

# World War One

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The Home Front

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- Thousands of people gave generously to the war effort from home
- Catholics, Protestants, rich, poor, rural, and urban, came together and gave their time and money to support those in the service overseas

# Woman's Patriotic Association (WPA)

- Made bandages, knitted scarves, socks, and hats, raised funds, visited grieving families and cared for injured veterans
- 150 branches
- 15000 members across Newfoundland

# Making supplies, ca. 1915



# Newfoundland Patriotic Association

- Given the responsibility of managing the war effort in 1915 by PM Edward Morris
- Consisted of 300 volunteers, mostly from St. John's
- Chaired by Governor Sir Walter Davidson
- Funded by public money
- Not overseen by government
- Seen as failure on part of government
- Recruited members for Newfoundland Regiment, Royal Naval Reserve, and Forestry Corps
- Supplied equipment and other necessities
- 1917 government assumed control of NPA

# Conscription

- In early years of war, recruits voluntarily answered the call to enlist
- As war went on, people at home and abroad were shocked at the high number of casualties, especially after Battle of Beaumont Hamel
- Rate of volunteer enlistments began to decline
- But to remain a significant force, Newfoundland Regiment had to maintain strength of at least 1000 men
- Thus government began a highly-publicized recruitment drive to improve enlistment numbers

# NF Military Personnel Recruitment at Harbour Grace, 1917



# Conscription

- these drives met with limited success
- Government considered **conscription** – or **forced military service**
- May, 1918, Military Service Act passed
- Required all unmarried men aged 19-25 years to register for service
- Opposing views on forced enlistment divided families, communities, and politicians
- Which side would you take?