

Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship Opportunity in Veterans' Health

Fellowship Amount: One year at **\$32,000**, possibility of renewal for a second term

Fellowship Start Date: 1 September 2015 (negotiable)

Deadline for Receipt of Applications: 15 January 2015

The LCMSDS and Department of History at Wilfrid Laurier University invite applications for a new post-doctoral fellowship in the area of First World War veterans' health, families, and civil re-establishment. Successful applicants will have a well-developed research question that is either an extension of, or departure from, the doctoral dissertation. Applicants will have a completed PhD by the time they take up the award and should submit a two page program of study (plus references), a CV, a research dossier, and two letters of reference (sent under separate cover). Applications can be sent via paper or email (including letters of reference) and must be received no later than **15 January 2015** at:

Mark Humphries
Director, LCMSDS
Wilfrid Laurier University
75 University Ave. W
Waterloo, ON
N2L 3C5
Email: mhumphries@wlu.ca

The post-doc will be held at LCMSDS and will be part of a larger SSHRC sponsored research project run by Profs. Mark Humphries, Cynthia Comacchio and Terry Copp titled **Through Veterans Eyes: Digital Approaches to the Hidden Histories of Veterans and their Families, 1914-1970**. This is an important opportunity for researchers to apply innovative methodologies to a newly available record group hosted at LCMSDS. Over the next year, the pension files of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VAC), which are largely unknown and unused, will be digitized and indexed. These constitute an unparalleled research opportunity for when 620,000 Canadians joined the military during the First World War, they began a life-long relationship with the Canadian state that produced files documenting their experiences from youth to death. These contain regular home visit reports, yearly household balance sheets, detailed household inventories, and voluminous medical records as well as the voices of veterans and their families. In short, they record the lives of Canadians down to the smallest detail. Systematic organization and use of the files will allow researchers to examine a variety of related topics such as working-class experience, the history and treatment of specific diseases, family stability, the gendered economy, and minority experiences. There is, quite simply, no comparable group of records from which to write the social history of twentieth century Canada.