



CANADIAN POLISH CONGRESS  
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The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau,  
Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street,  
Ottawa, ON  
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Canada

By email:  
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November 20, 2015

### **Monument to the Victims of Communism**

Dear Prime Minister,

The Canadian Polish Congress represents the interests of 1.2 million Canadians of Polish descent while maintaining constructive relationships with other ethnic communities in the spirit of multiculturalism.

For many years during communist oppression in Poland, the Canadian Government and the CPC worked together for justice and freedom of oppressed Polish citizens. In December 13, 1981 to July 22, 1983, when the authoritarian communist government of the People's Republic of Poland drastically restricted normal life by introducing martial law in an attempt to crush political opposition, the Canadian Government supported the CPC's efforts to aid their countrymen and supported the Solidarity movement. Thousands of Polish refugees eventually made their way to Canada to settle in this "Land of Refuge".

As supporters of the Memorial to Victims of Communism which is to be built in Ottawa, the Canadian Polish Congress is surprised and disturbed by the recent efforts in Ottawa to relocate or alter the construction of this Memorial.

The CPC is most concerned by the thoughtless, damaging, and unjustified statements that have been made by the critics of the Memorial. There has been an effort to diminish the suffering of the millions of victims and refugees of communism, not just from the Polish community but also those of the Vietnamese, Korean, Ukrainian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Cuban, Serbian, Czech, Croatian, Chinese, and Estonian, to name a few. This group of people represents a substantial segment of the Canadian population

The Canadian Polish Congress believes that the history of those who sacrificed and died for freedom and justice must be recognized here in Canada, the nation that worldwide is synonymous with those values. We encourage you, Mr. Prime Minister to continue to support the Memorial and all it will represent by permitting the construction and successful completion of the Memorial to Victims of Communism at the site that was allotted to it.

With sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Berezowski".

Teresa Berezowski  
President, Board of Directors, Canadian Polish Congress

**CC:**

Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Heritage  
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