



For Immediate Release

***Canadian Students Become Digital Historians
Canadians Invited to View their Videos and Vote for their Favourites***

The discovery of insulin. The inspiring journey of Roberta Bondar. The first female doctors in Canada. The evolution of the postage stamp. Immigration over time. The importance of Truth and Reconciliation. The legacy left by artist Emily Carr.

These are just a few of the topics explored by students taking part in the 2019 Young Citizens program — a national contest that sees young Canadians create engaging and inspiring history videos, while vying for a trip to Ottawa to attend the Canada’s History Forum.

Participants are selected from the thousands of students who each year take part in Heritage Fairs across the country. These students are invited to create a short video about an aspect of Canada’s past, covering everything from the arts, sports, politics, war, science, immigration, famous people, community heritage, and more.

“The stories of Canada reflect a diverse Canadian experience,” said Canada’s History Society President & CEO, Janet Walker. “It’s tremendously inspiring to see the range of subjects and unique ‘voices’ these Young Citizens use when they present us with the Canadian stories that matter to them.”

Visitors to **YoungCitizens.ca** can vote for their favourites until July 1, 2019.

The online vote will make up part of a student’s final score. Following the vote, judges will review the videos and select six recipients, who will travel to Ottawa for the Canada’s History Forum.

Since the creation of the program in 2012, students have contributed over 1,000 videos to the youth website YoungCitizens.ca (JeunesCitoyens.ca). The videos have been viewed 375,000 times and close to 300,000 Canadians have participated in the online vote.

The Young Citizens program is made possible through the generous support of the Department of Canadian Heritage ‘Youth Take Charge’ program; Canada Life, and The McLean Foundation.

Visit **YoungCitizens.ca** (**JeunesCitoyens.ca**) to view the videos and vote for your favourites!



For media requests:

Canada's History will receive permission from families before providing contact information to media. To arrange an interview or for more information, please email or call:

Joanna Dawson
Acting Director of Programs
Canada's History Society
jdawson@canadashistory.ca
204-988-9300 ext. 225

Backgrounder:

About Heritage Fairs and Young Citizens

Give students a camera and a chance to explore Canada's past, and they will come up with moving, funny, clever, thought-provoking videos that enlighten others as well as themselves. That's the premise of Young Citizens, a program run by Canada's History Society. Now in its eighth year, Young Citizens showcases the work of students from Heritage Fairs all over the country who have been given the opportunity to expand their projects by telling their stories on video. The students must be in Grade 4 through Grade 11 and participate in a local or regional Heritage Fair. The Heritage Fair program is undertaken by a network of volunteer teachers and community history organizations. Heritage Fairs began as a pilot community project in Winnipeg in 1993 and have grown to involve more than 100,000 students each year in schools-based and regional exhibitions in more than 100 communities across Canada.

About Canada's History Society

Canada's History Society is a national charitable organization devoted to popularizing Canadian history. In addition to presenting the Governor General's History Awards and publishing *Canada's History* (formerly *The Beaver*) magazine, and *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids*, the Society also produces educational and online programs to encourage more discovery, celebration, and understanding about our rich history and culture. For more information, please visit www.canadashistory.ca