

For Immediate Release
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Building the Canadian Firefighters Memorial Begins in Ottawa – Prestige Design and Construction Awarded Honoured Contract

OTTAWA -- Construction of the Canadian Firefighters Memorial in LeBreton Flats officially began today with a turning of soil brought in by firefighters from across Canada, and blessed before it was poured onto the site at 50 Lett Street.

The Canadian Firefighters Memorial is a symbolic landmark in the heart of the Canada's Capital region where Canadians will come to reflect and pay tribute to the men and women in the fire service who have lost their lives while on duty to help in communities across Canada. The initiative is led by the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation, in collaboration with the National Capital Commission and Canadian Heritage.

“This is truly a great milestone for the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation as we finally begin construction of the monument to remember nearly 1,100 Canadian firefighters who died serving their communities,” said Robert Kirkpatrick, president of the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation. “We are most grateful for the assistance of Canadian Heritage, the National Capital Commission, and all those who contributed to this goal.”

In March, Prestige Design and Construction (Ottawa Ltd.) was selected as the preferred proponent to build the national memorial which will be unveiled in September 2012. Prestige is highly regarded as a leading Ottawa firm which has undertaken restoration and renovation work on some of Canada's most notable historic, heritage and tourist landmarks including Confederation Park, Wellington Street and the Governor General's residence.

Prestige will construct the Memorial and work closely with monument designer Douglas Coupland, a renowned Canadian visual arts artist, and Mary Tremain, a prominent architect with PLANT Architect Inc. The project as a whole will be managed by Graham Bird of GBA, a project management firm that recently completed the Ottawa Convention Centre.

“This monument will raise public awareness that the men and women associated with Canada's fire service organizations contribute significantly to the health, safety and prosperity of our nation,” said John Mazzarello, president of Prestige Contracting. “We are very proud that our firm was chosen to do this work, and contribute to such an important cause.”

The memorial will cost \$5 million with the Government of Canada providing \$2.5 million, the Canadian Fallen Firefighters Foundation providing \$1.75 million, and a further \$750,000 of in-kind support and supplies.

The location for the memorial, at the corner of Lett and Wellington Streets, is significant as the site where the devastating fire of 1900 was halted after burning large sections of Ottawa, and Gatineau across the Ottawa River.

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