

## Sod Turning Marks Beginning of Construction Phase!

On November 8<sup>th</sup> the Memorial to the Victims of Communism came another step closer to completion with a sod-turning ceremony at the site of the memorial at the Garden of Provinces and Territories at the corner of Wellington and Bay streets in Ottawa.

The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism, was joined by Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair of Tribute to Liberty, and other dignitaries to mark the beginning of the construction phase of the project.

"The Memorial to the Victims of Communism – Canada, a Land of Refuge seeks to honour and remember those who have fled and suffered under communist regimes," said Minister Rodriguez. "We break ground today for this monument as we reflect on the fact that tomorrow, November 9, we will mark the fall of the Berlin Wall—one of the most notorious symbols of the Cold War. Next year, when the Memorial to the Victims of Communism rises on this spot, we will cherish and remember the many families that were torn apart by this world event, and the role Canada played providing refuge."

Mr. Klimkowski said in his remarks: "As we gather today on the eve of the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, we pay tribute to all victims of communism." *Continued on next page*



From left: Isabelle Mondou, Associate Deputy Minister, PCH; Marc Seaman, Chairperson, NCC; Hon. Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism; Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair, Tribute to Liberty, Dr. Mark Kristmanson, CEO, NCC. Photo by: John McQuarrie

Tribute to Liberty is a Canadian organization whose mission is to establish a memorial to the victims of Communism in the National Capital Region.

Tribute to Liberty's Newsletter is published four times a year. If you would like to add an email address to our subscriber list please email [info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca).

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[www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca)

Mr. Klimkowski continued: "We make a solemn promise to preserve the stories of all who reached Canada's shores and remember those who never made it. This Memorial will be a lasting reminder that the freedom and dignity of life that we enjoy in Canada is never a given, and must be fought for and cherished."

During fall and winter the project will move forward by completing plans and securing the permits and approvals required for site remediation, constructing the base for the memorial, and landscaping. In addition, Paul Raff Studio will begin preparations for the construction of the "Arc of Memory," the main sculptural piece of the memorial. The memorial is scheduled to be inaugurated in fall 2019.



## Major Donors to the Memorial to Victims of Communism

The Board of Tribute to Liberty is grateful to all its donors who have helped Tribute to Liberty reach its fundraising objective. The following is a list of those who have donated \$25,000 or more, and will be recognized at the Memorial site:

Hungary  
Senator Linda Frum and Howard Sokolowski  
Erast and Delores Huculak  
Ian Ihnatowycz and Marta Witer  
James and Louise Temerty  
Ludmilla Temerty  
Croatian Catholic Parishes and Community in Canada  
Latvian Relief Society of Canada  
Republic of Latvia  
Canadian Polish Congress  
Czech Republic  
Jerry and Denise Tmej  
John Mierins  
Government of the Republic of Croatia

Korean War Veterans of Canada  
Republic of Estonia  
Republic of Georgia  
Taiwan  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress National

## *History Unhidden* Deportation of 100,000 Ukrainians to Siberia and Kazakhstan in 1947

Seventy-one years ago...Stalin deported tens of thousands of Ukrainians to Siberia and Kazakhstan, an action that is often ignored because of Khrushchev's famous remark that Stalin wanted to deport the Ukrainians but didn't because there were simply too many of them.

Despite the massive deaths from the Holodomor and World War II, however, there may have been too many Ukrainians for Stalin to have been able to deport all of them; but that didn't stop the Soviet dictator from deporting tens of thousands. And this Soviet crime too must never be forgotten.

A year ago, on the 70th anniversary of this action, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said that *Operation West*, as the deportation was code named, led to the forcible resettlement of "more than 76,000" people. He said that Stalin took this action to "weaken the Ukrainian liberation movement" then fighting against the Soviets.



On September 10, 1947, the USSR Council of Ministers took the decision to deport Ukrainians from the western oblasts of the Ukrainian SSR to Siberia and Kazakhstan. By this decision, "the Soviet authorities planned to pull out of Ukraine all those who were defending a model of a different non-Soviet Ukraine," the *Maxim-NM* blog says.

In the weeks after that decision, Soviet officials established roundup points in Lviv, Drobovych, Rivne, Koloma, and Kovel where Ukrainians suspected of fighting the Soviets and members of their families were taken so that they could be sent as “special resettlers” to distant part of the Soviet Union.

Initially, the Soviet Ministry of State Security said it was deporting 75,000 people – that is the source of Poroshenko’s number – but subsequently the MGB raised the number to 100,000 – and according to some documents, the actual number reached 150,000 – or twice as many as Ukrainian sources have been accustomed to citing.

Because those deported could take with them only what they could carry, their remaining property was left behind; and as a result of special Soviet orders, those who weren’t deported or who had come into the region from elsewhere, often ethnic Russians, were allowed to steal or occupy what they could.

The deportation operation began on October 21; and in the initial sweep, it involved 18,866 men, 35,152 women, and 22,174 children.

“In essence,” the blog continues, “the deportation of Ukrainians by the Soviet authorities in no way was distinguished from the deportation for forced labor organized by Nazi Germany in the same places several years earlier.”

The total size of this horror is beyond imagining. Five years after the deportation, on January 1, 1953, the Soviet archives show, there were 175,063 people living in special settlements east of the Urals who had been deported from the western oblasts of Ukraine between 1944 and 1952. Because of the super-high mortality among those deported, that means the actual number of expellees was much higher.

—Paul Goble, *Window on Eurasia* blog

## New Films & Books Depict Life Under Communism & Soviet Atrocities

*Ashes in the Snow* is based on the *New York Times* bestselling book *Between Shades of Gray* by Lithuanian-American writer Ruta Sepetys. The film takes place in 1941 and follows the story of Lina, a 16 year-old aspiring artist, who, with her family is deported to Siberia amidst Stalin’s brutal dismantling

of the Baltic region. It screens in the U.S. in January.



The Polish film *Cold War* won the Best Director award at the Cannes film festival in May 2018. *Cold War* is a love story set against the background of the Cold War in the 1950s in Poland, Berlin, Yugoslavia and Paris, and has earned top ratings from critics.



Edward Petruskevich’s 4-book series about the M.S. Wilhelm Gustloff was recently reprinted. The Wilhelm Gustloff holds the infamous record for the worst loss of life in maritime history. When she was sunk on January 30th, 1945, 9,343 men, women, and children—many of whom were civilian refugees fleeing the rape and murder being committed by the advancing Soviet army in the east— died in the icy Baltic Sea when the Soviet submarine S-13 fired three torpedoes into her port side sinking her in just over an hour. More than half of those who perished were children.



# Canada's National Memorial to the Victims of Communism

is about people, families, and the suffering they endured under Communism.

Memorialize the name of a loved one forever on the Memorial's Wall of Remembrance with a donation of \$1,000.

Tell the story of a victim of Communism by buying a brick on the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial with a donation of \$200.

Donate today at [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca) or use the mail-in form below.

To contribute to the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa you can:

**1. Become a Brick Donor - \$200.00**

- With each brick purchased you can submit the story of a victim of Communism, or a message or dedication
- Please email your story, message or dedication to [info@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:info@tributetoliberty.ca) or include it on a separate piece of paper when you mail this form
- Submissions will be published on the Tribute to Liberty website along with donor's names.  
**Donors who wish to remain anonymous must indicate this in the space provided below**

**2. Donate to the Wall of Remembrance - \$1,000.00**

**3. Donations in any amount are welcome**

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## Mail-in Contribution Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**I wish to remain anonymous:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheque payable to: Tribute to Liberty

Please mail in to: Tribute to Liberty, 629 Mill Park Drive, Kitchener, ON, N2P 1V4

**Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001**