

# **THE DIEFENBUNKER CANADA & THE COLD WAR**

**WORKING INTERPRETIVE PLAN**  
February 1, 2019 (DRAFT 2)

## **OVERALL BIG IDEA** [TBD]

**The Canadian government built the Diefenbunker  
in response to the real possibility of nuclear  
attack.**

## THIS INTERPRETIVE PLAN COVERS ONE EXHIBITION AREA: Canada & the Cold War

### **Target Audience**

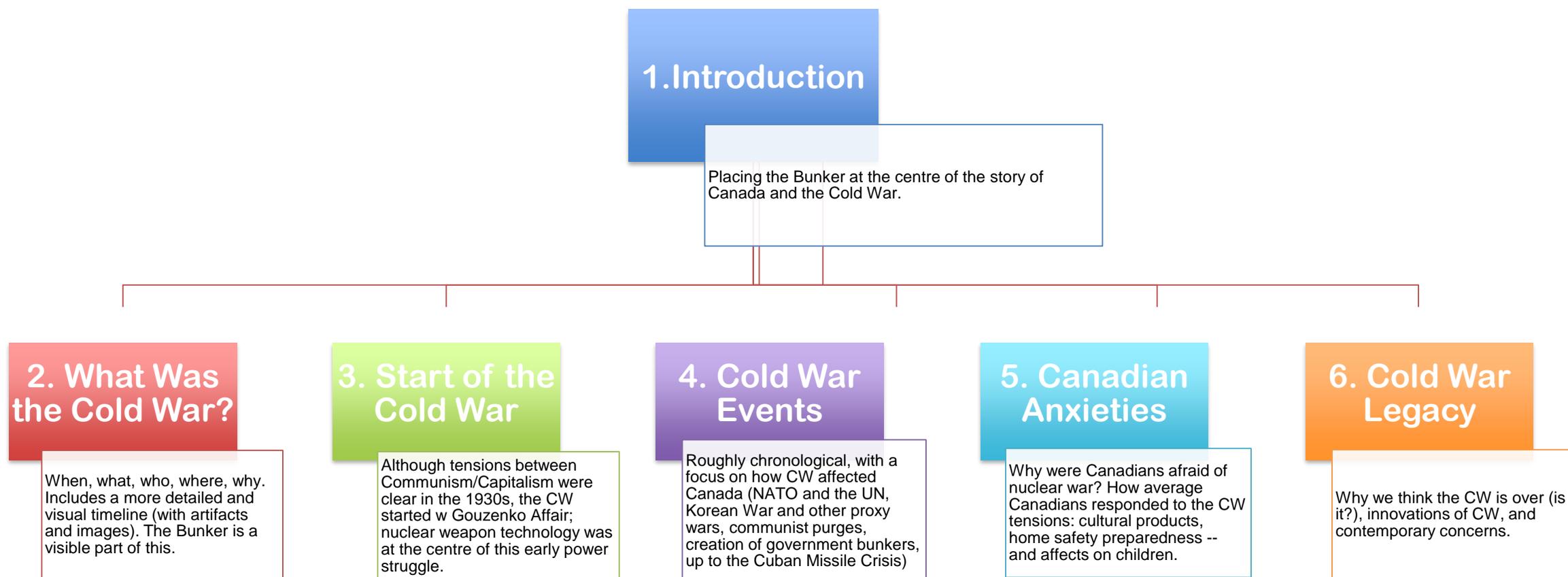
- Local families (multigenerational groups including elders and children 10+)
- Educational groups (particularly classes studying “conflict resolution” and Canada in the 20th Century; includes post-secondary history students as well as lifelong learners)
- Content enthusiasts (people particularly interested in Cold War, bunkers)
- Tourists (from outside the capital region, and from the U.S.)

### **Exhibit: Canada & the Cold War**

**Big Idea** – Between 1945 and 1989, Canada and Canadians prepared for nuclear war in the face of global tensions between NATO/Democratic/Capitalist and Warsaw Pact/Soviet/Communist countries/governments.

This exhibition gives context to the Bunker: what international conditions led to the building of bunkers in general, the political and societal anxieties that supported the building of COG bunkers and home fallout shelters, and what we can learn from both the Cold War and the Bunker about conflict resolution and emergency preparedness. Sections include What Was the Cold War?, Beginning of the Cold War, Cold War Events Affecting Canadians, Canadian Anxiety, and the Legacy of the Cold War (and the Bunker). Pull-Out Bios continue in this exhibition.

## Conceptual Diagram of “Canada & the Cold War”



## EXHIBITION: CANADA & THE COLD WAR

Code	Message	Content Description	Physical Description	Artifact/Prop	Visual/Image	Interactive, A/V or Effect	Text Strategy
1.0	Canada and Canadians experienced social and political anxiety as a result of Cold War tensions.	ENTRANCE Setting the scene: this exhibition is about Canada in the Cold War and includes Canadian society as well as political events, with a focus on the nuclear threat.	Title and video loop/AV			A/V: repeat of video loop in Butler's Hut entrance	
<b>2. What Was the Cold War?</b>							
2.1	The CW immediately followed the Second World War and ended with the Fall of the Berlin Wall/Soviet Union in 1989. It was an ideological conflict between democracy/capitalism and communism fought in the UN and through proxy wars all over the globe.	INTRODUCTION Short message to answer the question What Was the Cold War? (so if people skip the timeline or the exhibition altogether, the message is front and centre).  Presents the idea that the Cold War may not be over.	Text Panel				
2.2	Visitors see themselves and their own personal histories as they understand the escalating fear of nuclear attack and why that led to the building of the Bunker.  Visitors understand what they will see in the exhibition.	CW TIMELINE Padlock Act Manhattan Project Bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki Stalin Moscow speech Gouzenko Affair Soviet bomb test UN and vetos NATO Berlin Airlift Eastern Europe Korean War	Interactive timeline – with events and photos, place for visitors to record their memories/recollections of years/events; possibly small cases to house smaller, evocative artifacts.	Artifacts and props in small cases along timeline TBD	Photos TBD	A/V: news clips of some of the events in timeline on small screens	

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		<p>Suez Canal Crisis            NORAD            Bomarc missiles &amp; protests  <b>Decision to create bunkers</b>            Cuban Missile Crisis            Peacekeeping vs. proxy wars            Fall of the Berlin Wall            [future?]</p> <p>* make sure building of Bunker is highlighted on timeline</p>					
2.3	Definitions: Hot War, Cold War, Proxy War	A “cold war” is different from a “hot war”: a hot war is when two or more entities declare and wage battle in which there are casualties. A cold war is fought more on a political stage, and may also involve a proxy war.	IA: sliding manual interactive that reveals the definitions with images.		Ph: examples or graphics of hot, cold, proxy wars	IA	
<b>3. Start of the Cold War</b>							
3.1	Canada was suspicious of Communist ideology between World Wars.	<p>SETTING THE STAGE: PRE-WW2 TENSIONS</p> <p>With the rise of Communism in Russia and then China, Canada responded to homegrown Communists in Canada with varying degrees of severity. Communists were treated with suspicion. In WW2, Canada relied on US protection while sending its own military overseas.</p> <p>Pull-out bio: STALIN</p>	Text panel		Ph: Quebec Padlock Act		
3.2	Developing nuclear weapons was a key goal of USSR to balance power relations with the West.	<p>A DELICATE BALANCE</p> <p>Development of nuclear weapons with Canadian scientists and Canadian uranium; the dropping of bombs on Hiroshima/Nagasaki, USSR’s need to develop own weapons.</p>	Text panel				

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3.3	The CW started in Canada with the Gouzenko Affair.	THE GOUZENKO AFFAIR Story of Igor Gouzenko's defection and the results of his leaked information: new and widespread distrust of USSR and feeling that spies could be everywhere. Pull out bio: Fred ROSE Pull out bio: Igor GOUZENKO	Text panel, a/v, manual interactive	Gouzenko's book	Newspaper reprints	AV: newsreels IA: flips with people that Gouzenko's information affected or implicated	
3.4	The threat of nuclear war became a growing concern for Canadians in the 1950s.	PROSPECT OF NUCLEAR WAR In 1949, USSR tests own nuclear bomb; Canada increasingly becomes aligned with US (rather than Britain). As CW progressed in 1950s, average Canadians became more and more concerned about the advent of a nuclear attack.	Text panel, photos, map, infographic		Map: world map of NATO AND Warsaw Pact aligned countries [TBD: could be a digital IA with slider through years with "hot spots"]	Infographic: building of nuclear arsenals/military from 1946-1989	
<b>4. Cold War Events</b>							
4.1	The Korean War was the first time the Cold War got "hot".	KOREAN WAR The first hot moment of the CW, Korean war saw Canadian combatants...and casualties. China also became a CW adversary.	Text panel, photos, AV, map			AV: newsreels or interviews, Canada/Canadians in Korea	
4.2	Canada joined the UN as an independent player.  Canada joined NATO in solidarity with the US.  Through NATO, Canada became more oriented towards diplomatic solutions and peacekeeping missions	NATO & UNITED NATIONS What is UN; what is NATO. Increasingly over the late 1940s-1950s, Canada saw itself as an independent and diplomatic player on the world stage, and as part of North America (as opposed to an ancillary nation of Britain).  This independence from Britain and reliance on US closely enmeshed Canada in superpower conflicts.	Text panel, photos, IA		Ph : TBD	IA: game to guess when countries joined UN in which year; which countries sit on security council and have veto; which countries are in Warsaw Pact/NATO	

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4.3	Canadian government, military, and police increasingly monitored citizens for Communist leanings, fearing information leaks. “deviants” were targeted, on the supposition those people were more likely to be blackmailed. Careers and lives were ruined.	<p>WITCH HUNTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trade unions</li> <li>Sexual “Deviance”: “Fruit Machine” and Herbert Norman where RCMP linked queer identity to communism/spying; laws in Canada until 1969;</li> <li>Spies? Munsinger Affair</li> </ul>	Text panel, photos, artifacts	Borrow artifacts?	Ph: Herbert Norman, raids, newspaper headlines	A/V: spy stories	
4.4	Canada’s relationship with the US and its geographic position between the two superpowers meant the Arctic became a particular place of tension.	<p>CANADA’S NORTH</p> <p>During the 1950s, Canada invested in “early warning systems” in the North. Intercontinental ballistic missiles and Canada’s geographic position between USSR and US led to Canadian government generally paying more attention to the high Arctic. The Arctic is still a region of concern wrt Canadian sovereignty.</p>	Text panel, map, AV		Ph: Dew line installations Map of installations	A/V: news clips of Canada’s north Opportunity to present Inuit perspective. Opportunity to collect stories of Dew Line workers.	
4.5	<p>Increasingly, Canada sought a peacekeeping role in global affairs.</p> <p>As Minister of Foreign Affairs and later PM, Pearson became the face of Canadian efforts.</p>	<p>PEARSON &amp; UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS</p> <p>Finding diplomatic solutions to conflicts became a Canadian priority (in contrast to US policies of containment). Egypt, Lebanon, Congo, West Guinea, Yemen, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, India/Pakistan – more about decolonization conflicts than superpower conflicts</p> <p>Pull out bio: PEARSON</p>	Text panels Table: diplomacy vs. containment TBD	UN items in collection that illustrate story (medals, hats, etc.)	Ph: Canadians on various missions		

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4.6	The Cuban Missile Crisis was the closest the world came to nuclear war.	DIEFENBAKER & CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS Increasingly, Canadians (and PMs) became more critical of US foreign policy. Quick summary of crisis (what was going on in the Bunker).	Text panel, photos, AV			AV: news casts of crisis	
4.7	Canada distanced itself from the US throughout the 1960s/1970s. With Mulroney/Reagan in the 1980s, ties became stronger – just when the USSR was unraveling.	CANADA LESSENS TENSIONS In the 1960s, Canada recognized Cuba and China, independent of a critical US. Canada did not participate in US proxy wars in Vietnam, Latin America.  By the time Mulroney was elected in 1984, leading to a closer relationship w US and Reagan, the CW was already winding down – the fall of the Berlin Wall and USSR generally is considered to be the end of the CW (1989)  Pull out bio: GORBACHEV	Text panel, photos, artifact, AV	Berlin Wall fragment	Ph: Canada and draft dodgers, Mulroney, Reagan, Berlin Wall falling	AV: Summit series hockey, Fall of Berlin Wall, Mulroney/Reagan summits	
<b>5. Canadian Anxieties</b>							
5.1	Because of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, the world knew what nuclear war looked like – and Canadians were anxious at a time of enormous prosperity.  Baby boomers sought societal change in face of nuclear status quo.	TIME OF PROSPERITY AND FEAR Cultural products sensationalized nuclear attack, and were readily consumed by anxious Canadians, encouraging a culture of fear. Government programs underlined the possibility of nuclear attack.  But as baby boomers became afraid that there was no tomorrow, they resisted governmental and societal control, leading to a growing diversity with human rights (women, PoC, Indigenous) – and changing laws in Canada, changes that still affect us today.	Text panels, photos, artifacts, AV	Doomsday clock “space age” consumer items from collection, magazines, books		AV: advertisements, interviews, see CBC archives, Tocsin B drill  Interviews w activists	

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5.2	Children of the Cold War were raised with the prospect of nuclear annihilation.	A CW CHILDHOOD Childhood in the nuclear age (especially 1950-1960) could be scary. Children picked up on their parents' anxieties. Toys and games of the era reflected the us vs. them mentality, and children regularly trained for emergencies for which there was probably no surviving.	Text panels, photos, artifacts. AV and a visitor-response IA.	Board games Toys Books	Ph. Air raid drills	AV: Duck and cover IA: Nuclear bomb fear – what do kids fear today? (inter-generational video sharing)	
5.3	Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, average Canadians prepared for nuclear attack.  Canadians still prepare for emergencies today.	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Especially in the 1950s, many Canadians prepared for nuclear war with home bunkers. Many municipalities also tested communications systems and public responses to disasters (see: Canadian Civil Defence programs such as "Operation Lifesaver")  While nuclear attack never came, the systems put in place still help us today.	Installation of home bunker, text panel, photos, artifacts	Home bunker booklets  Samples of present-day Emergency Preparedness (Ft McMurray fire, etc.)	Ph: families in bunkers	Immersive home bunker installation IA: test the air raid siren? AV: Civil defence operations	
<b>6. Cold War Legacy</b>							
6.1	As a result of the Cold War, Canadians tend to see themselves as peacemakers on the world stage.	CANADIAN IDENTITY We are still feeling the effects of the Cold War today. Canadians have come to see their country as a diplomatic peacemaker on the world stage.  [TBD: Is this true? Is this changing? Opportunity to interrogate this assumption – with text, or conflicting messages – tweets or news stories?]	Text panel [TBD: possible AV. Lots of diplomacy type games out there to hack, if desired.] Other TBD: conflict resolution games or interactives.	Peacekeeping artifacts (hats, pins, etc.)	Images of peacekeeping missions.		
6.2	The Cold War directly or indirectly led to scientific innovations.	CW INNOVATIONS • The CW led to the "space race", where the US and USSR developed space craft capable of going to the moon and	Text panel, artifacts, photos	Cell phone, satellite prop, nuclear	Ph: space race, spy tech, nuclear power plants, early		

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		<p>back. More importantly for contemporary society, the space race led to satellite technologies (GPS signals).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spy technologies led to smaller cameras and video recording devices (cell phones today).</li> <li>• Although developed as a weapon, nuclear technology is also a power source, one that runs clean, but has major implications when something goes wrong (Chernobyl, Fukushima)</li> <li>• Nuclear medicine makes use of radiation and radioactive isotopes to diagnose and treat patients.</li> </ul> <p>Note: focus on Canadian inventions/companies</p>		medicine artifact?	medicine devices		
6.3	Bunkers still dot the Canadian landscape; bunkers are still needed for many different uses.	<p><b>FATE OF BUNKERS</b> Nuclear fall-out bunkers were constructed all over the world. Today, most of them are in disrepair. A few are still in operation, and a few are museums.</p> <p>Modern bunkers: Svalbard seed vault in Norway; Mount Weather VA</p>	Text panel, ph (or photo book?) , AV		Ph. Other bunkers, museums	AV: video of other bunkers	
6.4	See content >	<p><b>CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS</b> Did the CW really end? A changing space that can easily respond to daily news, especially with regard to US/Russia relations and Canada's response. [focus on Canada]</p> <p>Contemporary apocalypse: People are still fascinated with doomsday scenarios.</p>	Text panel, AV, IA	"Doomsday" artifacts (books, movies, etc.)		<p>IA: people vote on whether the CW is really over (results visible to other visitors). IA: Should we be afraid? AV: doomsday cultural products</p>	

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						(movies, TV, video games) Note: great interactives on thebulletin.org	

### **Diefenbunker Vision Statement:**

“By showcasing Canada’s preparedness and role during the Cold War, The Bunker: Canada’s Cold War Museum is the destination for learning, discussions, and reflection on conflict resolution, peace-building, and diplomacy. Grounded in the lessons of the Cold War and oriented towards the future, we are Canada’s most important surviving Cold War artifact.”