

Commemoration for the 21st Century

The commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Spanish Flu Pandemic in your program will engage your students in rich historical inquiry, and establish connections for them that extend far beyond the classroom. You can display your students' work for an audience across the country on the **Defining Moments Canada's** Digital Commons, and 'crowd-share' the Canadian stories that have impacted and shaped our history.

This commemorative project will make you and your students a significant part of our national heritage.

Defining Moments Canada wants teachers to:

- Register your class for this Commemorative Project;
- Help conduct research for your community;
- Design and share rich engaging lesson plans;
- Curate content on our digital platform;
- Tell 12,000+ Canadian Spanish Flu stories over the next 24 months.



Learn more about this commemorative project of the Spanish Flu Pandemic and the significance the Pandemic has for Canadians at:

www.DefiningMomentsCanada.ca

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CANADA

What Do These People Have in Common?



Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Spanish Flu Pandemic in Canada 2018-2019

A National Research Project for Students, Museums, and Communities Across Canada



In January 1920, Stan McVittie was a fit and robust electrical engineer working at a hydro-electric generating plant on the Wahnapiatae River in Northern Ontario. He loved his work and the outdoor life he'd known all his life, and future was brilliant.

While his young wife and daughter were visiting her parents, Stan developed a mild cough and fever, but nothing to worry about for a healthy outdoorsman in his prime. A few days later, his symptoms worsened slightly, so he paid a call on the family doctor 'just to be safe.' Nine days later Stan was dead from the Spanish Flu, like 50,000 other Canadians.

In a stunningly short span of time, the Spanish Flu took almost as many Canadian lives as had been killed during the four years of the Great War. Indiscriminate and horrific in its proportions and the speed with which it spread and killed, the Pandemic profoundly impacted the history of Canada.

- One third of the world's population was infected by the Spanish Flu;
- 50% of those infected were healthy young men and women under 40 (like everyone on the cover of this brochure);
- 3% of the world's population died;
- The Spanish Flu killed more people in 18 months than AIDS has killed in 35 years, or the Black Plague killed in 100.

Key Questions for Teachers

- Why did 50 000 Canadians die from Influenza nationwide from the Flu?
- Who were the medical heroes of the Pandemic?
- How did Public Health respond to the spread of the Flu?
- Did public education make a difference in how we managed the outbreak?
- Were all Canadians affected equally?
- What lessons of 1918 should we pay attention to in 2018-2019?

The Project

From April 2018- June 2019, **Defining Moments Canada** is commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Spanish Flu Pandemic in Canada.



With our major partner at the Federal Ministry of Canadian Heritage, **Defining Moments Canada** is using our innovative bilingual Digital Platform to curate stories of the Pandemic from across Canada. Most significantly will be the opportunity to feature the 'Voices' from diverse Canadian communities that have never been heard. Indeed, this is the greatest Canadian story never told – a story that has been truly forgotten.

The Goal

Over the next 24 months, **Defining Moments Canada** will lead this commemoration with schools, heritage organizations, and community groups across Canada.

Using the award-winning Digital Historian Project® (DHP) model, teachers can:



- Subscribe to **Defining Moments Canada** at no cost;
- Explore the history, science, and public health stories of 1918-1920 with their classes.
- Provide students with digital storytelling skills and tools,
- Empower students in their explorations researching history, language arts, and social studies.

Here's how it works: Each student chooses a person or an event that has some personal meaning for them (a family connection, something from their community), and that student then explores the Spanish Flu Pandemic from the perspective of that person or event.

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