



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **STATEMENT ON RECENT MEDIA REPORTS CONCERNING HOLDING A STATE FUNERAL FOR THE LAST WWI VETERAN**

**Toronto, Ontario**

“The Dominion Institute would like to respond to recent media reports suggesting that the families of the three remaining Great War veterans do not wish to have a State Funeral for their loved ones.

Throughout its campaign for a State Funeral for the last Great War veteran the Dominion Institute has not contacted the families of the three remaining Great War veterans or the veterans themselves. The Dominion Institute felt that it was essential to respect the privacy of the families and leave to them the difficult decision as how best to honour the passing of their loved one. The Dominion Institute also would like to note that the text of its petition signed by 93,000 Canadians and passed as a unanimous resolution by Parliament on November 21 requested that the Prime Minister *offer* a State Funeral to the family of the last Great War veteran resident in Canada. The Dominion Institute is disappointed by the suggestion in recent media reports that this offer was not conveyed by the Prime Minister to the family of the *last* surviving veteran of the Great War and instead all three families seem to have been approached informally by an unnamed civil servant.

When the family of the last Great War veteran makes their final wishes publicly known regarding how they would like to say goodbye to their loved one, Dominion Institute will respect, completely, their decision.

Regardless of the final decision of the family of the last Great War veteran as to how best to commemorate the passing of their loved one the Dominion Institute believes the Government of Canada should follow the example of the United Kingdom and announce a National Day of Commemoration to recognise all of those who fought and died in World War One. The National Day of Commemoration should include events at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, a national religious service at Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa and funding for veterans groups and local Legions to organise celebrations in communities across Canada.

The Dominion Institute urges the government to announce its plans for a major commemoration – plans that could accommodate a full State Funeral or another similar large scale commemorative event depending on the family’s final wishes – as soon as possible. As the Government of the U.K. acknowledged this Summer, it is essential that the relevant government agencies, veterans organizations and concerned citizens have the time and financial resources to organise an event of truly national significance. Canada’s last Great War veteran and all those who served under arms from 1914-1918 deserve nothing less.”

Rudyard Griffiths, Executive Director  
Dominion Institute

**For more information on this release contact:**

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