



## Second Visioning Session for Tribute to Liberty

On December 19, Tribute to Liberty Chair Ludwik Klimkowski and Treasurer Alide Forstmanis met in Ottawa with key government stakeholders for the second Visioning Session for the memorial. The meeting was held in the board room of Canadian Heritage and chaired by Dr. Mark Kristmanson, Director of Capital Interpretation and Commemorations for Canadian Heritage. Participants included government representatives from Canadian Heritage, Citizenship and Immigration, National Capital Commission, Public Works and Government Services and ministerial staff from the Department of Foreign Affairs, Canadian Heritage, Employment and Social Development, Multiculturalism and the Prime Minister's Office.

The purpose of the session was to discuss parameters and criteria for use by artists in designing the memorial.

To remind meeting participants of the importance of building a memorial to the victims of Communism, three survivors: George Sava from Romania, Danuta Krzaniak from Poland and Dr. Can Le from Vietnam shared emotional and heart wrenching stories of the killing of family members, displacement, imprisonment and suffering under Communist regimes.

The *Memorial to Victims of Communism – Canada, a Land of Refuge* is expected to be unveiled in Ottawa in the fall of 2015. To date, over \$2.5 million has been raised through private and government sources enabling the project to progress to the next phase: the national design competition. The design competition is anticipated to begin in February of 2014.

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).

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

Charitable #: 814999660RR0001

[www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca)



More photos of the Visioning Session inside...



## Tribute to Liberty Has a New Website!

In January 2014, Tribute to Liberty launched its new website. Tribute to Liberty's original website served the organization well during its beginning years, but as the organization moves into the design competition and memorial building phases, a new website with improved design and function was deemed necessary. Some of the content was brought over from the old site such as the resources page and project background, and new content was added to provide the public with current information about the project. Please visit the site at [www.tributetoliberty.ca](http://www.tributetoliberty.ca).

## Become a Donor

Tribute to Liberty needs your support to build the Canadian Memorial to the Victims of Communism. Depending on the level of your contribution, you can have your name, the name of a family member or name of a victim of Communism recognized at the Memorial site or on a virtual brick on the Tribute to Liberty website.

### LEGACY LEADERS: \$100,000 and up

- name on a plaque on the Memorial
- special thank you gift
- name and logo on TTL website
- name on bricks on the virtual Pathway to Liberty on the TTL website
- photo and profile in TTL newsletter
- invitation to the Dedication reception
- reserved seating at Dedication of Memorial

### VISIONARIES: \$50,000 to \$99,999

- name at the Memorial site
- special thank you gift
- name and logo on TTL website
- name on bricks on the virtual Pathway to Liberty on the TTL website
- invitation to the Dedication Reception
- special seating at Dedication of Memorial

### AMBASSADORS: \$20,000 to \$49,999

- name at the Memorial site
- name on bricks on the virtual Pathway to Liberty on the TTL website
- invitation to the Dedication Reception
- invitation to the Dedication of Memorial

### BUILDERS: \$1,001 to \$19,999

- name at the Memorial site
- name on bricks on the virtual Pathway to Liberty on the TTL website
- invitation to the Dedication of Memorial

### CHALLENGERS (999 PROJECT): \$1,000

- name at the Memorial site
- name on bricks on the virtual Pathway to Liberty on the TTL website
- invitation to the Dedication of Memorial

### STORYTELLERS: \$200 to \$999

- name on a brick on the virtual Pathway to Liberty on the TTL website
- opportunity to share a story, message or dedication to a victim of Communism on the TTL website



## **FRIENDS: \$199 and below**

- name on the TTL website

Tribute to Liberty is a registered Canadian charity. An income tax receipt will be issued for all charitable donations. For further information, please contact Vera Yuzyk at 613-725-5775 or [vera@tributetoliberty.ca](mailto:vera@tributetoliberty.ca).

## **History Unhidden** ***Two Tales from Slovenia***

Joze Zdesar shared the fate of 12,000 of his fellow countrymen who were executed at the hands of Tito's communists after the end of the Second World War, as told eloquently in the book *Slovenia 1945*, listed in the General Resources section of the Tribute to Liberty website. Under the communist regime of Yugoslavia, this event was to be covered up for all time, their final resting place unknown, the circumstances of their death unarticulated. Only after the breakup of Yugoslavia and the election of a democratic government in Slovenia in 1991 could these events be brought into the light of day, and openly discussed on the streets in this new country. While many former communists still support their allies and retain power and influence, they could no longer rule with an iron fist, suppressing the free will of the people.



Most towns and villages erected monuments in cemeteries for their deceased relatives. The village of Horjul was among them. At the unveiling ceremony on June 12, 1994, Stane Strbenk summarized the event for a historical record: "Today the Catholic parish unveiled memorial plaques on which are written the names of men and women who gave their lives for their Christian convictions during the communist revolution. Single and married men, Slovenian Home Guard, soldiers of the Slovenian Armed Forces, who

during the civil war fought for their national culture and freedom, who after the war honorably laid down their arms, were betrayed and slaughtered. The perpetrators, who by these murders seized not only this valley, but the whole country, have until today attempted to forcibly eradicate their remembrance."



Ludvik Lavrisa hoped to survive the communist revolution in Slovenia during the Second World War, so he did not pick sides. He was forcibly mobilized in November 1943 by the communist partisans after the Italian capitulation, likely the Volk brigade from the Primorska region. They did not arm their new recruits but treated them as prisoners, locking them up in stables under guard at night. At Vrsnik they called out some of the new recruits, took them to Ledine, where they killed and buried them. The new recruits from Horjul continued on to Leskovica under the Blegos peak, where the partisans shot and buried them in a farmer's field.

After the war, with the persistence of detectives, their relatives managed to find their graves. They requested reburial in the village cemetery from the communist authorities. This was granted, under the condition that their names be listed on the partisan memorial in Horjul as victims of fascism and nazism. Nevertheless, when they were reburied in the fall of 1945, everyone in the valley of Horjul knew who really killed them.



*Story submitted by Tom Lavrisa. Joze Zdesar and Ludvik Lavrisa are his uncles.*

# 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](http://tributetoliberty.ca).



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### 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

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