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**For more information, to obtain a review copy, or to arrange an interview please contact:**  
**Kerry Kilmartin**  
**University of British Columbia Press**  
**2029 West Mall**  
**Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z2**  
**Tel: 604.822.8224 | E-mail: kilmartin@ubcpres**  
**www.ubcpres.ca**



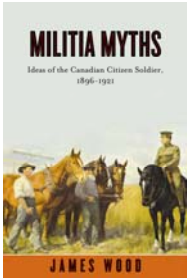
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## ***Militia Myths* sheds light on one of the most enduring myths in Canadian history**

**Vancouver** – The accomplishments of Canadian soldiers during the First World War, along with the unprecedented loss of life that accompanied them, came to define the young country of Canada as a nation whose people would not hesitate to answer the call of duty. In his latest book, historian James Wood reveals how the idea of the untrained citizen soldier came to replace the notion of the volunteer militiaman in a way that would forever shape the way Canada defined itself in both war and peace.

At the end of the nineteenth century, Canada's "army" consisted of little more than a handful of trained professional soldiers and a relatively small group of untrained volunteers whose primary tasks were to maintain order during periods of civil unrest and participate in periodic displays of military showmanship in the forms of parades and ceremonial salutes. ***Militia Myths: Ideas of the Canadian Citizen Soldier, 1896-1921*** shows how Canadians came to let go of the volunteer militia in favour of the citizen soldier – the untrained civilian who willingly answers the call-to-arms in times of war. Recognizing that Britain could no longer be counted upon, nor expected, to provide for Canada's defense, and fearing American expansionism, Canadians ultimately opted to support voluntary military service with compulsory cadet training – a decision that was reached only months before the events of WWI turned the idea of the citizen soldier into a reality.

A groundbreaking and eloquent history, ***Militia Myths*** sheds light on one of the most enduring myths in Canadian history and demonstrates how the Canadian acceptance of a citizen's obligation to serve has coloured our social memory of war and our understanding of Canada's contributions to armed conflict from the Great War onwards.



## **Militia Myths: Ideas of the Canadian Citizen Soldier, 1896-1921**

By James Wood

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**James Wood** teaches history at the University of Victoria and is the author of *We Move Only Forward: Canada, the United States, and the First Special Service Force, 1942-44* (2006) and *Army of the West: The Weekly Reports of German Army Group B from Normandy to the West Wall* (2007).