



The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund Year End Communiqué for 2011-2012

Winnipeg, July 4, 2012

Overview

Over the fiscal year ended March 31, 2012, the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) worked ardently in carrying out the objective of the CFWWIRF. A total of ten formal meetings of the Endowment Council were held (nine via conference calls and one in person in Toronto), as a result of which 14 grants were awarded, totaling \$290,400. Since the inception of the CFWWIRF, the Endowment Council has awarded \$727,807 in grants, with another \$554,529 approved for distribution between 2012 and 2015. The approved grants cover historical and artistic exhibits, books and publications, commemorative events, internee cemeteries, films, research projects, and national educational curriculum strategies.

Several grant projects came to fruition across Canada during 2011-2012, including:

- in British Columbia, the unveiling of the first internment mural “Shadows of the Past” by artist Betty Kovacic in Prince George;
- in Alberta, the launch of the first internment resource book for high school students, “Prisoners of Prejudice,” written by the Edmonton Public Centre for Education and distributed to every high school in Alberta;
- in Ontario, the restoration of the cemetery grounds (including the restoration of the internee-built monument and replacement of all cemetery markers) and the re-consecration of the Kapuskasing Cemetery spearheaded by the Ron Morel Memorial Museum; and the performance of “The Letter” by the Verkhovyna Ukrainian Song and Dance Ensemble of Edmonton at the Toronto Ukrainian Festival; and

- in Quebec, the official opening of the Camp Spirit Lake Corporation Internment Interpretive Centre in La Ferme, near Amos, which is the product of the largest grant approved and funded by the Endowment Council.

Members of the Endowment Council also participated in face-to-face meetings and conference calls as part of a Parks Canada exhibit review committee in making recommendations to Parks Canada in connection with its development of a new interpretive facility adjacent to the Cave and Basin National Historic Site of Canada in Banff National Park, a new exhibit at Fort Henry National Historic Site of Canada in Kingston, and the installation of a panel in an existing POW exhibit at the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada, all sites where internment occurred.

Replacement of Internee Descendant Representative

On behalf of all the members of the Endowment Council, the Chair, Ivan Grbešić, officially thanked and extended good wishes to Dr. Ted Sosiak, internee descendant representative, for his contributions to the work of the Endowment Council during his one-year term.

On April 1, 2012, Anne Sadelain was appointed as the new internee descendant representative to the Endowment Council for the current fiscal year. Mrs. Sadelain represents the Descendants of Ukrainian Canadian Internee Victims Association (DUCIVA).

Launch of the Critical Thinking Consortium Website

The Endowment Council is also pleased to announce that the Critical Thinking Consortium has launched its new website, which includes a section on Canada's first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920. For access to educational materials, please visit <http://sourcedocs.tc2.ca/history-docs/topics/world-war-i-internment.html>

About CFWWIRF

The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund was established to support projects that commemorate and recognize the experiences of all of the ethno-cultural communities affected by Canada's first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920.

For more information about the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, please contact our Program Manager, Andrea Malysh, toll free at 1-866-288-7931. www.internmentcanada.ca