



TRIBUTE TO LIBERTY

News

Commemorating the Victims of Communism

Volume 5, Issue 3
Summer 2013

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

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Tribute to Liberty News is published four times a year. If you would like to add an email address to our subscriber list please email info@tributetoliberty.ca.

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Tribute to Liberty Receives 1.5 Million in Funding from Government of Canada

Tribute to Liberty is pleased to announce it is receiving \$1.5 million in funding from the Federal Government to build the Memorial to Victims of Communism. The official announcement was made on Friday, August 23rd at the future site of the memorial. Tribute to Liberty is grateful for the government's support of the memorial, and for the trust it has placed in Tribute to Liberty to carry the project forward to its completion. Tribute to Liberty is well on its way to realizing its goal of building the memorial. The following is the government's news release which contains information about the announcement and some project details.

Government of Canada supports memorial project to commemorate victims of Communism

OTTAWA, Aug. 23, 2013 /CNW/ - The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister for Multiculturalism, and Canada's Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander, today announced federal support for a national memorial to the tens of millions of innocent victims of Communist regimes around the world.

"Once completed, this memorial will teach future generations how millions lost their lives and suffered in inhumane conditions at the hands of Communist regimes," said Minister Kenney. "It will also serve as a reminder to all Canadians that glorifying Communist symbols insults the memory of these victims, and that we must never take for granted our core values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law."

Tribute to Liberty is receiving up to \$1.5 million over two years under Citizenship and Immigration Canada's Inter-Action program to build the memorial between the Library and Archives Canada building and the Supreme Court of Canada in Ottawa. Ministers Kenney and Alexander announced the federal funding on the site of the future memorial.

"Canada has a proud history of serving as a place of refuge and welcoming refugees as well as displaced persons, including those escaping Communist oppression," said Alexander. "Canada is today home to many different communities affected by Communism in their countries of origin, and our government is pleased to help make a Canadian memorial to victims of Communism one step closer to reality."

Tribute to Liberty Chair Ludwik Klimkowski joined the ministers for today's announcement, which coincided with Black Ribbon Day – a tribute to the memory of European victims of tyranny under the Communist and Nazi regimes of the last century. It marks the August 23, 1939, anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, a non-aggression treaty between the Communist Soviet Union and Nazi Germany that was a precursor to the Second World War.

Tribute to Liberty will work closely with the National Capital Commission and Public Works and Government Services Canada on the development of the memorial, which will be called *A Memorial to Victims of Communism*. The memorial is expected to be completed in late 2014.

SOURCE Citizenship and Immigration Canada



Memorial Visioning Session

In April 2013, Tribute to Liberty took part in a half day workshop in Ottawa to begin articulating a vision for the memorial. Several Tribute to Liberty board members attended the workshop along with government representatives, National Capital Commission project team members and subject matter experts.

The workshop began with an overview of commemorative works in the Capital and abroad, highlighting a range of monuments that illustrate current best practices in commemorative public art. This was followed by a discussion on the history of Communism regimes, their crimes against humanity, and the resulting effects on Canadian society.

Throughout the session, participants considered a series of questions formulated to elicit input and advice regarding the memorial's commemorative intent and key messages, the extent of its educational function and the desired experience on site.

The ultimate project goals are to create an enduring national symbol, a place of meaning and collective memory and a memorable visitor destination in the nation's capital.

When completed, the vision document will capture the commemorative essence of the memorial and will become the basis of the call to artists/landscape-architect teams for monument design proposals.

Media Round-up

The funding announcement on August 23rd elicited some well-deserved media coverage for the memorial, including a mention in the *Globe and Mail*, the *National Post*, *Maclean's* and the CBC. Tribute to Liberty board chair Ludwik Klimkowski was interviewed by the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *Epoch Times*, and Tribute to Liberty treasurer and past chair Alide Forstmanis was interviewed

by two newspapers in Kitchener Waterloo where she resides.

History Unhidden *Mao's Destructive Power*

When I was a little boy, I saw a neighbour's little girl call an elderly man "grandfather." After this, I started to ask my grandmother where my grandfather was. Her answer was, "your grandfather was a landlord and put in jail, and he died after getting sick in jail." My father lost his father just when he was learning how to say "daddy." This was 1960.

My grandfather died because he owned too much land. My grandfather was a businessman who had left his hometown to make money, and returned to buy land for farming. However, as with a lot of Chinese landowners, the Communist party took his land, put him jail, charged him with whatever penalty, and ultimately caused his death. My grandfather was killed by the Communist party.

Mao said that there is always 5% bad men hiding inside a group of people and that the 95% of good people in the group should find out the bad 5%. In my grandfather's village the "good people" couldn't find any of the bad, but because my grandfather owned most of the land in the village he became the target.



During "The Great Leap Forward," between 1958 and 1960, people went hungry and died. More than 30 million people died during those three years. After my grandfather's death, my father tried to help my grandmother with her small business. However, having a small business without the permission of the Chinese Communist party meant prosecution up to the death penalty. This was in effect until 1976.

The Cultural Revolution came in 1966, and my father was supposed to go to school. But because he was the son of a "landlord family" he wasn't allowed to participate in the Communist party-controlled education system in China.

When I was young I was mistreated by my father. He wanted me to study and get a job in the Chinese government. Political power was the only thing, in my

father's opinion. I didn't understand why my father treated me badly until the day I read and fully understand the history of modern China and the Chinese Communist Party's killing history. My father wasn't that bad—his behaviour was shaped by his experience of Communism.

If the Communist party had not existed in China or elsewhere in the world, my grandfather would not have died such an awful death, and my family's life would not have been so hard. Millions of people have died under Communism in China. There are thousands of people who have had similar experiences to me and my family, just because we were born in the age of Communism in China.

The Communist party in China was a criminal party that robbed people of their wealth and even their lives. My grandfather's story is typical of what has happened in China since the Chinese Communist Party overthrew the government of the Republic of China. More than 80 million people have died during the last 60 years under Communism in China. Telling this story is for the memory of my grandfather and for all the victims of Communism.

Submitted by: Wenfeng Chen

Bill C-266, An Act to Establish Pope John Paul II Day

On June 12, 2013, Mississauga East-Cooksville MP Wladyslaw Lizon's private member's bill to establish a Pope John Paul II Day passed its third reading in the House of Commons.

Mr. Lizon, who is a former board member of Tribute to Liberty, said in a news release issued that day, "Bill C-266 recognizes Blessed Pope John Paul II's many accomplishments of universal significance: his message of courage, his defence of freedom in the face of tyranny, and the profound statements of hope he expressed to the world. When it becomes law, this Bill will designate April 2nd of every year as Pope John Paul II Day in Canada."

John Paul II, who was head of the Catholic Church from 1978 until his death in 2005, is known for his instrumental contributions to the collapse of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe. Mikhail Gorbachev once said that "The collapse of the Iron Curtain would have been impossible without John Paul II." In 2004, John Paul II was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the U.S.'s highest civilian honour, for his contributions to toppling Communism.

The Bill passed with strong support from all parties, with 217 Members voting in favour.

The Bill is now being read in the Senate and, if passed, will be referred to the Governor General to receive Royal Assent.

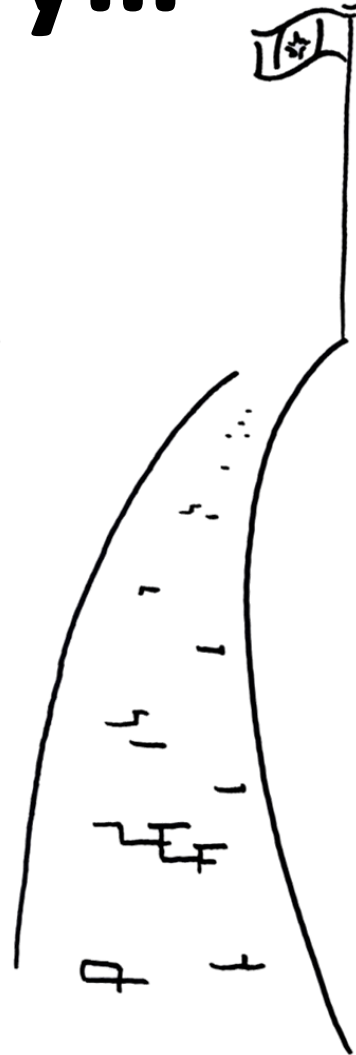
Tell Your Story...

And help build 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. Donate today at: tributetoliberty.ca.

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



Mail-in Contribution Form

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

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 and mail to:
Tribute to Liberty, P.O. Box 84558, 2336 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M6S 4Z7

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