



CANADIAN - POLISH CONGRESS
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Canadian Polish Congress
Response to the
Canadian Museum for Human Rights Report
February 2, 2011

The Canadian Polish Congress represents approximately one million Canadians of Polish descent. In its 75 year history, it has been a guardian of the Polish community in Canada and has had a good working relationship with other ethnic communities as well as the Government of Canada. A part of the CPC mandate is to care for the rights and defend the good name of the Polish nation and to propagate the historic truth about Poland.

In conjunction with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Canadian Ethnocultural Council, we would like to voice our concern about the report issued by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. It is the position of the CPC that the Museum, as a national Canadian museum, allot significant space to exhibits of infringements of human rights which occurred in Canada, constituting part of its history, as well as equitably display the history of atrocities committed upon various groups throughout the world whose descendants are now citizens of Canada.

The Museum of Human Rights must include in its plans, space addressing the impact of the War Measures Act which lead to internment camps affecting the Ukrainian community in Canada during the First World War, internment operations which affected our Japanese, Italian, and German communities during the Second World War, the treatment of citizens of Quebec in the 1970's and the Chinese head tax. It needs to acknowledge the treatment of many displaced persons, refugees, and immigrants upon their arrival in Canada during its early years and after the two world wars.

The Canadian Polish Congress is also hopeful that the Zone dedicated to "Mass Atrocities", will have a central focus on the murders of Polish officers, soldiers and civilians at Katyn in 1940 and the systematic extermination of Poles, as well as other Eastern Europeans. The murderous regimes of Hitler and Stalin in relationship to those peoples besides the Jewish community - who are to have a whole Zone about the Holocaust - must not be forgotten or omitted.

Also, in the Zone entitled "The Human Rights Revolution" the Canadian Polish Congress would like to strongly encourage a display of the Solidarnosc (Solidarity) Movement which began after years of the denial of basic human rights to those behind the Iron Curtain and lead to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the re-establishment of democratic governments in most of the countries of Eastern Europe.

In order to have Canada be seen as a tolerant and harmonious society, the Museum must take a leading role in addressing human rights violations in Canada as well as throughout the world in an inclusive, balanced, and objective manner. In this way, the public will have a chance to see an unbiased display of historical facts that must not be forgotten or ever allowed to be repeated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Berezowski".

Teresa Berezowski
President, Head Executive Board
Canadian Polish Congress

- cc. Rt. Hon. Steven Harper, P.C., M.P.
- cc. Hon. Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
- cc. Paul Grod, President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress
- cc. Lou Sekulovski, President of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council
- cc. Ludwik Klimkowski, Vice-President CPC - Canadian Affairs