



Tribute to Liberty Christmas Appeal

As Christmas approaches we ask that you remember Tribute to Liberty in your holiday plans. While preparing for joyous holiday celebrations with your friends and family, it is important to stop and reflect on the joy and blessings in your own life while also being aware that not everyone has been as fortunate in the past.

Tribute to Liberty is pleased to inform you that we are very close to reaching our fundraising goal of \$1.5 million, but we still need your help.

For every \$1000 donated you are invited to submit a family name of a victim of Communism for the Wall of Remembrance, which will be a permanent part of this prominent memorial, in our nation's capital.

Why 1000 names on the Wall of Remembrance? Multiplied by each \$1000 donation, they will symbolically represent 100 million people murdered by Communist regimes. Please join the Wall of Remembrance and help us reach our goal by the end of 2016.

Additionally, you are invited to share a victim's story on the virtual Pathway to Liberty available at <http://tributetoliberty.ca/thepathwaytoliberty>.

Anastasia Lin is my fellow Canadian, my "spiritual sister," and I'm very proud of her. Anastasia Lin grew up in China but later moved with her mother to Canada as a young adult. Once she was outside the influence of the Communist Party, she realized the lies she had been taught to believe. Now, as an accomplished model, actress and winner of Miss World Canada 2015, she speaks out in hopes it will encourage others to do the same. Anastasia's story is told in this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-IBLFgP2ZE>

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.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6S 4Z7

Charitable #: 814999660RR0001

www.tributetoliberty.ca



We are seeking your help to honour the victims and survivors and ensure they have a permanent place in our nation's consciousness and memory. To do this we need your personal stories and your financial support to build the Memorial to the Victims of Communism.

Please complete the donation form at the end of this newsletter, or contribute online by visiting tributetoliberty.ca. Tribute to Liberty is a registered Canadian charity, #814999660RR0001. Eligible donors will be issued tax receipts.

Sincerely,
Ludwik Klimkowski, Tribute to Liberty Chair

The following is a Latvian Christmas carol originally belonging to a Gulag inmate.

The carol was sent to Marta Zalaikalns, who was incarcerated in one of Stalin's labour camps between 1945 and 1954. The card was sent to her for Christmas 1953, and she was obliged to sew it into her clothes to prevent guards confiscating it.

It was written by an unknown composer, and is a setting of the poem *Šai sveta nakti* (On this holy night) by the Latvian exile writer Valda Mora.

The carol's translator, Dr. Mara Kalnins said, "The carol is a poignant reminder of the means such prisoners found to keep hope alive. It is a moving thought that all those brave and silent hearts who endured the labour camps will be remembered across the globe this Christmas through words and music that celebrate the resilience of the human spirit."

Šai sveta nakti

*On this holy night earth and heaven shine,
In this night the heart and stars commune,
And enmity fades, each loves the other,
'And o'er the stillness warm wings hover'.
On this night your footsteps glimmer;
This night transfigures doubt to hope;
This night must banish every sorrow,
And teach you to forgive and love.
On this holy night, in this holy night,
On this holy night, each loves the other;
On this holy night, in this holy night,
On this holy night, each loves the other.
On this night the gates of heaven open,
Above earth's darkness burn the stars,
And on each person's head this night
The Lord in blessing lays His hand.*



Christmas Eve in the Gulag 1955

Design Competition Finalists Chosen!

On November 7th, the Department of Canadian Heritage announced the finalist teams that qualified as part of the Request for Qualification (RFQ) process to submit a design proposal for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism – *Canada, a Land of Refuge*. This announcement marks the start of the Request for Proposals (RFP) phase of the design competition.

- Team Cutler: Jeff Cutler, landscape architect (Vancouver, BC) and Ken Lum, artist (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
- Team Mills: Karen Mills and Ben Mills, public art consultants; Silvano Tardella and Robert M. S. Ng, landscape architects; Jordan Söderberg Mills, artist (all from Toronto, ON); Vong Phaophanit and Claire Oboussier, artists (London, U.K.)
- Team Moskaliuk: Wiktor Moskaliuk, architect (Markham, ON); Claire Bedat, landscape architect (Washington, D.C.); Larysa Kurylas, artist (Washington, D.C.)
- Team Raff: Paul Raff, artist and architect; Michael A. Ormston-Holloway, designer and certified arborist; Brett Hoornaert, landscape architect; Luke Kairys, landscape architect (all from Toronto, ON)
- Team Reich: Tony Reich, architect (Toronto, ON); Catherine Widgery, artist (Cambridge, Massachusetts); Matthew Sweig, landscape architect (Toronto, ON)

The finalists were chosen by a jury comprised of design professionals, content specialists, and a representative from Tribute to Liberty. The teams have until March 2, 2017, to complete their design proposals. The design concepts will then be posted on

the project website for the public to view and comment on. The winning design will be announced in April 2017. The jury will make a recommendation on the final design to the Minister of Canadian Heritage who is responsible for the final selection of the winning design on behalf of the Government of Canada.

The jury:

- Larry Beasley, CM, is the retired director of planning for the City of Vancouver and currently the Distinguished Practice Professor of Planning at the University of British Columbia.
- Ruth Derksen is Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia and a first-generation Canadian of Russian Mennonite descent. Dr. Derksen holds a PhD in the philosophy of language.
- Ludwik Klimkowski is the President of Moneyweb Financial, a financial planning and investment service, serves as Chair of Tribute to Liberty and is Vice-President of the Canadian Polish Congress for Canadian Affairs.
- Ted Merrick is the director of the design studio at Ferris + Associates and a founder of the acclaimed Winter Stations Design Competition in Toronto that reimagines lifeguard stations with temporary public art.
- Nadia Myre is a visual artist from Quebec and an Algonquin member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. Ms. Myre is the recipient of several prestigious grants and awards, including the Sobey Art Award.

Tribute to Liberty Chair Ludwik Klimkowski says, "Tribute to Liberty is excited to see this project move forward with the Government of Canada's strong support. We appreciate the commitment of Minister Joly, who has worked closely with Canada's cultural communities represented by Tribute to Liberty to make this project a reality."

Design Teams Meet to Discuss Guidelines and Visit Site

On November 7th the finalist design teams met with representatives from Canadian Heritage, the National Capital Commission and Tribute to Liberty to discuss the guidelines for the design competition and to visit the memorial site.

The design guidelines, a technical document and roadmap of parameters for developing the final plans,

were reviewed. Due to the fact the design guidelines don't entirely convey the emotional suffering of the victims and their families or adequately describe their work in Canada to lay the foundation for a peaceful future, Tribute to Liberty board member Robert Tmej outlined for the finalists his family's story of fleeing the Communists that forcefully took over Czechoslovakia. Tmej's family arrived safely in Canada (Quebec City and Halifax) while the family that stayed back home would suffer the consequences of Communist rule. The punishment included imprisonment and forfeiture of property - no one was immune from the terror.

Tmej also described how Tribute to Liberty is comprised of and represents citizens from around the world who suffered and sought refuge in Canada, and that the memorial will represent their agony and sorrow of fleeing their homeland, their joy and happiness of building a new life in Canada, and their continued fight for freedom and democracy.

The group visited the memorial site at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories to enable the finalist teams to see where the memorial will reside and where hundreds and maybe even thousands will eventually gather to commemorate their ethnic heritage and struggle against Communism while celebrating their past, present and future in Canada.



Memorial site at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories.



Design competition finalists.

Vietnamese Fundraiser for Memorial

The Toronto Vietnamese Committee to Support the Memorial to Victims of Communism held a fundraiser on Sunday October 9th in Mississauga, Ontario.

More than 350 attended the 3rd Toronto Vietnamese community fundraiser for Tribute to Liberty's Memorial to Victims of Communism project. The evening's emcee was Tribute to Liberty board member Christine Chi Dang. She and the rest of the organizing committee had put together a very rich and informative program for the dinner and dance fundraiser.



The event commenced with several performances by Vietnamese talents and a cellist who beautifully played the theme song from Schindler's List, composed by John Williams, in honour of all victims of Communism.

The fundraiser was attended by the CEO of SBTN, a world-wide Vietnamese (Saigonese) Television Broadcast Network, which airs 24/24 across North America, Australia and Europe. There is the hope that by broadcasting to Vietnamese communities in the US and other parts of the world, it will help raise more funds for the memorial.

Two short but meaningful videos recapturing historic Communist crimes across Eastern Europe, Asia and Vietnam touched the hearts of all in the audience, but towards their endings, brought much hope for a better future free of all forms of oppression.

The evening then moved to video statements by four survivors of Communist crimes:

A prisoner of conscience and writer who now lives in exile in Paris after having spent 9 years in Vietnam's Communist prison.

A blogger who was recently released from 6 years of prison and later forced to live in exile in the US. He met with President Obama at the White House last year shortly after his release to provide the American Congress with an update on Vietnam's violations of human rights.



A female human rights activist who still lives in Vietnam also shared her experiences of torture and ill-treatment during her 4 year prison term.

The last but not least democracy advocate also shared his heart-wrenching stories from Vietnam. He spent most of his youth, 14 years, in prison. All his brothers were also imprisoned, and one died shortly after being released last year because the authorities cuffed his legs together with HIV-infected jailmates. Their open-wounded ankles and bleeding injuries were exposed for intentional spreading of the HIV virus. This practice is a common method that the prison wardens use to "punish" and to "kill off" "political prisoners" or "prisoners of conscience" like his young brother. The prison wardens then claim that prisoners died because of HIV, as a "natural cause" of death.



This fundraiser raised close to \$30,000. To date, the Vietnamese community in Toronto has raised some ~\$70,000 for the memorial project. And they pledge to have more names of victims from Vietnam to be inscribed on the Wall of Remembrance at the memorial site.

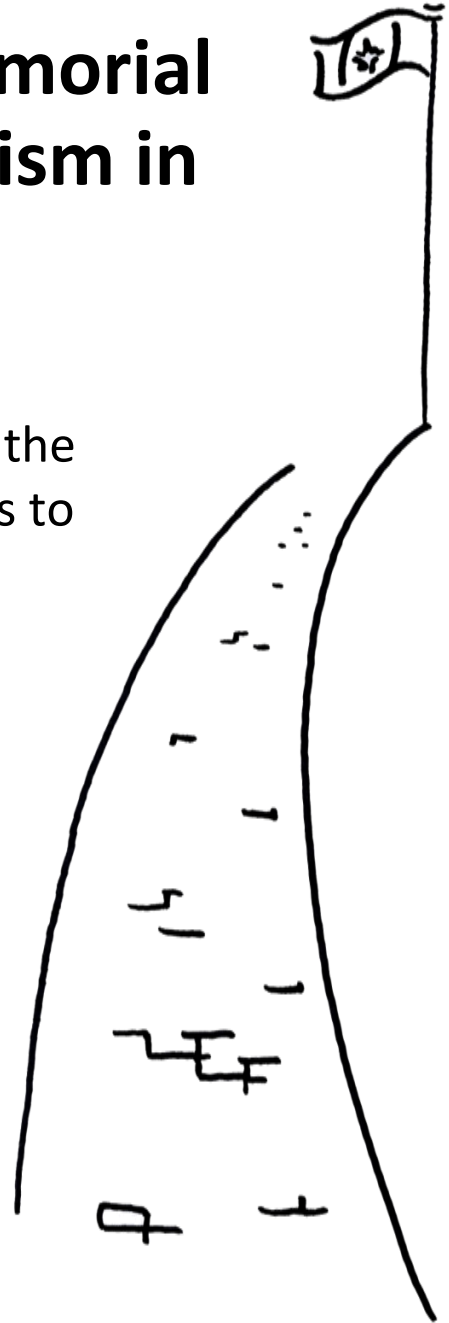
Tell Your Story...

And donate to the Memorial to Victims of Communism in Ottawa.

A donation of \$200 buys a brick for the virtual Pathway to Liberty that leads to the Memorial. Each brick can be donated with a story of a victim of Communism, a message or a dedication.

Tribute to Liberty needs your donation to build this memorial, so please donate today!

For more information about Tribute to Liberty and the Memorial to Victims of Communism, visit tributetoliberty.ca.



donate today at tributetoliberty.ca

Tribute to Liberty Mail-in Contribution Form

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

1. Become a Brick Donor

- Each brick is \$200 (you can buy as many as you like!)
- 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 or include it on a separate piece of paper when you mail this form
- Tribute to Liberty reserves the right to edit submissions
- **Submissions will be published on the Tribute to Liberty web site along with donor's names. Donors who wish to remain anonymous must indicate this in the space provided below**

2. Make a Simple Donation

- Donations in any amount are welcome
- **Donors who wish to remain anonymous must indicate this in the space provided below**

Mail-in Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Donation Amount: \$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$200 _____ Other _____

I wish to remain anonymous:

Please make cheque payable to: Tribute to Liberty

Please mail contribution to: Tribute to Liberty

P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario M6S 4Z7

Don't forget to enclose your story, message or dedication!

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