



## Make Your Voice Heard – Complete the Online Memorial Survey Before February 16<sup>th</sup>

On December 17, 2015, the Government of Canada announced that it would launch a consultation process to review design considerations for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism – Canada, a Land of Refuge and seek approval from the National Capital Commission (NCC) Board to build the monument at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories in Ottawa.

The government has launched a short, 4-question survey seeking public input on the design of the memorial. Until February 16, you have the opportunity to have your voice heard, as your submission will help to inform the guidelines for the new design competition. The survey can be accessed [here](#).

Officials from Canadian Heritage will work with the NCC to ensure a set of revised design guidelines can be presented at the NCC's Advisory Committee on Design, Planning and Realty at the beginning of March 2016, and that a Federal Land Use Approval submission for decontamination of the new site can be presented at the NCC's Board of Directors meeting in April.

Once the design competition is launched, a short list of designs will be posted on the government's [website](#) where the public will be able to comment.

Since 2008, Tribute to Liberty has been dedicated to building a memorial that will commemorate over 100 million victims of Communist terror and help inform Canadians about the experiences of hundreds of thousands of their fellow citizens who had fled communist tyranny and helped to build the Canada that we know today.

Our broad community of supporters and donors believe that the quality of the design of the memorial is paramount to its success. We hope that the new design will be a fitting tribute to victims of Communism as a place where families and communities can gather to commemorate victims and to mark memorial days, and that it will become a prominent landmark attracting visitors from across our great country and around the world to our National Capital Region.

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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## Canadian Heritage Announcement about Memorial

On December 17, 2015, following meetings with the National Capital Commission (NCC) and key stakeholders, the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced that the Government of Canada will seek NCC Board approval for the Garden of the Provinces and Territories site as the location for a new memorial. In addition, the Minister confirmed the government's intent to launch, early in 2016, a consultation process for a review of the design considerations.

Members of the public and some stakeholders have expressed concern over the lack of transparency and due diligence regarding decisions made about the location and other aspects of the National Memorial to the Victims of Communism – *Canada, a Land of Refuge*. This consultation process will ensure that due process is followed and the memorial resonates with all Canadians.

The Government of Canada remains committed to a memorial that would recognize Canada's international role as a place of refuge for people fleeing injustice and persecution.

### Quick Facts:

- The final decision on confirming the site selection rests with the NCC Board of Directors, who have the legal authority for Federal Land Use Approval, given to them by the *National Capital Act*.
- Online consultations will start in early 2016, followed by a roundtable with stakeholders.
- Results and a way forward for a memorial will be announced soon after the consultations.
- The Department of Canadian Heritage is facilitating the development of this project on behalf of the Government of Canada. The National Capital Commission will take responsibility for the construction of the memorial.

## NCC Decision on Land Allocation

At the end of January the National Capital Commission (NCC) Board of Directors met and addressed the "Request from Canadian Heritage to rescind the Land Use and Decontamination Approvals for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism." The NCC recommended to its Board that it approve the following motion:

Whereas the NCC has received a request from the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH), on January 8, 2016, to rescind the approvals of land use and decontamination for a site southwest of the Supreme Court of Canada for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism, and indicated their intent to apply for a new approval of the land use for the monument at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories (since the prior approval for that latter site has lapsed);

Therefore, the following is resolved:

1. The November 2013 approval of the land use and the June 2015 approval for the decontamination of the site, both pertaining to the block southwest of the Supreme Court of Canada, are hereby rescinded;
2. Staff are directed to proceed to the analysis in order to bring a submission to the Board of Directors at the April 2016 Board meeting to address the request of PCH for a new land use approval at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories site.

The NCC Board approved the motion.

The following background was given for the recommendation: The NCC has received a request from the Department of Canadian Heritage to rescind the approvals granted for the land use of a site southwest of the Supreme Court of Canada, and the decontamination of that site.

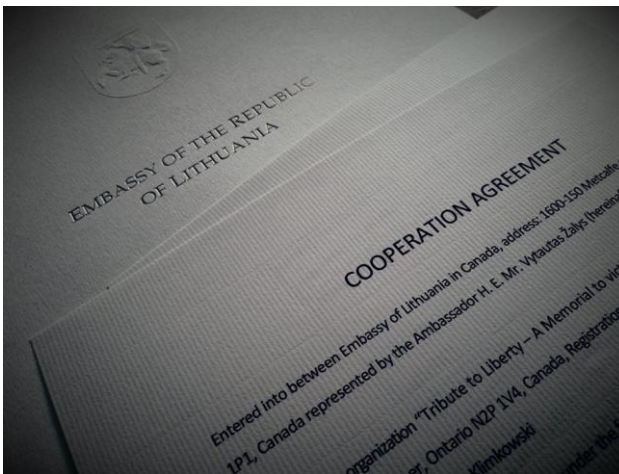
The Department of Canadian Heritage is in the process of consulting the public on the future design of the memorial, and they will be applying for a new Federal Land Use and Design Approval for a location at the Garden of the Provinces and Territories, the same location that was approved by the NCC previously, but which approval has lapsed.

The proposed motion of the Board addresses the request in that it rescinds the prior approvals, and directs staff to work with the Department of Canadian Heritage to proceed to the review and analysis in order to bring forward the approval of the site at the next meeting of the Board of Directors in April.

## Lithuania Contributes €10,000 to Memorial

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, Lithuanian Ambassador Vytautas Žalys and Tribute to Liberty Chair Ludwik Klimkowski signed a €10,000 cooperation agreement at the

Embassy of Lithuania to Canada in Ottawa. "This is our way to say thank you to Canada for welcoming Lithuanian refugees who fled communist occupation following WW2," the ambassador said. Tribute to Liberty is grateful to Ambassador Vytautas Žalys for his tireless efforts.



## Letters of Support – Thank-you!

Several letters of support for the memorial were sent during the Fall of 2015 from organizations that wanted to express their support for the memorial publicly. Tribute to Liberty is grateful for such shows of support. Letters were sent from:

- Platform of European Memory and Conscience
- Canadian Polish Congress
- Vietnamese Canadian Federation
- Estonian Minister of Justice, Urmas Reinsalu
- Latvian National Federation in Canada
- Ukrainian Canadian Congress

## History Unhidden *A Serbian Story*

My father, Radoje Josipovic, "The Mason," as he was nicknamed, was born February 19, 1910, in Crvica, Bosnia, then part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. He was a citizen of the world. An entrepreneur by nature, he was a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation mason, specializing in the restoration of historical monuments with cultural importance.

During the Second World War, his village suffered a massacre. Some of his family members were executed in the concentration camp at Jasenovac. Marko Radulovic and George Musulin, American-born Serbs, saved his life, Radulovic remaining my father's lifelong friend. In 1961, Radulovic also acted as witness to my parents' marriage.

After the war, my father became a fierce opponent of Communism and a tireless proponent of free enterprise and freedom of speech. His fearless personality and outspoken actions got him a reputation as an "irredenta." He was eventually imprisoned for his opposition.

My father was planning to settle in Vienna, before he was hauled off to jail. In June 1961, he was taken in the middle of the night to CZ (central jail) in Belgrade on orders of Aleksandar Rankovic, Marshal Josip Broz Tito's feared right hand man. At the time, CZ was notorious for holding dissidents. My father spent 8 months there in solitary confinement. My mother was allowed to see him only a few times while she was also being interrogated by Communist operatives about our family's activities.

I visited my dad in jail only one time—on the national holiday, the Republic day, November 29, 1961. My mother was only 22 at the time, but had convinced the guards to allow us to visit my father. I still cherish the only photograph I have from that visit.

After 8 months my father was released without ever having been charged with a crime. He was freed at the persistent urging of Vlada Zecevic (my dad's poker buddy and a Communist national hero) and his old liberator, Radulovic, who became part of the establishment and personal friends with Tito.

But my father was a broken man. Still, he tried to fight against Communism by establishing FENIX, the first independent association of entrepreneurs. Maybe because of this, the interrogations, intimidation and personal attacks on our family never stopped. But we were not intimidated. We remained solid, and as my mother would say: "WE WILL NEVER GO RED!"



After a short illness my father died on April 27, 1980, surrounded by his four children and wife Milena. His lifelong nemesis Tito died one week later on May 4, 1980. The local government threatened to cut our electricity supply as we played music so loud celebrating Tito's demise, but they did not dare to

break our gates down. They finally left us alone.



During the times I spent with my father, visiting him on his construction sites or playing in our family garden which was hidden behind tall rod iron gates, he always taught me not to hate or blame and to never hit first. He epitomized goodness. He never dwelled on the past, or in the realm of "what if's."

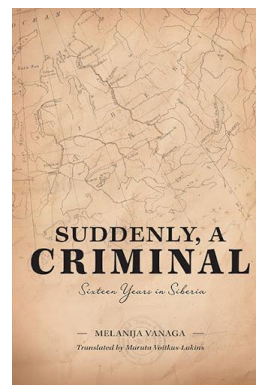
On her death bed in May 2014, my mother told me, "I cannot wait to see him again!" Our love for each other saved us all.



Submitted by: Alexander Josipovicz

## Resource Spotlight

### *Suddenly, a Criminal*



In the book *Suddenly, a Criminal: Sixteen Years in Siberia*, author Melanija Vanaga "portrays an authentic panorama of what ethnic cleansing looked like on the ground during her involuntary Siberian exile (1941-1956)." The book is published by [FriesenPress](https://www.friesenpress.com/).