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Institute for Stained Glass in Canada
a not-for-profit educational society

CANADA'S STAINED GLASS GOES ONLINE: A MUSEUM FULL OF WINDOWS

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At a time when many people have almost forgotten about it, Canada's impressive range of stained glass is becoming visible again, thanks to an online museum with **photos of thousands of windows across the country**. The site features 81 locations in the province of Saskatchewan, along with "100 Glimpses of Canada", the first published overview of windows from coast to coast, at stainedglasscanada.ca

Created by the nonprofit Institute for Stained Glass in Canada, the site is dedicated to showing "this rich but overlooked aspect of Canada's art and history," says Patrick Burns, the Institute's founder and director. Speaking from his home in Vancouver, Burns estimates there are well over 100,000 interesting windows across the country, from studios in Canada, the U.S., England, France, Germany and other countries.

The first phase of the multi-year project was funded by the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, the Western Development Museum, and the J. W. Kaplan Fund of New York. The Institute plans to add more provinces over the next few years.

A slide show depicting Angels and Demons in stained glass coincides with the release of the new Tom Hanks film of the same name.

Stained glass is not limited to cathedrals, synagogues and mosques. Traditional and contemporary glass can be found in subway stations, airports and armouries, colleges, court houses and casinos, performance halls, libraries, and parliament buildings across the country.

Possibly Canada's most widespread public art, many windows have already been lost to neglect, fire and development. "The old windows tell stories of who we were. They document the hearts and minds of our ancestors," Burns says. The Institute hopes the increased visibility of stained glass will help protect the architecture in which it is found, especially irreplaceable buildings from the 19th and early 20th century.

"Saskatchewan is in many ways the quintessential Canadian province, young and optimistic, and appreciative of its relatively short cultural heritage," says Burns. "Now that the roof and walls of our web museum have been built, there are exhibit rooms just waiting for the rest of Canada to share their magnificent windows."

The museum is open 24/7 at stainedglasscanada.ca.

(Press photos on-site in **Contact**)

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