



BANK OF CANADA  
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## **Bank of Canada Issues \$20 Polymer Bank Note**

**OTTAWA** – The Bank of Canada today announced the entry into circulation of the new \$20 polymer bank notes, during an official ceremony at the Canadian War Museum. Starting today, these new notes will gradually become available at financial institutions across Canada.

Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney was joined at the event by Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty, Minister of Veterans Affairs Steven Blaney, and David Houghton, President of the Vimy Foundation.

“The introduction of the \$20 note is an important milestone for the new *Polymer* series. Making up half of all bank notes in circulation, the \$20 note is the most used denomination,” said Governor Carney. “Our safer, cheaper, greener polymer notes will soon be part of Canadians’ daily lives. That is why the Bank of Canada has been working closely with Canada’s financial sector and the cash-handling industry since 2009 to help prepare for and support a successful transition to the *Polymer* series.”

The front of the new \$20 note features a portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, while the imagery on the back of the note features the [Canadian National Vimy Memorial](#). This iconic monument, located in Vimy, France, commemorates the 1917 Victory at Vimy Ridge and honours Canadians who fought and gave their lives in the First World War in France and who have no known grave.

“It is fitting that we are launching these new notes at the Canadian War Museum only a few days before Remembrance Day. These new notes pay tribute to the sacrifices of Canadian men and women who fought to protect Canada and its allies in all military conflicts,” said Minister Flaherty. “They also protect Canadians from the threat of counterfeiting. The *Polymer* series is a Canadian innovation of which we can all be proud.”

Minister Blaney spoke of the special significance to Veterans of featuring the Canadian National Vimy Memorial on the \$20 note. “With these notes, Canadians are honouring the contributions and sacrifices of our military men and women, a powerful sentiment that will resonate strongly with our Veterans and their families.”

Vimy Foundation President David Houghton added, “Each time we open our wallets, we will be reminded of the significance of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in Canadian history – a pivotal moment when our country came of age.”

The remaining bank notes in the series – the \$5 and \$10 notes – will be issued by the end of 2013. Their designs and detailed images will be released when the notes are officially unveiled.

The themes of the denominations are:

- \$100** Medical Innovation – celebrates Canadian innovations in the field of medicine (Portrait: Sir Robert Borden)
- \$50** CCGS *Amundsen*, Research Icebreaker – reflects Canada’s commitment to Arctic research and the development and protection of northern communities (Portrait: William Lyon Mackenzie King)
- \$20** The Canadian National Vimy Memorial – evokes the contributions and sacrifices of Canadians in conflicts throughout our history (Portrait: HM Queen Elizabeth II)
- \$10** The *Canadian* train – represents Canada’s great technical feat of linking its eastern and western frontiers by what was, at the time, the longest railway ever built (Portrait: Sir John A. Macdonald)
- \$5** *Canadarm2* and *Dextre* – symbolize Canada’s continuing contribution to the international space program through robotics innovation (Portrait: Sir Wilfrid Laurier)

More information on the new *Polymer* series can be obtained by contacting Jeremy Harrison at 613 782-8782 or [communications@bankofcanada.ca](mailto:communications@bankofcanada.ca).

*Additional links:*

- [Bank notes](#) web pages
- [Webcast of issue ceremony](#)
- Video [B-roll](#)
- *Bank of Canada Review* article: [“Paying with Polymer: Developing Canada’s New Bank Notes”](#)