



## Memorial Update and Next Steps

On June 15<sup>th</sup> the Steering Committee for the Memorial to Victims of Communism met in Ottawa to discuss the project. The meeting was attended by representatives from Canadian Heritage and the National Capital Commission in addition to representatives from Tribute to Liberty.

As was reported in our Spring Newsletter, the new site for the memorial is at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories on Wellington St. across from the National Library and Archives. The exact site is just west of the terraces in the Garden.

At the meeting, construction timelines and the next steps for the new design competition were outlined.

The budget for the project is now \$3 million, with half to be funded by the government and the rest to be raised by Tribute to Liberty. However, due to the need for a new design competition, the government has allocated a separate \$500,000 for design competition expenses.

Guidelines for the new design competition are currently being developed, and a new jury is being selected and finalized over the summer. We expect the "Request for Qualifications" by the end of the summer. Of these submissions, the jury will select 5 finalists to submit design proposals. The plan is to announce the new design in April 2017.

Tribute to Liberty continues to fundraise, so please consider making a donation today.

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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From left: James Bezan, MP for Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman; Alide Forstmanis, TTL Treasurer; Ludwik Klimkowski, TTL Chair; Anna Dombrowska, TTL Project Coordinator.

## Tribute to Liberty Fundraiser in Calgary

On June 28<sup>th</sup> Tribute to Liberty held a fundraising event in Calgary at the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre. The Honourable Jason Kenney was the keynote speaker, and MP Blaine Calkins (Red Deer-Lacombe), MP Tom Kmiec (Calgary Shepard), and MLA Derek Fildebrandt (Strathmore-Brooks) were also in attendance.



The main reason for the memorial is because people forget too easily, too quickly, MP Kenney said. “We must learn the lessons – that’s what this project is all about,” he said. “We must replicate a monument to freedom.”

MP Calkins spoke of his wife’s family, who escaped communist-run Poland in the middle of the night in 1978. “Their neighbours woke up in the morning and the family was gone. Her family left everything behind,” he said.



MLA Fildebrandt, whose ancestors come from East Germany, spoke of relatives who had been tortured under that Communist regime. He warned the

audience about “comfortable societies who allow corruption to set in—and bit by bit we allow our liberties to be taken from us.”



MP Kmiec, who was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, was born in Poland in 1981 and raised in Montreal when his family fled communism in Eastern Europe.

The evening was a great success. Tribute to Liberty would like to thank the speakers, guests and communities who came out to support the memorial. We also would like to thank people who volunteered their time and efforts to make the event possible:



Ludwik Klimkowski, Alide Forstmanis, Inna Thorn, staff of the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre, Anna Mendham, and everyone who helped us promoting this event. A special thank you goes to Michael Yurkovich & the Canadian Polish Congress - Alberta for their contributions to make the event a success.

Tribute to Liberty will continue to raise funds across Canada to build the Memorial to the Victims of Communism - Canada a Land of Refuge.

## Tribute to Liberty to Participate in Black Ribbon Day 2016 in Toronto

Black Ribbon Day 2016 will be commemorated at Toronto's City Hall Rotunda on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

Platform for European Conscience and Memory (PEMC) Chairman, and former Swedish MP and VP of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Göran Lindblad, and PEMC director Neela Winkelmann will be attending and speaking at the event.

Black Ribbon Day was formally adopted as A Canadian Day of National Remembrance for the Victims of Nazi and Communist Totalitarianism in Europe after a resolution introduced by Bob Rae was adopted unanimously by Canada's Parliament in 2009.



The annual event recalls the signing of the 1939 friendship treaty between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia, which is widely recognized as facilitating and triggering the Nazi and Soviet invasion of Poland in September 1939, triggering the start of the Second World War.

Black Ribbon Day was organized in the 1980's by members of the Central and Eastern European communities in Canada to protest the ongoing Communist occupation of Central and Eastern European states. The movement spread to the United States, Europe and other countries around the world.

## Ten Reasons Why We Must Remain Anti-Communist

The following is taken from a speech given by Paul Goble in Washington at the Triumph of Liberty Reception and Dinner on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

A quarter of a century ago with the triumph of democratic revolutions first in Eastern Europe and then in the former Soviet Union, many people stopped thinking it was important to continue to be anti-communist. Some, especially those who had long fought for the end of communist rule in these countries, felt they had won and should now go on to

other things. And others were seduced by the notions that the world had entered "the end of history," that ideology was no longer relevant in a time of "the clash of civilizations," and that talking about communism was passé at best.

We should have learned by now that none of those arguments holds is quite as convincing as they appeared. Many of the revolutions in the former Soviet bloc failed, with old communists remaining in power with only the party name changed. Vast numbers of people still live under communist dictatorships in China, Vietnam, Cuba, and elsewhere. History did not end and the clash of civilizations did not eliminate the importance of ideology, however much some hoped for that outcome.

Consequently, talking about communism, instead of being some kind of survival of a past that had disappeared, is still very important, and this evening I would like to offer ten reasons why I believe this may be even more important now than it was during the Cold War, why I remain an anti-communist, and why you should be too.

***First, we have an obligation to honor all those who suffered under communism.***

No political or economic system has claimed as many victims as communism. Hundreds of millions of dead, and millions more deprived of their inherent rights and opportunities. We are compelled to honor those who have suffered and died because only in this way can we be true to ourselves and our values – especially at a time when many people have forgotten what has happened or seek to minimize it or even equate communism with other systems.

By remembering the victims of communism, we help ensure that future generations will not live under such a system and recommit ourselves to the defense of our own values which all too often get lost in the noise of political conflict. But more than that, we help encourage all those who are still struggling, including those in post-communist countries where some are building museums to remember the victims while others are gutting these institutions and making them into a celebration of the jailors.

That is not something that is happening only in the imagination of anti-communists as some defenders of this whitewashing of history say. It is happening today at the Perm-36 Museum where exhibits showing how people suffered in the GULAG have been taken down and how exhibits praising such noxious figures as

Abakumov and Beria have gone up. Only by combatting this both in those countries and by erecting museums and carrying out educational programs can we truly honor those who suffered and fought against communism in the past and now. Failure to do so is to give communism a victory that it does not deserve.

***Second, we need to recognize how many people still live under that horrific system.***

One of the greatest myths circulating in the world is that communism ended with the end of the Cold War. In fact, if anything, more people live under communism now than did then because of the population growth rate in China. Not only is mainland China still communist, but so too is North Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, and other countries as well. If what we were fighting in the Cold War was communism, and it was, then the Cold War is not over and our obligations to continue to be anti-communist fighters have in no way lessened.



Beijing's repression of the peoples of Eastern Turkestan, Vietnam's suppression of house churches of Christians, North Korea's nuclear blackmail, and Cuba's celebration of revolutionary heroes who were responsible for some of the most vicious crimes in the past are not just matters of history. They are part and parcel of those countries today. Many here today are fighting these criminal states, and none of us should fail to support them in their struggle. To do so ultimately is to betray not only them but ourselves.

We live in an age when people seem more interested in blurring distinctions than in making them. Some write about China as a case of authoritarian modernization, as if its policies were no more than perhaps an extreme form of that practice elsewhere. That is nonsense and it must be labelled as such.

Communism is based on the denial of the value and rights of the individual human person, and as such, it is and will forever remain antithetical to the principles of free societies.

***Third, we must acknowledge how hard it is to purge it from those places where it once existed.***

Perhaps the best evidence of how insidious communism is has been provided by post-communist countries which in all too many cases have found it difficult to purge this horror from their social and political life. In rushing to proclaim a triumph over communism, many of those in these countries and in the West as well were prepared to accept as non-communists communists who simply changed the name of the parties they said they represented. Some of these transformations were real: people can change. But many of them were superficial and hid some fundamental continuities.

As Lithuania's Vytautas Landsbergis has taught us, communism can operate under many guises. It can even be called, he writes, "the new world order." If it is to be overcome, it must be fought regardless of what it calls itself through lustration, education, and a commitment not only from the peoples who have suffered its ravages on themselves but also by those who say they are anti-communists but are all too willing to cooperate for profit or out of geopolitical calculation with those who are in fact still communist in everything but name.

That has led to tragedies in Central Asia and the Caucasus, and it is producing an even greater tragedy in the Russian Federation where the failure to extirpate communism is allowing it to return. While few in the West are paying attention, the KGB is being restored, collective farms are now going back up, those who think differently are being imprisoned or exiled, and freedoms of all types are being curtailed. Now is not the time to turn away from the fight. It is the time to recognize how hard and difficult the fight is – and to recommit ourselves to winning it.

To read the rest of this speech please visit the blog *Dissident* at <http://blog.victimsofcommunism.org/ten-reasons-why-we-must-remain-anti-communists/>

**DISSIDENT**