

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA'S  
WAR



LA GUERRE  
DE LA COLOMBIE  
-BRITANNIQUE

1914–1918



ROYAL BC  
MUSEUM

An exhibition by the Royal BC Museum

[royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

The 102nd (North British Columbians)  
Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary  
Force at Courcelette before an attack,  
September 1916. RBCM BCA F-00283.



# The Great War comes to you

The Royal BC Museum dug deep into its collections to unearth powerful material about the Great War and create a travelling exhibition that can set up camp at your venue.

The aim of this bilingual exhibition—*British Columbia's War, 1914–1918*—is to educate British Columbians about the contributions of their forebears in the First World War.

Using archival photographs, fascinating stories and images of artifacts, the content includes:

- British Columbia before the war
- Patriotism, racism and enlistment
- First Nations and Japanese-Canadian war heroes
- Life at the front and in key battles at Ypres and Vimy Ridge
- Our war at sea, from BC's submarines to Nelson's heroic sailor
- Our war in the air, from Raymond Collishaw—Nanaimo's flying ace—to logging Haida Gwaii Spruce for aircraft materials
- Women at war, overseas and on the home front
- What war meant to British Columbia's children
- Peace and the problems of returning veterans
- How British Columbians remember war and loss



Nanaimo, BC flying ace,  
Major Raymond Collishaw,  
France 1918. Library and Archives  
Canada Photo, MIKAN No. 3214135.



Captured German MG08/15 light machine gun. It fired 600 rounds per minute. RBCM 977.341.1.

*“The Great War had a monumental impact on the formation of British Columbia as a political entity, with its own emerging sense of identity,”* said Royal BC Museum CEO, Prof. Jack Lohman. “The Royal BC Museum’s collections help show how the province coalesced around this traumatic global event as soldiers, nurses and various ethnic groups from all corners of the province signed up for service.”

One of the strengths of this travelling exhibition is its collaborative nature. All exhibition content is informed by community consultation. Partner venues are encouraged to expand upon the exhibition’s major themes by adding content from their own collections to tell the stories that matter most to their visitors.

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## Accompanying Material

### Marketing Package

Electronic tool kit with sample media release, including background information on the exhibition, title graphic and images to use in advertising.

### Hands-on Outreach Kit

This exhibition comes with replica First World War archival material housed in a replica ammunition box for use in supervised programming.



### Online Resources

There are rich online learning and teacher resources available through the Royal BC Museum’s website and Learning Portal, including images, video and over 5,000 digitized First World War letters.

[royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/exhibitions/past/the-great-war/](http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/exhibitions/past/the-great-war/)

[learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/british-columbia-remembers-the-great-war/](http://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/british-columbia-remembers-the-great-war/)

[learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/documents-and-diaries/](http://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/documents-and-diaries/)

[transcribe.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/](http://transcribe.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/)

[learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/oral-history/listen/](http://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/pathways/oral-history/listen/)

[learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/playlist/the-call-went-out/](http://learning.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/playlist/the-call-went-out/)

### Video Theatre Presentation

The Story Theatre Company and the Royal BC Museum teamed up to create the theatrical presentation ‘The Call Went Out’. In this 30-minute production the voices of BC soldiers are drawn from archival letters and presented along with poetry and music written at the time, giving them new life while recreating the emotion and turbulence of those early war years.

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Trench art refers to shells refashioned into memories. RBCM 2012.79.

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## Space Requirements

This is a modular exhibition with 14 panels, up to four artifact cases and a monitor with archival video footage. The intent of the design is that it will be flexible, allowing host venues to configure the exhibition as needed. The minimum space required is 23.25 sq. m (250 sq. ft.).

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## Participation Fees

To receive the panel exhibition, monitor unit and up to four empty matching showcases, the only cost to your venue is shipping.

The addition of Royal BC Museum artifacts comes with a fee to cover extra shipping, travel and expenses for installation by Royal BC Museum staff. Please contact us to discuss what this cost might be for your location.

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## Availability

This exhibition is available April 2016 through 2019 and requires a three month minimum booking.

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## Contact

Kate Kerr  
Travelling Exhibits Coordinator  
250-882-2309  
[kkerr@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:kkerr@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca)

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## About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province's human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Looking to the future, by 2017 the Royal BC Museum will be a refreshed, modern museum, extending its reach far beyond its two-hectare campus in Victoria as a world-class cultural venue and repository of digital treasures.



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