

Bringing Canada's healthcare story to life!



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For Immediate Release
November 29, 2011

New online project offers hidden gems: "From the Collection" of the Museum of Health Care

(KINGSTON, ON) – This month the Museum of Health Care launches a new web-based project, "From the Collection," which offers the public a closer look at the hidden gems of its collections of medical history artefacts.

Short profiles highlight the significance of many artefacts in the Museum's collections. They are organized by theme and illustrated with high-resolution images that allow users to zoom in and examine even the minutest details. Each profile page also includes comment forms to encourage user-generated content. Kingston company iSTORM New Media designed the project's template.

"We know that many of our most intriguing items are largely hidden from the average visitor to the Museum's website, particularly from people who may not feel comfortable navigating our expansive online collections database," says Paul Robertson, former Museum of Health Care Curator and project developer. "'From the Collection' makes searching on a health care subject even easier than before."

"From the Collection" can be accessed at artefact.museumofhealthcare.ca, and acts as a portal to the Museum's main collections database where visitors can find even more artefacts.

The project is being launched with 30 artefact profiles, with dozens more to be added over time. Kathy Karkut, Collections Manager at the Museum, explains that with this online feature, "people can learn about how mystery novels encouraged girls to become WWII nurses, the herculean effort of Hospital for Sick Children mechanics to save polio patients, and why cigarettes were once sold to treat asthma."

"You can find a wide variety of historical artefacts in the City of Kingston", said John Gerretsen, MPP Kingston and The Islands. "'From the Collection' highlights some of the most intriguing artefacts from the Museum of Health Care's on-line data base, and allows more Canadians to find that piece of history they were looking for."

"The McGuinty Government is proud to partner with museums," said Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture. "Programs like "From the Collection" help to ensure Ontarians from across the province have access to information that identifies the vast and varied history of one of our most treasured public services - healthcare."

"From the Collection" is part of a larger initiative at the Museum of Health Care to update its website and offer more free resources online. Those interested in helping the Museum of Health Care to maintain this online project, and support similar initiatives, can donate at museumofhealthcare.ca/donate.html.

To help Canadians better understand the history of health and health care, the Museum preserves and promotes the rich material legacy of Canada's medical and health care past.

This project is funded by the Ontario Museums and Technology Fund. The support of the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, is acknowledged.

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Further details:

From the Collection: <http://artefact.museumofhealthcare.ca/>

More information about Museum of Health Care collections can be found at <http://museumofhealthcare.ca/research-and-collections/>.

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