

WINGS OF COURAGE

Innovative youth initiative raises awareness of
Canada's air force contribution in First World War victory



A NATION SOARS

COMMEMORATING CANADA'S GREAT WAR FLYERS

Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2016

Ottawa, October 24, 2016 - "While many Canadians feel a sense of pride about the Great War and what it meant to us as a nation, the truth is 100 years have passed. With the launch of **Wings of Courage**, we, along with our partners at The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, are proud to be creating innovative learning tools tailored to 21st century students." said **Tim Joyce, President and CEO of Sound Venture Productions**. This project is funded in part by **The Government of Canada**.

As Remembrance Week draws near, a series of unique educational resources were unveiled at the Canada Aviation & Space Museum to help Canadian students learn how Canadian pilots helped change the course of the First World War. Guests viewed a preview of *Wings of Courage*, the second instalment of **A Nation Soars**, a three-part educational initiative commemorating Canada's aviation FWW efforts. *Wings of Courage* is narrated by **Dan Aykroyd** in English & **Bernard Voyer** in French and will premier on CPAC-TV on Sunday, November 6th, at 9PM EST.

Canadian Geographic Education's Vimy Ridge battlefield giant floor map was also on display. Air cadets from BC's *746 Lightning Hawks Squadron*, who helped build the FWW biplanes featured in *Wings of Courage*, helped the audience understand this historic battle and the role Canada's newly fledged air force played in the battlefield victory. This school gym-sized map is available free of charge to Canadian teachers across Canada.

Quotes by:

▶ **Karen McCrimmon**, M.P. for Kanata-Carleton and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence

"Wings of Courage is a wonderful project that speaks to Canadian young people. It is one of several key projects supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage commemorating the 100th anniversary of the First World War and the 75th anniversary of the Second World War. As we prepare to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday next year, marking the key events, battles and people of these wars will promote a deeper understanding of how they shaped our identity as Canadians and continue to resonate today."

▶ **Lieutenant-General Michael Hood**, Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force

"I applaud the work being done to remind Canadians, especially our youth, of the importance of air power during the First World War. The valour, dedication and bravery of our First World War airmen are qualities I see demonstrated every day by the men and women of the RCAF as they carry out their missions at home and around the world on behalf of Canada and Canadians."

▶ **Christopher Kitzen**, Director General, Canada Aviation & Space Museum

"The Canada Aviation and Space Museum is proud to partner with Sound Venture on the A Nation Soars project. Resources such as this documentary help the Museum share Canadian aviation history with visitors of all ages, beyond its four walls. As the Museum continues to push the boundaries of its programming beyond its physical space, we look forward to incorporating this into our work."

▶ **Catherine Cano**, President and General Manager, CPAC

"CPAC is very excited to be the national Canadian broadcaster of Wings of Courage, as well as Drawn to Victory, the first instalment in this trilogy."

The two *Wings of Courage* biplane replicas will be part of a historic flight in 2017, joining up with a FWW biplane squadron entitled **Vimy Flight**. The squadron plans to fly over the Vimy Memorial on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of *The Battle of Vimy Ridge* in France on April 9th, 2017. Working closely with **EF Educational Tours** and **The Vimy Foundation**, the biplanes along with other *Wings of Courage* educational components, will be exhibited to the attending youth, expected to be more than 9,000 strong. Fundraising efforts by *Vimy Flight* are underway for a cross-Canada tour to celebrate Vimy 100 and Canada's 150th birthday in the summer of 2017.

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