



## World War 1 and Contemporary Policy on War and Peace Canadian War Museum, 1 Vimy Place, Ottawa, ON



26-28 September 2014

### Introduction:

On the centenary of World War 1 The Group of 78 and Project Ploughshares are pleased to organize this conference taking place at the Canadian War Museum to reflect, on the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1, on whether and how policy-makers, diplomats, civil society and the armed forces today can help reduce the incidence of armed conflict and reinforce the foundations of a more stable, peaceful world. Historians will cast light on the events preceding, during and following the war. Others will draw attention to how our world is similar, where it diverges, and the development of multilateral institutions and international law to avoid war and build human security.

Our aim in convening this conference is to bring together historians and commentators from civil society, the diplomatic and military communities to consider the “Great War” in relation to issues of contemporary international peace and security. What can we learn from World War 1 to prevent armed conflict in our day, strengthen the tools of diplomacy and peace-building, inhibit the innovation of increasingly destructive weaponry, and reduce the stockpiles of costly weaponry?

There can be no greater tribute to those who suffered and died in World War 1 than to learn from their experience, and strive for a more peaceful world.

### Format of Sessions:

Each panel will open with a perspective from a historian followed by perspectives from representatives of civil society and the diplomatic and military communities. The non-historians will draw out implications or insights for war and peace in our own time. The Chair of each session will be encouraged to engage all of the speakers in dialogue, with opportunity for the audience to participate in the discussion as well.

### Acknowledgements – as of September 2, 2014

We acknowledge with thanks the support of Peace Quest, the Embassy of the United States, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Embassy of Austria.





**PROGRAM** – as of Sept. 2, 2014

For updates and registration see [www.group78.org](http://www.group78.org)

**Friday 26 September 2014**

**Barney Danson Theatre, Canadian War Museum**

- 1:00 – 1:30 pm Registration  
Special exhibit sponsored by the Austrian Embassy in the museum lobby:  
Bertha von Suttner, the first woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1:30 – 2:00 pm **Welcome, Introductions, Purpose and Format of the Conference**  
Opening Ceremony/Welcome  
Andrew Burtch, Canadian War Museum  
Richard Harmston, The Group of 78  
John Siebert, Project Ploughshares  
Albert Dumont, Algonquin elder
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm **Keynote: Desmond Morton, The Great War 1914-1919: The Political Consequences for Canada**
- 3:00 – 4:30 pm **Panel Session 1                      Efforts to Stop the War**  
**Themes:**                      **Was WW1 avoidable?**  
Have we learned anything about war prevention and conflict resolution?  
**Chair:**                              John De Chastelain  
**Historians:**                      Amy Shaw, Holger Afflerbach  
**Commentator:** Ernie Regehr
- 4:30 – 4:45 pm Break
- 4:45 – 6:15 pm **Panel Session 2                      Innovations in War**  
**Themes:**                      **Could the proliferation of new lethal weapons of mass destruction have been prevented?** Has the machinery of arms control and disarmament improved?  
**Chair:**                              Marius Grinius  
**Historian:**                      Roger Sarty  
**Commentators:** John Siebert, Gordon Vachon
- 6:15 – 7:00 pm **Witness – Canadian Art of the First World War and Transformations – A. Y. Jackson & Otto Dix : CWM exhibits, a tour**  
**Speakers:**                      Laura Brandon, Melanie Morin-Pelletier, Canadian War Museum
- 7:00 – 8:00 pm **Dinner**
- 8:00 – 9:30 pm **Musical performance: Soldiers of Song: A tribute to the Dumbells**

**Saturday, 27 September 2014**

**Barney Danson Theatre, Canadian War Museum**

- 8:30 – 9 am Registration/ Coffee and Tea
- 9:00 – 10:00 am **Keynote Speaker:**                      R. H. Thomson, **Remembering WW1**



10:00 – 10:15 am Break

10:15 – 11:45 am **Panel Session 3**            **Civil Society and WW 1**

**Themes:**            **How was the war fought – or resisted – on the home front?**  
What role can civil society play to strengthen peace and stability, and to end conflict?  
**Chair:**                Metta Spencer  
**Historian:**        Kara Dixon Vuic, Tamara Scheer  
**Commentators:** Jamie Swift

11:45 – 1:30 pm Lunch

12:30 – 1:30 pm **Keynote: Ian MacKay** Paradoxes of Vimy Ridge

1:30 – 3:00 pm **Panel Session 4**            **Memory and War**

**Themes:**            **Was truth the first casualty of WW1, and must it always be thus?**  
Uses and abuses of information in war, censorship and propaganda, war history, generating support for war  
**Chair:**                Peggy Mason  
**Historian:**        Jeff Keshen  
**Commentators:** Nicole Schwartz-Morgan, Ira Basen

3:00 – 4:30 pm **Panel Session 5**            **Ending the War, Failure of the Peace**

**Themes:**            **Why could WW1 not be ended sooner?**  
Will the UN overcome the critical weaknesses of the League of Nations?  
**Chair:**                Paul Heinbecker  
**Historians:**        Walter Dorn, Mustafa Aksakal  
**Commentators:** Alistair Edgar

4:30 – 4:45 pm Break

4:45 – 5:45 pm **Roundtable: What can we learn from WWI to make the 21<sup>st</sup> century a century of peace?**  
PUBLIC FORUM moderated by Michael Enright, CBC  
Holger Afflerbach, Mustafa Aksakal, Tamara Scheer, Daryl Copeland, Ernie Regehr  
*This Roundtable is designated as an event within the Ottawa Peace Festival*  
<http://ottawapeacefestival.blogspot.ca>

5:45 – 6:15 pm Closing

**Sunday, 28 September 2014**

**Atelier D, Canadian War Museum**

**9:00 – 10:30**    **Conference Summary Discussion and Wrap-up**

**Post conference**

- 10:30 – 12:00    Atelier D, Canadian War Museum: **Group of 78 Annual General Meeting** (members only)

**Evening Event of Interest, South Minster United Church** (tickets sold separately)

**7:30 p.m. *VERS LA FLAMME; Reminiscences of the Great War.*** A piano recital by Maxim Bernard