



Project Update – National Memorial to the Victims of Communism

There has been a lot of discussion in the media in the past several weeks about the design and the location of the National Memorial to the Victims of Communism. The criticism of the memorial points to a lack of knowledge on the part of some Canadians about the impact of Communism on the world, including the impact on millions of Canadians who were victims or whose families were victims of Communist regimes. This lack of knowledge about the evil impact of Communism is precisely why the memorial deserves a world-class design and a prominent place in the capital of a country that is recognized as a beacon of freedom and democracy around the world.

In the face of criticism over the site for the memorial, Pierre Poilievre (Nepean-Carleton), Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Democratic Reform, recently told the media, “As to the location, the alternative is another government building in downtown Ottawa and I’m not getting anybody in my riding telling me that we need another government building in downtown Ottawa...This is a visible site that would give appropriate recognition to the eight million Canadians who trace their roots to countries oppressed by communism and also to the soldiers who fought communism in the Korean war so I have no problem with the location.”

Recent comments in the media from a prominent Chinese-Canadian writer and democracy activist who left China after the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 strike a similar note. Sheng Xue, a key leader of the overseas Chinese democracy movement and an award-winning writer who lives in Toronto, told the *Epoch Times* that she is disheartened over the controversy surrounding the location of the National Memorial to the Victims of Communism. She believes that putting the memorial in such a prominent location is desirable “because communism has been the worst disaster in the world for the past 100 years, and directly impacted Canada, which participated in the Korean War...From the standpoint of history or culture or multiculturalism or upholding universal principles, it is necessary and meaningful for the monument to be situated at a location as prominent as the current one.”

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.

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Tribute to Liberty continues working hard to raise the final funds for the memorial, and the memorial design team continues to work on the design, refining it before the construction process begins.



Latvia Donates to Memorial

On January 28 at a ceremony on Parliament Hill, Latvian Ambassador to Canada Juris Audariņš presented Tribute to Liberty with a donation from the Government of Latvia to help build the memorial.

A cheque for €10,000 was presented to Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair of the Board of Tribute to Liberty, and Alide Forstmanis, Treasurer. Also present at the ceremony were Jason Kenney, Minister of National Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism, and MPs Ted Opatz, Bernard Trottier and Chrystia Freeland.

The Latvian ambassador remarked that nearly one-fourth of Canada's population was of Central or Eastern European descent and had found safe haven in Canada in flight from the horrors of Communism. Latvia is proud to be contributing to the building of the memorial, he said.

Tribute to Liberty is grateful for Latvia's generous donation.

Voices of Support for the Memorial – Thank You!

Many Canadians who support the Memorial to Victims of Communism have written letters to editors in response to the articles that have been coming out in recent months about the memorial. Unfortunately, these letters have not been printed, stifling the voices of Canadians who support the memorial. To give voice to these supporters, Tribute to Liberty has posted some of these letters on Tribute to Liberty's [Facebook](#) page. A few letters are included here as well.

To *The Globe and Mail* Editor:

Jeffrey Simpson just couldn't resist slipping in a dig at the design and location of the Monument to the Victims of Communism at the end of his story about John Baird's resignation. He called it "an ugly design and dreadful location." I say Good! Chief Justice Beverly McLachlin also lamented that it was "bleak." Again, I say Good! The Road of Bones to Magadan was bleak, and still is. North Korea is bleak. The Killing Fields of Cambodia were bleak. Stalin's purges were bleak. All of it was bleak to the millions facing a certain death under communism. And the location, in front of the Supreme Court, is a long overdue reminder to all Canadians of that political theory from hell itself.

-Andy Neimers

To the *Toronto Star* Editor:

In today's "Tories cynical monument to victims of communism" Dr. Mate disagrees with the project of a memorial dedicated only to the victims of that ideology and not also to millions of victims of other wars and repressions all around the world, such as victims of "industrial civilization"... is he against it?

In my opinion his error consists in the confusion of his premise of moral equivalence. There is no moral equivalence between the use of force by democratic nations and the appalling genocidal practices by the communist regimes. Wars of liberation such as WWII and the Korean War brought about freedom and prosperity to many countries. With the sacrifice of thousands of allied troops, South Korea was successfully defended in 1950 from the communist invasion, and after a few decades of freedom, it has become an industrial and technological world power. Genocidal North Korea, on the other hand, is one more tragic result of that criminal ideology. Dr Mate does not mention it, nor does he refer to Indochina's genocide.

Let us memorialize the victims of communism. As much as the victims of the Holocaust, they deserve a monument to their suffering and their memory.

-David Levy

To the *Ottawa Citizen* Editor:

I have followed with interest a number of recent articles and views expressed, among them by some federal and local politicians, all expressing opposition to the location of the Memorial to Victims of Communism in front of the Supreme Court building. Even the Citizen Editorial Board pronounced through its editorial that the Memorial be moved.

As a thirteen generation Canadian, I see short-sightedness, ignorance and pettiness instead of a strong affirmation of Canada's long-standing support for the rule of law, freedom and democracy and an openness to pay a solemn tribute to over 100 million victims who lost their lives under Communist regimes, mostly in Eastern Europe and Asia.

The Tribute to Liberty initiative is a monumental volunteer effort spearheaded by leaders of various ethnic communities, representative of some 8 million Canadians who trace their roots to countries that suffered, or continue to suffer, under Communism.

The Kapusta team's project is bold in expression and in its innovative and interactive design (appealing to the young generation), something that Ottawa is obviously not used to with its drab downtown offices and expressionless condominium towers. While the design is a matter of a personal opinion, what a better place for the location for such memorial than the vicinity of the Supreme Court and parliament buildings, the very pillars of a democratic and free society, but virtually non-existent in communist countries.

Keep the Memorial where it is currently to be located and where it can both pay tribute to victims of Communism and serve as a warning to future generations of Canadians against an alluring appeal of demagogic ideologies that entrap individuals and enslave whole nations.

-L. Tardif

For more views supporting the memorial including more unpublished letters to editors and several news articles in support of the memorial, visit Tribute to Liberty's [Facebook](#) page.

International Conference Remembers 1949 Soviet Deportations in the Baltic States

On March 27, members from Tribute to Liberty's Board of Directors attended the International Conference "Repressions & Human Rights. Commemorating the March 1949 Soviet Deportations in the Baltic States" held at the University of Toronto.

The conference examined the March 1949 deportations carried out by Soviet authorities in

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and its legacy today. Guest speakers included Sofi Oksanen (keynote speech), Göran Lindblad, Jüri Kivimäe, Karl Altou and others. Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair of the Board of Tribute to Liberty, spoke at the conference as well.

The following is a short excerpt from the keynote speech by Finnish-Estonian writer Sofi Oksanen:

In the West, the word imperialism always conjures up images of the era of Western colonialism; colonies far beyond the seas, slave ships from Africa. Not of deportation trains to Siberia, although they too meant slave camps, because without Gulags the natural resources of Siberia would never have been harvested. The groups who organized these slave transportations were never condemned as criminal organizations, and that is why former KGB men are now in power and hold on to power with the same methods as before.

The full text of the speech can be found [here](#).

Resource Spotlight

The following is a list of films that are set in Communist regimes:

Burnt by the Sun

1994, Russia/France

(Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film)

Crossing

2008, South Korea

East West

1999, Bulgaria/France/Russia/Spain/Ukraine

Goodbye, Lenin!

2003, Germany

Katyn

2007, Poland

The Killing Fields

1984, UK

The Lives of Others

2006, Germany

(Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film)

The Tunnel

2001, Germany

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Space on the wall is limited. Make your donation today to ensure that the world never forgets the suffering endured under communism.

Visit tributetoliberty.ca/contribute to donate or call Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair, Tribute to Liberty at: 1 (613) 841-2772



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