



[www.internmentcanada.ca](http://www.internmentcanada.ca)

**For immediate release – October 12, 2011**

## **OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF “PRISONERS OF PREJUDICE”**

The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) and the Edmonton Public School District No. 7 (EPSD) held the launch of the student resource booklet, *Prisoners of Prejudice* on Friday, October 7, 2011 at the Edmonton Public Schools, Centre for Education in Edmonton, Alberta. This student resource, initiated by the Descendants of Ukrainian Canadian Internee Victims Association (DUCIVA), is an account of Canada’s first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920.

Edmonton Public Schools consultant and author of the student resource in question, Douglas Davis, stated: “This is a piece of Canadian history we rarely discuss and which few books are written about. Currently, internments are part of the Grade 11 Social Studies curriculum and Canada’s first internment is one of the sections. However, up until now, there has been no existing student resource or teacher’s guide regarding this issue.” Mr. Davis is also an internee descendant whose Great-Grandfather was interned in the Vernon internment camp.

Opening the event was Andrew Hladyshevsky, Q.C., Vice-Chair of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, who was instrumental in bringing this project to fruition by working closely with Edmonton Public Schools and ensuring that this student resource is completed and distributed to the Alberta schools this fall.

Ivan Grbešić, Chair of the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, also addressed those in attendance, stating: “*Prisoners of Prejudice* speaks to those Ukrainians and other Europeans who were unjustly interned, not because of anything they had done, but because of who they were and where they came from. This project will assist in educating students about this tragic chapter from our past and ensure that it is accurately reflected in our Canadian history.”

DUCIVA was represented at the event by Anne Sadelain, Andrew Antoniuk, Gerry Bayrack and Otto Boyko. This group of first generation internee descendants initiated this project by engaging Edmonton Public Schools and

Douglas Davis and by seeking funding from the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund.

A cheque representing the final instalment for this project was presented by Mr. Grbešić of CFWWIRF to Tanni Parker, Assistant Superintendent, Student Learning Services of Edmonton Public School.

The event ended with a special performance by Edmonton songwriter, Maria Dunn, who left the audience in tears with her song, "In the Shadow of the Rockies."

*Prisoners of Prejudice* is being distributed to every high school in Alberta.

### **About CFWWIRF**

The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) 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 on this event or the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund contact the Program Manager, Andrea Malysh, toll free at 1-866-288-7931.***

***[www.internmentcanada.ca](http://www.internmentcanada.ca)***

**Photo: representatives of Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund, Edmonton Public School, Centre for Education and Descendants of Ukrainian Canadian Internee Victims Association.**



Photo courtesy of Andrea Malysh