



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

The National Battlefields
Commission

Commission des champs
de bataille nationaux

Press Release

For immediate release

Exhibition *The Taking of Québec, 1759-1760* **History and fine arts rally on the battlefield**

Québec City, May 20, 2009 – In this year of the 250th anniversary of the battles, the National Battlefields Commission and the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec combine their efforts to implement the exhibition *The Taking of Québec, 1759-1760*, and produce the catalogue. From May 21 to September 13, 2009, the Museum will present some forty works brilliantly illustrating the battles of the Plains of Abraham and of Sainte-Foy. On this rare occasion, these crucial episodes of the Seven Years' War are depicted on the very site of the confrontations, an area managed by the Commission.

"The duty of remembrance is an integral part of the park's preservation," according to Mr. André Juneau, chairman of the National Battlefields Commission. "Commemorating the taking of Québec reminds us of its importance and impact. It reminds us of all the men who, regardless of their origin and uniform, fought and suffered for a cause they believed to be a noble one."

For three centuries, these conflicts prompted artists to offer their observations or give free rein to their interpretations. Their works, collected for an exhibition at the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, view these events from a special perspective. Some forty works connected with the Battle of the Plains of Abraham and the Battle of Sainte-Foy consider, among other things, the main protagonists, the battle scenes, as well as the bombarded city.

The Museum designed the exhibition and the Commission produced the catalogue. Hélène Quimper, Commission historian, wrote the historical essay and Daniel Drouin, the Museum's curator, the fine arts essay. Published in 1000 copies, this work, with its 136 pages, is available in the gift shops of the Museum and of the Discovery Pavilion of the Plains of Abraham.

Battlefields Park is the first national historic park in Canada. It groups together, among others, the Plains of Abraham and Des Braves Park. So that we do not forget the significant historic events that occurred in the area, activities marking the 250th anniversary of the battles will be held throughout the year, there will be thematic days, an exhibition on the Seven Years' War, a symposium with historians, memorials as a tribute to the combatants, books on the writings of soldiers and civilians who experienced these events, and other historical reminders in the greater Québec City area.

Detailed schedule: www.theplainsofabraham.ca



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