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Canada's First National Internment Operations of 1914 to 1920 Commemorated in the Senate of Canada

(Ottawa) - On Monday, March 31, 2014, a newly released Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund commemorative stamp was unveiled in the Senate of Canada. This "stamp cancellation" ceremony was arranged and hosted by the Honourable Senator Raynell Andreychuk. "The history of Canada's National Internment Operations reminds us of the hardship through which our civil and human rights have been gained, and of the need to continually work in their defence, both here at home and abroad." stated Sen. Andreychuk in a press release. "I hope this stamp helps inspire awareness among Canadians on the achievements and the sacrifices that make up our collective Canadian identity."

As this year marks the 100th anniversary of the Canada's first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920, the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF), undertook to design a Canada Post Picture Postage Permanent Stamp honouring those who were forced to do heavy labour for the profit of their jailors. The CFWWIRF official logo was used as the image for this stamp. The colours of the logo deliberately lack vibrancy to reflect the sombre nature of the internment operations. The image of the blue maple leaf and the snowflakes conveys the coldness of the internment camps that were located behind the barbed wire fence.

"Although the internees are no longer with us, acts of recognition such as this commemorative stamp honour their memory, their sacrifice, and their devotion to Canada. I was honoured to work with the affected communities to establish the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund in 2008, and I am pleased to support this wonderful initiative." stated the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of Employment and Social Development, and Minister for Multiculturalism, who attended the unveiling of the CFWWIRF Commemorative Stamp and stamp cancellation ceremony.

Also present were Endowment Council members, Olya Grod who represents the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Ludwik Klimkowski who represents the Polish Canadian Congress and past Endowment Council member Christopher Adam who represents the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation.

The CFWWIRF Commemorative Stamp will be on public display at the Toronto Ukrainian Festival in September of 2014 along with various other commemorative events this year.

About CFWWIRF

The Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund (CFWWIRF) was established to support projects that commemorate and recognize the experiences of all of the ethno-cultural communities affected by Canada's first national internment operations of 1914 to 1920.

For more information on this event or the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund contact the Program Manager, Andrea Malysh, toll free at 1-866-288-7931.

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***Photo courtesy of Shaughn McArthur, Policy Advisor
Office of The Honourable Raynell Andreychuk, Senator***

L-R:

Dr. Christopher Adam representing the Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation; Olya Grod, Member of the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund; Hon Jason Kenney, Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism; Senator Raynell Andreychuk; Ludwik Klimkowski representing the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund.