

BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTIST

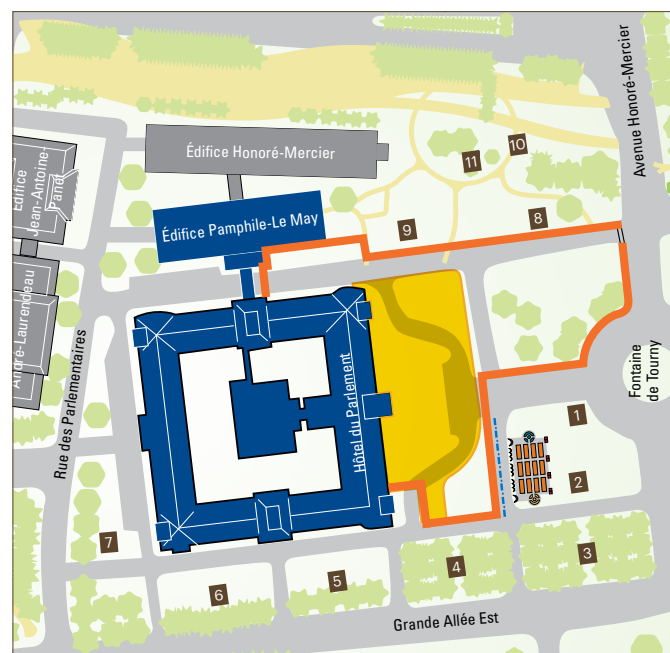
Born in 1877 in Sainte-Élizabeth-de-Warwick, Alfred Laliberté began his training at the Conseil des arts et manufactures, and then went abroad to Paris in 1902, where he was accepted into the École des beaux-arts. On returning to Montréal in 1907, he became a professor at his former school, and then began teaching modelling at the École des beaux-arts in Montréal in 1923.

Laliberté devoted much of his career to sculpting monuments, especially commemorative monuments, for public buildings and parks. His works include the fountain in front of Maisonneuve Market (Montréal, 1914) and the monuments paying homage to Louis Hébert (Québec City, 1918), Dollard des Ormeaux (La Fontaine Park, 1920) and the *Patriotes* of 1837-1838 (Pied-du-Courant Prison, 1926).

Beginning in 1910, Laliberté received a series of six prestigious commissions for bronze sculptures for the facade of the Parliament Building: Jean de Brébeuf, Jacques Marquette, Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester), Jean Talon, Robert Baldwin and Pierre Boucher. He created over 200 bronzes representing legends, customs and trades of yesteryear between 1927 and 1931, and also made allegorical and religious sculptures as well as busts of historical, political and religious figures. Over the course of his career, this prolific artist produced more than 900 sculptures and hundreds of paintings.

Alfred Laliberté passed away in Montréal on January 13, 1953.

MONUMENT MAP AND LOCATION OF THE BRONZE



- 1 Member of Parliament Arriving in Québec City
 - 2 Honoré-Mercier monument
 - 3 Louis-Hippolyte-La Fontaine monument
 - 4 Louis-Joseph-Papineau monument
 - 5 Monument to honour women in politics
 - 6 Maurice-Duplessis monument
 - 7 Adélard-Godbout monument
 - 8 Robert-Bourassa monument
 - 9 Jean-Lesage monument
 - 10 René-Lévesque monument
 - 11 Inukshuk
- Boarding around construction site

Disponible en français

Cover photo:

Alfred Laliberté, *Le député arrivant à Québec*, from the Trades, Customs and Legends of Yesteryear series, between 1927 and 1931
Bronze, 57 x 28 x 23.5 cm
Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec collection.
Purchased in 1933 (1934.335)

MONUMENT

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ARRIVING IN QUÉBEC CITY:

225TH ANNIVERSARY OF QUÉBEC'S PARLIAMENT



Photo credit: Jean-Guy Kérourac, MNBAQ

June 2018



Photo: Heidi Hollinger

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2017, which marked the 225th anniversary of Québec's parliamentary institutions, provided an opportunity to recall the origins of our democracy and draw attention to our first election, held in 1792.

Through the many commemorative activities, we learned that the reform movement that drove the Members of the Parliament of Lower Canada is still the foundation of today's parliamentary practices.

To close the celebrations, on July 6, 2018, the National Assembly unveiled a monument inspired by Québec sculptor Alfred Laliberté's original bronze *Le député arrivant à Québec*, housed in the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

This work of art, depicting one of the first Members of Parliament arriving in Québec City after the 1792 election, is a significant legacy of the 225th anniversary celebrations that pays tribute to Québec's rich parliamentary history and the parliamentarians' determination to establish a democracy despite the difficult conditions of the time. The *Member of Parliament Arriving in Québec City* monument also underscores Laliberté's contribution to Québec culture and is in continuity with his six other works adorning the front of the Parliament Building.

These works tell the story of our institution and give visitors and Québec City residents a singular window into Québec's parliamentary system.

I hope this monument will provide an opportunity to learn more about this important juncture in our democracy.

Jacques Chagnon



A WORD FROM THE MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

The Government of Canada is proud to contribute to projects that highlight the defining moments in our history. This statue, erected as part of the 225th anniversary of Québec's parliamentary institutions, will remind future generations of the fundamental role that the first elected members played in shaping our country.

As Minister of Canadian Heritage, I invite Québec City's residents and visitors to come admire this magnificent work, which creates a symbolic link to our past and encourages us to understand it better. I would also like to thank everyone who devoted their time and effort to making this commemorative project possible.

The Honourable Mélanie Joly

SYMBOLISM

This monument, inspired by the bronze statue *Le député arrivant à Québec*, was made possible in part through funding from the Government of Canada. This allegorical work recalls the arrival of the first Members of Parliament in Québec City for the opening of the first session of Parliament on December 17, 1792.

Erected on the grounds of the National Assembly, it reminds us of the mission of Québec's foremost institution and portrays the Members' role as elected representatives.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ORIGINAL BRONZE

Le député arrivant à Québec depicts a Member of Parliament in winter attire: hat, scarf, thick mittens, "capot d'étoffe du pays" (hooded greatcoat made of handwoven wool) and arrowhead sash. A sealskin travel bag is resting on a small barrel containing supplies, such as bacon, since parliamentarians were not paid in those days and had to bring provisions to last the session. Created between 1927 and 1931, the work is part of the *Trades, Customs and Legends of Yesteryear* series commissioned by the government of the day for the province's fine art museum, which is now the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec.

Cast in bronze (57 × 28 × 23.5 cm), the work harkens back to French-Canadian archetypes and shows Alfred Laliberté's interest in the customs and traditions of his time.