



**THE DOMINION  
INSTITUTE**  

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**L'INSTITUT DU  
DOMINION**

## **News Release**

**Saturday November 11, 2006 10:00 AM**

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### **MORE THAN 50,000 SIGN ONLINE PETITION CALLING FOR STATE FUNERAL FOR LAST VETERAN OF THE GREAT WAR**

**Toronto, Ontario** – Launched on Monday, November 6, the online petition calling for Prime Minister Stephen Harper to offer the family of the last Great War veteran resident in Canada a full State Funeral has garnered more than 50,000 email signatures. The Dominion Institute will update the federal government on the petition's progress (accessible at [www.dominion.ca/](http://www.dominion.ca/)), today, Remembrance Day, and keep collecting signatures until December 11, 2006.

Currently, only three veterans of First World War remain – Lloyd Clemett (106 years of age), John Babcock (106 years of age) and Dwight Wilson (105 years of age). These three men constitute Canada's only living link to the sacrifices and triumphs of the more than half million Canadians who served under arms between 1914 and 1918 and the more than 60,000 who died in the Great War.

Since the petition was launched on Monday, Canadians have been signing up at the rate of one per every five seconds. The Dominion Institute is hoping to garner between 50,000-100,000 signatures via the online petition and is encouraging supporters to forward the petition to their family, friends and communities this Remembrance Day.

Rudyard Griffiths, Executive Director of the Dominion Institute comments: "We've broken through the 50,000 mark in five short days and it seems the petition is gaining momentum. 100,000 signatures through is still a long way off. I hope that Canadians will take a moment on today, Remembrance Day, to sign the petition and forward the link on to friends and family."

Surveys undertaken by the Dominion Institute reveal that Canadians' knowledge of the First World War is fading rapidly with barely a third of our fellow citizens can name the battle of Vimy Ridge as a key Canadian victory in the First World War (see [www.dominion.ca/polling.htm](http://www.dominion.ca/polling.htm)). These surveys indicate that Canadians feel that more effort should be made to keep the memories and sacrifices of our Great War veterans alive, including holding a State Funeral for the last Great War veteran.

The Dominion Institute is making its call for a State Funeral on behalf of the veterans who volunteer with its Memory Project. The Memory Project Speakers' Bureau consists of 1,500 veteran volunteers who have visited with over 300,000 young people since 2001. The Institute conducted an informal survey of this group last month and found that fully 76% supported providing a State Funeral to the family of the Last Great War veteran resident in Canada.

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

Rudyard Griffiths, Executive Director, Phone: 416-368-9627, Email: [rudyard@dominion.ca](mailto:rudyard@dominion.ca)