

Defining Moments Canada: The Organisation

Defining Moments Canada is the project of Neil Orford and Blake Heathcote, who recognized the gap between how Canada's history has been taught and commemorated for generations, and what **twenty-first century digital tools and storytelling skills** could make possible. They could imagine the thousands of **stories across the country waiting to be rediscovered and shared**. And they could see how Canadians could crowd-source this incredible heritage. Inspired by their shared vision, they founded Defining Moments Canada to bridge that gap.

In our collaboration with Heritage Canada, we have designed an **innovative bilingual platform** from which Canadian students, museums, heritage groups and individuals can research, curate archives, access and contribute digital assets to design their own commemorative projects based on the stories from their local communities. In the case of the 1918 Pandemic and other major historical events – or Defining Moments – we know that many of those stories are available in local and family collections, and our mission is to encourage, teach and share the work of 'citizen-curators' throughout Canada.

We hope to inspire Canadians not only to think critically about their past, but also learn more about their own family and roots (wherever in the world they may extend) and tell those stories. With the free tools on our website, citizen-curators can delve deep into the stories of their families and communities and in so doing help shed light on the fascinating narrative mosaic of our Canadian heritage.

After all, who doesn't love a good story?