

### **Letter to teachers: Letters 'From the Front'**

It is the pleasure of the 4CMRA (Canadian Mounted Rifles Association) to gift you, and schools across Canada pictures of where a 4CMR soldier began in Canada and ended up at the Front, and 'Letters from the Front', to Honor the 100 Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge during World War 1. You can use them any way you choose to help you help your students understand aspects of World War 1, specifically the importance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge to Canada.

To help further, here are some suggestions, from the 4CMRA Resident Historian, Rochelle Burns, PhD. In addition to having a PhD in history, she was also a teacher and writer of history curricula.

1. The easiest way to use these letters is to have them in a play form. There are only four actors needed to read the letters. The letters follow each other to present a story of the War, with an emphasis on Vimy, which was momentous to Canada's growth as a nation. If you use the letters as a play, you can charge admission to purchase school equipment, help with the cost of a major school trip, etc.
2. There are many offshoots of this War your students can research that give them a better idea of what Canada was like 100 years ago. For example, what exactly did soldiers, and civilians back home, eat? (Soldiers, except those at the front trench, actually ate better than civilians!)
3. Another offshoot, particularly in today's climate, is 'Women and WW1': What role did women play in the War? What role did they play in Canada at that time? How did the War help the vote for women come about?
4. Another idea: Canada was 50 years young at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. How did it, and the whole War, help shape our Canada of today?
5. I have given examples of heroes from that War. Your students can use that as a jumping off point to determine what makes a hero today?
6. And then there is the all-important question your students will inevitably ask, Why are there wars? This will be followed with, What can really be done, as individuals, to prevent wars?

**Any questions/suggestions , please contact me/us at [www.4cmra.ca](http://www.4cmra.ca). Any work you do using these letters, please share on our website to help other teachers and students across Canada.**

**With best wishes for a happy teaching/learning experience,  
Rochelle Burns, PhD**