

**PREMIER'S SPEAKING NOTES**  
**90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VIMY RIDGE**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 14**  
**10:45 A.M.**  
**CITY HALL (OUTDOORS)**

- Good morning veterans, honoured guests, respected elders, ladies and gentlemen.
- Thank you for joining us today for this special tribute.
- It has been 90 years since a major historical event, the Battle of Vimy Ridge, took place in northern France. We are here today to commemorate that anniversary.
- For weeks before the battle, Allied forces prepared to take this heavily fortified enemy stronghold.
- At 5:30 in the morning on April 9, 1917 four Canadian divisions stormed the ridge. Three days later, the Canadians controlled the entire ridge. It was an important victory for the Allies – and for the young nation of Canada.
- But it was a costly one. 3600 Canadians were killed and another 7 thousand wounded.
- We gather today to acknowledge the supreme courage and sacrifice of our forefathers who bade farewell to family and friends. They joined the Canadian forces and ventured far from home to “make a difference.”
- The debt we owe our veterans can be only be repaid through active remembrance and reflection on their priceless contribution.
- So today, we remember, we reflect, and above all, we give thanks to those who gave so much.