



THE MUSEUM AT A GLANCE

Information Sheet for tour guides and tourism frontline staff

The architecturally stunning Canadian War Museum is our national museum of military history. A must-see destination!

Why a war museum? The War Museum serves as the voice and memory of Canadian military actions at home and on the international stage. It is a place to consider sacrifice, loss and the pursuit of peace.

Who designed it? The new War Museum has been designed by Canadian architects Raymond Moriyama, of Moriyama & Teshima Architects, and Alex Rankin, of Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects.

The vision: Designed to highlight the theme of regeneration, the new War Museum emerges slowly from the landscape. Its grass-covered roof and low profile remind us of nature's ability to recover from the devastation of war and human conflict.

What is it made of? Concrete is the primary construction material, complemented by a wide expanse of sheer glass windows and a copper-clad roof. Angled walls give visitors a sense of the instability of war. The towering Regeneration Hall is pierced with windows depicting the words "Lest we forget / N'oublions jamais" in Morse code.

What's inside? This building is designed to enable the Museum to permanently showcase its vast art collection (numbering some 13,000 pieces) and its extensive artifact collections, including military vehicles and artillery. The dramatic LeBreton Gallery (glass wall space) houses a Voodoo fighter jet, nineteenth-century artillery pieces, tanks and a wide range of vehicles. Memorial Hall is designed for rest and reflection, and contains a single lone artifact — the head-stone of the Unknown Soldier — which is directly illuminated by the sun each Remembrance Day, November 11, at 11:00 a.m. The Museum's main permanent exhibition space highlights key events and defining moments in Canada's military history. The story of human conflict is presented through personal stories, art, artifacts, photographs and interactive presentations.

Interesting Facts:

- The Museum is environmentally friendly: river water is used in the Museum's cooling systems; recycled fly ash is used in the concrete to increase the energy efficiency; native self-seeding grasses create a low-maintenance green roof, and the interior copper was recycled from the roof of the Parliamentary Library.
- The Museum measures 40,860 m² (approx. 440,000 sq. ft.).
- Over 65 per cent of the facility's indoor spaces are fully accessible to the public, in contrast to an average of 35 to 40 per cent for most museums.

Exclusively for groups: The Witness to History program is available exclusively to groups. It is a compelling encounter with a veteran who has witnessed some of the extraordinary events that have shaped the country.

Services: cafeteria with a river-front terrace • boutique • cloakroom • parking • group entrance • classrooms • guided tours • meeting spaces

Hours of operation: Monday to Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Thursdays until 8:00 p.m.

Directions:

- From Parliament Hill: Continue west along Wellington Street and turn right on Vimy Place.
- From the Canadian Museum of History: Turn left on Laurier St.; turn left on to Eddy Street; continue over the Chaudière Bridge; turn right at Vimy Place.