadians, in particular, Canadian youth. These efforts include:
  - The Canada History Fund
  - Government of Canada History Awards
  - The dedication of July 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> as Canada History Week
  - Additional measures in support of the heritage sector

## Next Steps

- Details regarding support for any community-based projects will be made available in due course
- In advance of any departmental announcement on the Road to 2017, Canadian Heritage, Western Region, will work to develop projects in Western Canada that both speak to the national themes related to the commemorations of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> as well as to local events and histories
- PCH is interested in small community projects with a local and national dimension to fund from within existing PCH programs or other funding reallocations
- Project ideas can be submitted to Canadian Heritage Western Region:  
[wr-ro@pch.gc.ca](mailto:wr-ro@pch.gc.ca)

# Thank you

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