

Information and Event Guide

VIMY

1917 • 2017



CANADA 150

Canada

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Message from the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence



It is a privilege to join you as we mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The capture of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 was an impressive victory in Canadian military history, but at a great cost: approximately 3,600 Canadians were killed and more than 7,000 were wounded.

Vimy Ridge is still referred to by many as the battle that marked Canada's coming of age as a country, as it was the first time the four divisions of the Canadian Corps served together.

The relationship between Canada and France remains strong with the Canadian National Vimy Memorial's two soaring pylons serving as a lasting symbol of our two countries, joined together by the spirit of sacrifice. This magnificent memorial honours all who served Canada in battle and risked or gave their lives during the First World War.

It is my sincere hope that your experience at Vimy and in the City of Arras during the centennial commemorative events will be both unforgettable and inspiring.

**The Honourable Kent Hehr,
 Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence**

Message from the Mayor of Arras



A date with History

1914-1918 ... Two twentieth century dates that forever marked the history of Europe and that of our country. The First World War, which saw Germany and its allies opposed for five years to the Triple Entente countries (France, Russia, United Kingdom and Commonwealth nations), had reached a scale, an intensity and a ferocity never seen before.

As the commercial and financial capital of Artois, Arras was not spared by the ravages of war. With more than 80% of the city destroyed, Arras suffered more than its share, joining Verdun, Reims and Soissons in war. It is thanks to their courage, solidarity and hope that Arras and its inhabitants survived.

On April 9, 2017, we will commemorate the Centenary of the Battle of Arras: an occasion to honour the men and women from all corners, heroes of the war of 14-18 who came to fight in Arras and all along the front from Vimy in the north to Bullecourt in the south. British, Canadians, New Zealanders, Australians, South Africans ... the whole world came to fight on our land in 1917 to defend freedom.

A hundred years later, Arras has a date with its History.

Frédéric Leturque, Mayor of Arras

Canada Office - VIMY 100

Services for all visitors

- Information on Government of Canada events including schedules and locations.
- Directions/access to Government of Canada events including maps, parking, and shuttle information.
- General information on events organized by surrounding French communities.

Services for Canadians

- Canadian point of contact for emergencies.
- Canadian Consular services such as lost or stolen passports.

Locations and hours of operation

April 1 to 12:

61 Grand'Place, Arras

9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

(Hours may be reduced on April 9)

April 9 and 10:

Canadian National Vimy Memorial

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. - April 9

(Please note the on-site centre will be closed during the April 9 ceremony).

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - April 10

Canadians travelling to the events are encouraged to visit the Canada Office - VIMY 100 in person or to visit canada.ca/vimy-100 for up-to-date information.



Please note that information included in this publication was accurate at the time of printing and is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, visit the **Canada Office - VIMY 100** (details enclosed), check the Veterans Affairs Canada website at Canada.ca/vimy-100 or call 011 800 1917 2017 (from Canada) or 00 800 1917 2017 (from France).



Respecting the site

The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is Canada's principal memorial in Europe to the country's contribution and sacrifice in the First World War. The site was granted to Canada by France in 1922 in perpetuity for use as a memorial site. In 1996, it was designated a National Historic Site of Canada. The Canadian National Vimy Memorial underwent a two-year restoration which was completed for the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 2007.

Vimy is an important place of remembrance and reflection. These grounds are the final resting place for many of those soldiers whom we are gathering to remember.

We ask that you show your respect by helping to keep the site clean from litter. During the main ceremony on April 9, we ask that you refrain from smoking, eating, or using your cell phone.

Schedule of Events

Eyes of the Battle of Arras

Saturday, March 18 – Tuesday, May 16

Town Trail, Arras

Arras Tourist Office

Through a path going from the Place Foch to the Saint-Vaast Abbey, this photographic exhibition featuring 120 portraits of soldiers serving during the Battle of Arras is an opportunity for visitors to come face to face with those men who came from all over the world, and be drawn into their life stories. To discover even more, visit the dedicated website using the QR codes on the signs.

Witness - Fields of battle through Canadian eyes

Saturday, March 18 – Sunday, June 11

Musée des Beaux-Arts, Arras

The Musée des Beaux-Arts in Arras is hosting the Canadian War Museum's exhibition *Witness – Fields of Battle through Canadian Eyes*. This exhibition presents the experience of the First World War in France and Belgium as witnessed by Canadian soldiers and celebrated artists such as A. Y. Jackson, Frederick Varley, Arthur Lismer and Frank Johnston, who later became members of the Group of Seven. This important cultural offering will provide French residents and Canadian visitors with a new perspective on the formative role the First World War played in their shared history.

(Re)Trenches

Saturday, March 18 – Sunday, June 11

Main courtyard of the Saint-Vaast Abbey, Arras

A trench reconstruction will be set up in the courtyard. Built by the students of Jacques Le Caron, it constitutes an excellent way to prepare for the visit of the Canadian exhibition *Witness*.

1917: Saint-Vaast Abbey Exhibition

Saturday, March 18 – Sunday, April 11

Gates of Saint-Vaast Abbey, Arras

An open-air exhibition of photographs and eye-witness accounts, to discover or remember the story of the Abbey (Palace and Cathedral) during the Great War and the Battle of Arras.

There are a number of other local events planned for these dates. For more information, visit the Canada Office - VIMY 100 or centenaire.org

Poppy of Peace – Victory Medal

Saturday, April 2 – Wednesday, April 12

Place des Héros, Arras

A participatory work around the creation by sculptor Helen Pollock, *Victory Medal*, honouring the New Zealand forebears who fought in the First World War, visitors and residents are welcomed to create a giant poppy of peace. Thanks to red disks, symbolizing the poppy's petals, this participative work, based on an original concept by Tony McNeight, will honour the men of all nations who fought during the First World War.

Vimy 100 Sound and Light Show: Three Seconds of Light

Wednesday, April 5 - Wednesday, April 12, 9:00 p.m.

Place des Héros, Arras

Come and experience an unforgettable journey of sound and light as you explore Canada's story, military history and deep connection with the City of Arras. Combining digital technology with historical architectural design, the 20-minute show is projected on some of the most creatively constructed buildings located in the Place des Héros in Arras.

The sound and light show may be cancelled in the event of extreme weather conditions as it is held outdoors.

Military Concert

Friday, April 7, 8:00 p.m.

Place des Héros, Arras

The composite band of the Canadian Armed Forces join their friends and allies from La musique de l'Infanterie for a concert to mark 100 years of friendship and shared history between the French, the Canadian Armed Forces and the City of Arras.

Dawn Ceremony

Sunday, April 9, 6:30 a.m.

Carrière Wellington, Memorial Wall,
Arthur Delétoille Street, Arras

Arras Tourist Office

April 9, 1917, 5:30 a.m. – The Battle of Arras begins.

Thousands of soldiers run on a 20-km front line from Vimy to Bullecourt.

April 9, 2017, 6:30 a.m. – An international commemorative ceremony is held in front of the Carrière Wellington Memorial Wall to honour all the nations who fought during the Battle of Arras.

Ceremony open to the public.



Schedule of Events

Sunday, April 9 Canadian National Vimy Memorial Site

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

There will be a number of activities at the Vimy Memorial site before and after the official ceremony on April 9. Activities will include:

- opportunity to meet members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
- activity tents;
- various exhibits.

Please note that activity tents and various exhibits will be closed during the official ceremony from 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Pre-show

12:00 p.m.

Featuring musical performances, commemorative elements and historical content. The artistic element known as *Boots of the Fallen* will feature prominently in the pre-show.

Boots of the Fallen

Throughout the afternoon, thousands of Canadian Armed Forces boots will be placed on-site by Canadian and French youth. These boots symbolically represent the approximately 3,600 Canadians who died during the Battle of Vimy Ridge and their legacy for Canadians today.



100th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge Commemorative Ceremony

4:00 p.m.

The Government of Canada will host a commemorative ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge and the First World War. The ceremony will pay homage to the sacrifices and achievements of all those who participated in the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 1917, and highlight the importance of passing the torch of remembrance to the youth of today. The theatrical ceremony will tell Canada's First World War story as presented by well-known Canadian performers, actors and musicians in the presence of a large contingent of Canadian Armed Forces personnel and thousands of Canadian youth. The storyline will be built on the strong symbolisms associated with the history of the battle, the people who participated and witnessed it and the Canadian values which are carved into the monument and remain relevant today.

Important:

- Pre-registration was required for this event.
- Shuttles will stop at 2:00 p.m. All visitors must be on site no later than 3:00 p.m.
- We are expecting very large crowds at all events, so you must plan to arrive well in advance of the official start times. On April 9, you should **arrive at least three or four hours early**. There will be various activities and performances on-site to enjoy in the hours before and after the Commemorative Ceremony.
- Due to security restrictions, road closures and the large number of people entering and exiting the site on April 9, you should allow plenty of travel time and expect delays. We ask that you remain patient during this process.
- **Only authorized vehicles will be permitted on-site; all visitors must use the shuttle bus service or designated footpath.**



General Information

Registration

Pre-registration was required by **February 17, 2017** for the commemorative event on April 9 at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial.

Please note: Attendees will need to provide a **printed copy of their official e-ticket and government-issued photo identification**, such as a passport, national photo I.D. card or driver's license, on the day of the event.

If you are not registered, you will be denied access to the ceremony.

Site access

From April 1 to 5, 2017, access will be restricted within some areas of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial site due to event preparations.

The site will be closed to the public from April 6 to 9, 2017. Only those who have pre-registered and have their e-ticket and government-issued identification will be permitted to access the site for the April 9 ceremony.

On April 10, 2017, the new Visitor Education Centre at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial, along with access to the tunnels and trenches will open to the public. Please expect long line-ups. To welcome a larger number of visitors during the Vimy centennial period, visitor services at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial will be available from 9:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m. on April 10 to April 12.

Access to the area surrounding the monument may be restricted to allow for removal of equipment.

Please visit the **Canada Office - VIMY 100** or visit canada.ca/vimy-100 for the most up-to-date information.



General Information

Shuttle bus service/parking

There will be no private vehicles permitted on-site April 9. A shuttle bus service will operate. You must park your vehicle in the designated parking areas.

On **Sunday, April 9**, the shuttle will run to the site from **9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** The shuttle will then move people off the site after the ceremony, beginning at approximately **6:00 p.m.** For shuttle pick-up/drop-off locations, and shuttle hours call or visit the **Canada Office - VIMY 100** or check the Veterans Affairs Canada website at **Canada.ca/vimy-100**. Pedestrians are permitted to access the site using authorized routes only. There will be some restrictions.

Seating

There will be limited seating available during the Commemorative Ceremony on April 9. Priority for seating will be reserved for Veterans and those with special needs. The Canadian National Vimy Memorial site is accessible to those with mobility impairments and is wheelchair accessible.

Restrictions at Vimy site

There are many areas of the Canadian National Vimy Memorial that are restricted to the public. These areas are marked by signs and barricades. **For your safety, we ask that you respect these restrictions.** As well, the following will not be permitted on-site during events: pets, glass bottles or dangerous objects. Please visit **Canada.ca/vimy-100** for a complete list of restricted items. Restricted items will be confiscated at the entrance (*see page 8 for detailed list*).

After 100 years, the battlefields of France continue to give up munitions and other debris from the war. Please be aware that First World War munitions are dangerous and may still be “live” even 100 years later. If you do find something on the ground, please **do not** pick it up. Such items should only be handled by experts. Please make a note of where you found the item and advise one of the staff of its location.



General Information

What to wear/bring

April 9 will be a long, full day and you should plan accordingly. There will be limited sheltered areas. We recommend that you dress appropriately for the weather.

You may want to wear/ bring:

- clothes for cold, wet or windy weather (dress in layers);
- comfortable shoes;
- sunscreen; and
- daily medications.

Note: While concessions will be available, you may also want to bring food or snacks.

Wreaths

Regrettably, wreaths will not be permitted on the site on April 9.

Trenches/tunnels

The tunnels, trenches and Visitor Education Centre will not be accessible to the public on April 9.

Food concessions

There will be a limited variety of food and drinks available for purchase at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial site on April 9.

Restricted items/what not to bring

The following items will not be allowed on site April 9.

Items will be confiscated at security.

- Plastic bottles (greater than 1 litre);
- Glass bottles
- Metal cans
- Insulated thermos
- Aerosols
- Alcoholic drinks/drugs
- Large bags (greater than 15 litres)
- Helmets
- Laptops
- Cameras (with a zoom greater than 10 cm)
- Video recorders (greater than 10 cm)
- Drones
- Horns/Megaphones
- Flags/Banners/leaflets/Posters
- Drums
- Confetti
- Sharp or pointed objects
- Tools
- Batteries
- Steel toe capped boots
- Pyrotechnics
- Flammable and explosive substances
- Weapons of any kind
- Pets



General Information

Cell phones

Please note that cell phones may not work at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial site due to limited cell phone reception.

Emergencies/medical services

In case of emergency, medical, fire and police services will be available on-site during all events. Should you require assistance, please advise one of the staff on-site or consult the site map in this guide for the “Medical tents” location. In order to best assist you in the event of an emergency, it is recommended that you keep a list of your medications with you.

For emergency consular assistance, Canadians in France can call the Embassy of Canada in Paris at **01 44 43 29 02** and follow the instructions, contact the Emergency Watch and Response Centre in Ottawa at **+1 613 996-8885**, or visit travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-assistance

Travel advice

For information about travelling to France, please visit Global Affairs Canada’s Travel Advice and Advisories page for France at travel.gc.ca/destinations/France

Canadian National Vimy Memorial

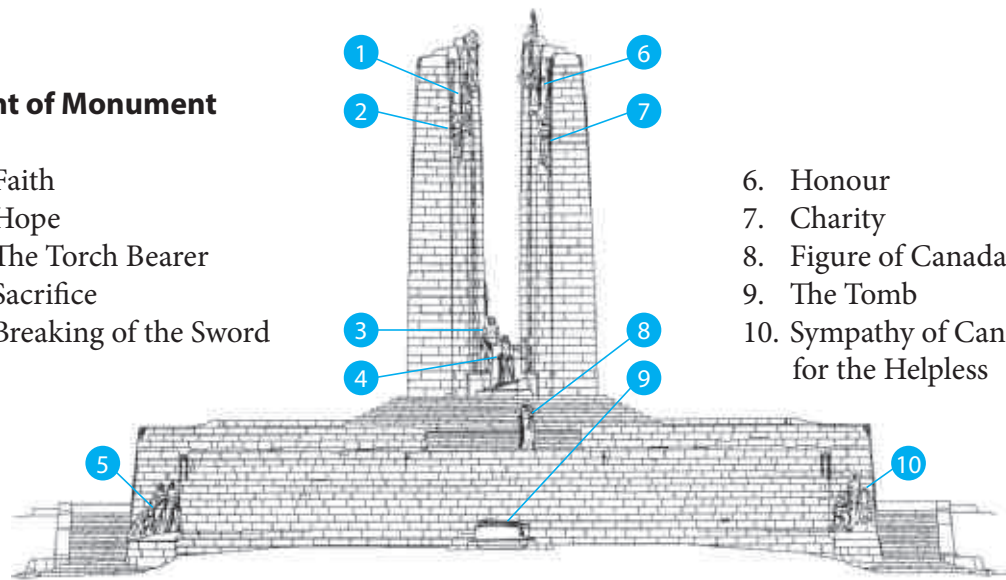
- The Canadian National Vimy Memorial is approximately 10 kilometers north of the French town of Arras within the département of Pas-de-Calais.
- The site encompasses some 117 hectares and is the largest of eight Canadian and five Newfoundland memorial sites in France and Belgium.
- The Canadian National Vimy Memorial not only marks the site of Canada’s most significant First World War engagement, it also stands as a tribute to all Canadians who served during the First World War, particularly those killed in France whose final resting place was unknown.
- The names of the 11,285 Canadians who lost their lives in France during the First World War and then had no known grave, are recorded on the monument’s base.
- The Canadian National Vimy Memorial was designed by Canadian sculptor and architect Walter Seymour Allward. He once told friends the form of the design came to him in a dream.
- The Memorial’s two pylons represent Canada and France. The monument features 20 symbolic sculptures representing broad themes including the strength of shared ideals, the sorrow of a young nation and a prayer for peace.
- Representing Canada, a young nation mourning her dead, the Canada Bereft figure is the largest sculpture on the memorial. It was carved from a single, 30-tonne block of limestone.



Vimy Monument Sculpture Guide

Front of Monument

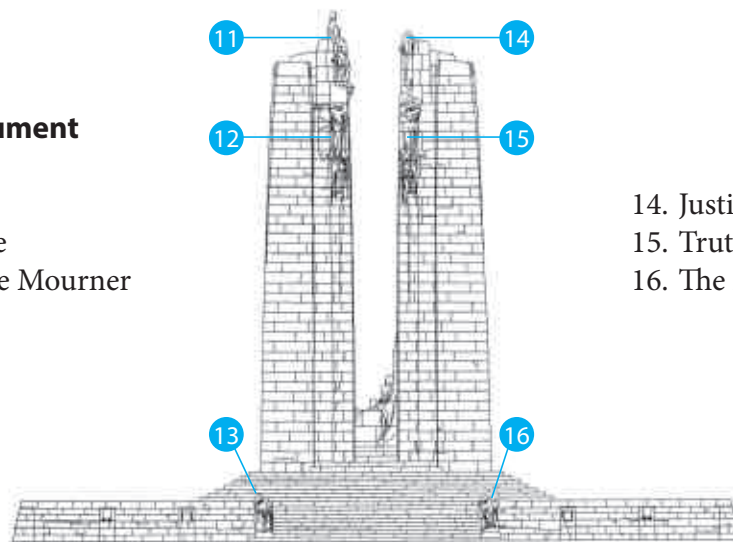
1. Faith
2. Hope
3. The Torch Bearer
4. Sacrifice
5. Breaking of the Sword



6. Honour
7. Charity
8. Figure of Canada
9. The Tomb
10. Sympathy of Canadians for the Helpless

Rear of Monument

11. Peace
12. Knowledge
13. The Female Mourner

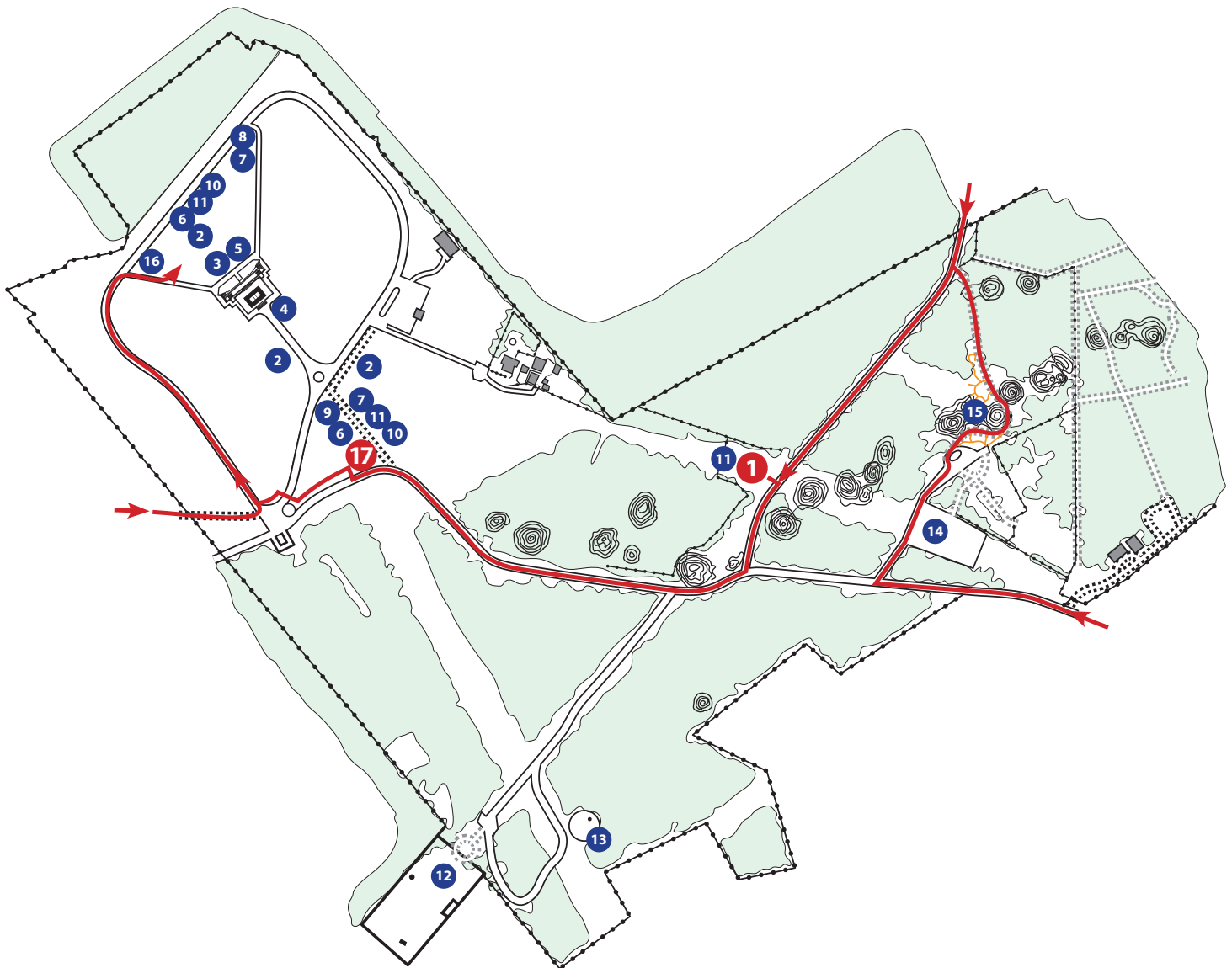


14. Justice
15. Truth
16. The Male Mourner



Canadian National Vimy Memorial

Site Map



1. Shuttle drop off area
 2. Visitors area for ceremony
 3. Front of monument
 4. Back of monument
 5. Mainstage
 6. Medical tents
 7. Activity tents
 8. Canada Office – VIMY 100
 9. Concessions
 10. Water Stations
 11. Water Closets
 12. Canadian Cemetery #2
 13. Givenchy Road Canadian Cemetery
 14. Visitor Education Centre (closed April 9)
 15. Trenches
 16. Media Centre
 17. Shuttle Pick-up
- ← Public Walking Route

NEW Visitor Education Centre

Canadian National Vimy Memorial



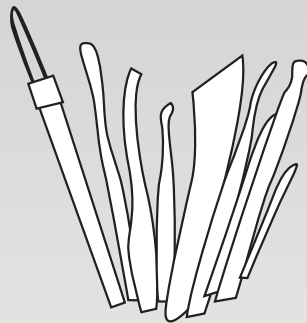
OPENING TO THE PUBLIC **APRIL 10** 2017



What will you find at the Centre?



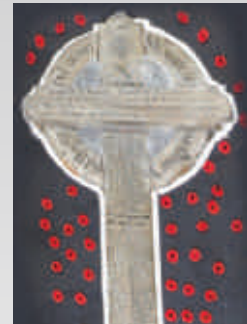
Moving photos,
film and audio



Rare artefacts
like sculptor Walter
Allward's tools



A reproduction
of the Vimy
Memorial's Peace
statue



An original
Vimy Ridge
memorial cross

For 2017 only

The CANADIGM Souterrain Impressions Exhibit

Find out what 100-year-old graffiti discovered in tunnels near Vimy Ridge can teach us about the First World War.



The new Visitor Education Centre was funded by the Government of Canada and The Vimy Foundation.



A window on Canada's
First World War